

HIGH STREET, NORTHWOOD – PETITION REQUESTING A RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME

Cabinet Member

Councillor Keith Burrows

Cabinet Portfolio

Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling

Officer Contact

Danielle Watson
Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services

Papers with report

Appendix A

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report

To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from residents living in Northwood asking the Council to introduce 'resident only parking' in High Street, Northwood.

Contribution to our plans and strategies

The request can be considered in relation to the Council's strategy for on-street parking controls.

Financial Cost

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.

Relevant Policy Overview Committee

Residents and Environmental Services

Ward(s) affected

Northwood

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member;

1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their concerns with parking in High Street, Northwood.
2. Subject to the outcome of the discussions with petitioners and if appropriate, asks officers to add the request to the Council's overall parking programme so consultation can be carried out on a parking scheme when resources permit.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss with petitioners their concerns

Alternative options considered / Risk Management

None at this stage, as residents have requested a residents parking scheme. However, further options could arise from the discussion with petitioners.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 40 signatures has been received from residents of Northwood under the following heading:

'We, the undersigned request that Hillingdon Council consider adopting High Street, Northwood into the residents' parking scheme'.

Of the signatures received, 22 were from residents of High Street, Northwood whilst the rest appear to be from residents of nearby roads.

2. High Street, Northwood forms part of the A4125 and is a mixture of residential properties which are mainly located on the west side of the road and commercial properties to the east side of the road with some residential accommodation above. The location of High Street Northwood is attached as Appendix A to this report. In front of the businesses there are parking areas inset into the footway that provides parking between Monday to Friday, 8am – 6.30pm to a maximum stay of 2 hours. Many of the residential properties in the High Street have had dropped kerbs constructed to provide access to off-street parking.

3. High Street, Northwood is one of Hillingdon's main distributor roads served by two bus routes, the 282 and H11, and is part of the emergency services route network. The High Street is on the periphery of the existing Northwood Parking Management Scheme that is operational Monday to Friday 1pm - 2pm and benefits from many local amenities including local shops, schools, and places of worship which is why it could be an attractive place for non-residents to park. It should be remembered however, that if the High Street were included in an extension to the existing Northwood Parking Management Scheme by law every section of road is required to be marked with either parking places or yellow lines.

4. The Cabinet Member will be aware there is a heavy programme of parking schemes and recently has considered reports for the completion of the current parking scheme programme. Following discussions with the petitioners, the Cabinet Member could decide a scheme for High Street, Northwood can be added to future parking scheme programme.

5. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member meets and discusses with petitioners their concerns and subject to the outcome asks Officers to add the request to the Council's overall parking programme so consultation can be carried with local residents and businesses of High Street, Northwood. However, should the Cabinet Member agree with the recommendations laid out in this report, an informal consultation will show the level of support for a resident parking scheme in the High Street whilst at the same time giving those most affected an opportunity to comment on parking proposals. It is the Council's practice not to introduce controlled parking schemes if they do not receive the support of those most affected.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations in this report. However if subsequently the Council were to consider the introduction of a parking scheme in High Street, Northwood suitable funding opportunities will be identified to fund the consultation and subsequent implementation.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns with parking in High Street, Northwood.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this stage

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal, which amounts to an informal consultation. A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise, especially where consideration of the policy and factual issues are still at a formative stage. Fairness and natural justice requires that there must be no predetermination of a decision in advance of any wider non-statutory consultation.

Accordingly, the Council must balance the concerns of the objectors with its statutory duty to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

Should the outcome of the informal discussions with petitioners require that Officers include the Petitioners request in a subsequent review of the Council's on street parking strategy and a consultation be carried out when resources permit there will need to be consideration of the Highways Act 1980, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002, which govern road traffic orders, traffic signs and road markings. If specific advice is required in relation to the exercise of individual powers Legal Services should be instructed.

Corporate Property and Construction

Corporate Property and Construction is in support of the recommendations in this report.

Relevant Service Groups

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received – 26th September 2011