

THIRLMERE GARDENS, NORTHWOOD - PETITION REQUESTING A PARKING SCHEME

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Steven Austin Residents Services Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition requesting parking restrictions are introduced in a section of Thirlmere Gardens, Northwood. A plan of the area is attached as Appendix A.
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 no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services.
Ward(s) affected	Northwood

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their request for parking restrictions in Thirlmere Gardens**
- 2. Subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to add the request to the Council's parking programme for further investigation.**

Reasons for recommendation

Although parking schemes are not generally considered for small sections of roads, the petition hearing will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the petitioners of their concerns and suggestions.

Alternative options considered / risk management

These can be discussed in greater detail with petitioners.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 23 signatures has been submitted to the Council from residents who live in the southern section of Thirlmere Gardens under the following heading:

“Re: Parking in Thirlmere Gardens, Northwood, Houses numbered 26 – 60 (18 houses)

Due to an increase in parking of cars from Mount Vernon Hospital – the undersigned residents wish for restricted parking to be considered in the lower end of Thirlmere Gardens

It has been suggested that a no parking between the hours of 11.00 and 14.00 from Monday to Friday be considered, with residents being issued with permits for display between these times.

We look forward to your response”

2. In an attached letter submitted with the petition, mention is made to a previous informal consultation with all households in Thirlmere Gardens on options to manage the parking. Responses to this consultation which was undertaken in September 2011, it indicated the majority of residents were happy with the existing parking arrangements. From the responses received and in accordance with Council practice it was subsequently recommended that Thirlmere Gardens would not be included in an extension to the Northwood Parking Management Scheme at that time.

3. However, it would appear from the helpful information provided by the lead petitioner that the parking situation has deteriorated in Thirlmere Gardens during the last six months. It has been suggested to residents by some of the hospital staff who are parking in Thirlmere Gardens that the Hospital Trust has revoked their permits and they have been directed to “park in the estate down the road”.

4. The Cabinet Member will be aware that it is the Council’s usual strategy to introduce parking restrictions for an entire street to address concerns of non-residential parking. The aim of such schemes is to prohibit all day parking not associated with those living in the road for the benefit of residents and their visitors. However, this petition seems to be asking for a parking scheme in what appears to be a self contained section of Thirlmere Gardens. It is therefore recommended to meet with the petitioners and discuss their request in detail for parking restrictions in their section of Thirlmere Gardens and subject to the outcome of these discussions, considers the most appropriate course of action.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report however, if the Council were to consider the introduction of parking restrictions in Thirlmere Gardens, funding would need to be identified from a suitable source.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

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

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Informal consultation undertaken in September 2011.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations set out above, however, notes that if Members wish to implement parking restrictions at Thirlmere Gardens a suitable funding source will need to be identified.

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, factual and engineering 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.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered.

In considering any informal consultation responses, 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 responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

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

Nil.