

## PETITION REQUESTING A PERMANENT PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AT ST MARTINS SCHOOL TIMES

<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Councillor Keith Burrows
<b>Cabinet Portfolio(s)</b>	Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling
<b>Officer Contact(s)</b>	Roy Clark Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition with 26 signatures has been received requesting a permanent parking enforcement officer at St Martins School times.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	The residents' request will be considered as part of the Council's strategy for on-street parking.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Residents' and Environmental Services
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	Northwood

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member:

1. meets and discusses with the petitioners their concerns about the lack of consideration shown by parents and relatives when dropping off and picking up their children from St Martins School in Moor Park Road, Northwood.
2. subject to the outcome of (1) above, ask officers in Parking Services to review the level of parking enforcement in this area, and carry out some additional short-term enforcement in an attempt to break the bad habits of parents and relatives.
3. subject to the outcome of (1) above, ask officers in the Road Safety and School Travel team to engage in further dialogue with the school to remind them of their duty of care as members of the local community.

## Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns.

## Alternative options considered / risk management

These can be identified from the discussions with the petitioners.

## Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

## INFORMATION

### Supporting Information

1. A petition with 26 signatures has been received and signed by residents of Moor Park Road and Kewferry Road, Northwood. Set out below is an extract from the petition explaining their request:

*“The residents of the roads in close proximity to St Martin’s School, Moor Park Road, Northwood, request a permanent traffic enforcement officer (term time only) at the beginning and end of the school day. The parking has become a major issue with those collecting children from the school, parking on double yellow lines, parking across residents’ driveways and parking at the junctions of both Moor Park Road with Kewferry Road as well as Moor Park Road with Hill Road.”*

2. St Martins School is situated on the north side of Moor Park Road in Northwood, east of the junction with Kewferry Road. There is a yellow zig-zag keep clear marking outside the school in Moor Park Road. There are also double yellow line parking restrictions in the road as well as at the junctions with Kewferry Road and Mezen Close. In common with many of the schools in the Borough, the road does suffer from parking problems at the beginning and end of the school day, when parents or guardians arrive by car to drop off or collect their children, but the Council endeavours to keep this to a minimum by deploying civil enforcement officers as resources allow.

3. An external contractor, Mouchel, carries out parking enforcement on behalf of the Council, and deploys approximately thirty-five civil enforcement officers, who enforce all parking restrictions throughout the Borough. This includes all yellow lines, loading, disabled and permit bays, and car parks across the Borough plus other various offences. During school arrival and departure times, officers are diverted to areas around schools across the Borough and on average 24 schools are visited each day.

4. With over 100 schools in the Borough, it is clearly not possible to be present at every school each day, so a rota has been devised to ensure that enforcement is carried out in a fair and equitable manner. Consequently, each school is visited by the civil enforcement officers on average about once a week.

5. During the period since the Easter holiday, Monday 16 April 2012 through until Monday 28 May 2012, St Martin’s School was visited on six occasions. Although no major problems

were reported by the contractor, four motorists were asked to move on and one penalty charge notice was issued.

6. In the past, where there have been problems in specific areas, arrangements have been made to increase enforcement for a short period to endeavour to change motorist behaviour. Operations have also been carried out in conjunction with the local Safer Neighbourhood Police team. This could be carried out during the autumn term in this locality.

7. For information, where a vehicle is parked on a double yellow line, an observation period of five minutes is required before a civil enforcement officer is able to issue a penalty charge notice. For that reason, in many instances a motorist is asked to move on rather than be issued with a penalty charge notice (PCN). In many cases, the act of picking up or dropping off a child does not exceed five minutes.

8. The Council's Road Safety and School Travel Plan Team engage with all schools in the Borough relating to their school travel plan. This is to help develop a shared understanding of the road safety and sustainable transport challenges faced by schools and include issues concerning alternatives to travelling to school by car. Efforts are also made to educate parents in how to behave responsibly outside schools to minimise the risk to children.

9. Three separate attempts have been made by the Council's Road Safety and School Travel Plan Team to contact the school within the last year, but unfortunately no response has been received to date. Further efforts will be made to establish contact, and a visit to the headmaster will be scheduled for the autumn term.

### **Financial Implications**

If measures such as an overall increase in enforcement resources were subsequently approved by the Cabinet Member, this would require additional funding. At this stage, the estimated cost for these measures is unknown and could only be determined following investigation.

A short-term increase in enforcement, obtained by rearranging the existing Council-wide enforcement levels would have no financial implications.

## **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 and suggest possible measures to address the issues.

### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

None at this stage.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report.

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## **Legal**

The Council is a civil enforcement authority empowered by the Traffic Management Act 2004 to enforce parking contraventions within its area by the use of civil enforcement officers.

The Council are under a duty imposed by section 122 of the Act to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. The Council must, so far as practicable, have regard to a number of matters set out in Section 122 (2) of the Act, which are as follows:

- I. The desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises.
- II. The effect on the amenities of any locality affected, including the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles so as to preserve or to improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run.
- III. The National Air Quality strategy prepared under Section 80 of the Environmental Act 1995.
- IV. The importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or wishing to use such vehicles.
- V. Any other matter appearing to the Local Authority to be relevant.

Exercising the Council's statutory powers with the object of improving highway safety and achieving the expeditious movement of traffic is a legitimate and lawful exercise of these powers.

In considering the petition, decision makers must ensure there is a full consideration of all representations arising including those which do not accord with the officer recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that matters raised by the petition are conscientiously taken into account.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

A plan showing the location of St. Martin's School and adjacent roads is attached as Appendix A. This shows the location of the school in Moor Park Road and the extent of existing parking regulations.