

VICTORIA LANE, HARLINGTON - PETITION REQUESTING RELAXED PARKING DURING SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Danielle Watson
Papers with report	Appendix A and B

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To advise the Cabinet Member that the parents and guardians of children attending William Byrd School have organized a petition asking for relaxed parking during school drop off and pick up times.
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	Heathrow Villages

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their concerns with parking on Victoria Lane**
- 2. Subject to 1 above, instructs officers to carry out parking stress surveys in roads close to the school to determine availability of spaces and to report the results back to the Cabinet Member and Ward Councillors.**

Reasons for recommendation

To give the Cabinet Member the opportunity to discuss in detail the petitioners' concerns

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 60 signatures, which is likely to be signed by parents or guardians of children who attend William Byrd School has been submitted to the Council under the following heading:

'We, the parents of William Byrd School, wish to bring to the attention of the Council our concerns over the increased problems caused by the current parking restrictions in Victoria Lane and other nearby roads. We believe these restrictions have created an increased risk to pupil safety and have made the congestion in the local area worse.

As the school is expanding from a two form entry to a three form entry school, which will only create more traffic and pedestrians, we feel the Council needs to reconsider the current restrictions. We would ask the Council to look at alternatives such as relaxed parking where restrictions do not apply between the hours of 8.30-9.30 and 2.45-3.45.'

2. William Byrd School, Harlington has two entrances, one in Victoria Lane and the other on Hudson Road. The location is indicated on the plan attached as Appendix A to this report.

3. The Heathrow Parking Management Scheme operates between Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm. The scheme was extended to Hudson Road and Victoria Road in November 2009 to give priority to residents and their visitors for the available on-street parking. Whilst the request to relax the parking measures may be viable it is not clear if it will be supported by the local residents in the area. Many residents of Hudson Road and Victoria Lane when consulted on a possible Parking Management Scheme specifically commented, whilst supporting a scheme in their road, that they were experiencing difficulties with finding a parking place close to where they live which they associated with airport workers and William Byrd School.

4. The petitioners have made reference to the school expanding from a two form entry to a three form entry and have suggested that this will increase traffic and pedestrians to the area. William Byrd School is currently being expanded as part of the School Expansion Programme. Planning permission was granted for alterations, additions and refurbishment of William Byrd School, including the provision of a new classroom block, and ancillary development, in February 2011. The impact of the development on parking, highway and pedestrian safety issues was taken into consideration at that time and was found to be acceptable.

5. Clearly there is a risk of conflict between the wishes of residents and parents/guardians of the school children at William Byrd School. It is therefore suggested that the Cabinet Member meets with the petitioners in order to understand the detail of their concerns and to hear any suggestions they have. The Cabinet Member may also wish to seek the views of his Ward Member colleagues who may be able to advise him on the competing demands of the school

and residential communities. Subject to the outcome of this discussion the Cabinet Member may wish to consider instructing officers to conduct a parking-stress survey in the roads surrounding the school to establish if there is enough space within the current Parking Management Scheme for both the local residents and the parents to park and report the results of the survey back to the local Ward Councillors and the Cabinet Member for further consideration.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations in this report.

4. 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.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this stage

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

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

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 possible options under the Council's Road Safety Programme and a consultation be carried out when resources permit there will need to be consideration of 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

There are no property implications resulting from the recommendations set out in this report.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received June 2012