

# PETITION REQUESTING FOOTWAY PARKING TO BE PERMITTED WITHIN CLOSEMEAD CLOSE, NORTHWOOD

<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>	Kevin Urquhart, Residents Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendices A & B

## **1. HEADLINE INFORMATION**

<b>Summary</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition requesting footway parking to be considered in Closemead Close, Northwood.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	The request can be considered in relation to the Council's strategy for on-street parking controls.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation to this report.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Residents' & Environmental Services.
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	Northwood

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Discusses with petitioners and listens to their request for footway parking in Closemead Close then considers the most appropriate action to take.**
- 2. Notes that the limited width of most of Closemead Close severely limits the practicality of footway parking.**
- 3. Subject to the concerns raised by petitioners, instructs officers to investigate the petitioners' concerns with vehicle speeds in greater detail as part of the Council's Road Safety Programme and to conduct a traffic speed survey.**

### **Reasons for recommendation**

Following initial investigation due to the layout of Closemead Close, a formalised footway parking scheme may not provide much additional parking for residents and their visitors over what the current parking arrangements allow.

## **Alternative options considered / risk management**

These will be discussed with petitioners.

## **Policy Overview Committee comments**

None at this stage.

## **3. INFORMATION**

### **Supporting Information**

1. A petition with 17 signatures has been submitted to the Council with the following request:

*“To apply for an Assessment regarding residents’ parking facilities within Closemead Close, Northwood HA6 2SA*

*To seek consideration for action of the following:*

- *Allowing residents to use drop kerb or 2 wheel mounting by the use of permitted signs and road markings*
- *Speed limit”*

Although petitions with less than 20 signatures do not automatically qualify to be heard at a petition hearing, in this case a Ward Member has specifically asked for the petition to be formally heard and this has been agreed by the Cabinet Member.

2. Closemead Close is a cul-de-sac just off The Avenue consisting of 57 residential properties. The location of Closemead Close is indicated on the plan attached as Appendix A to this report. Closemead Close has footways approximately between 1.5 metres to 2 metres wide and are made up entirely of tarmac. Some areas adjacent to the carriageway are protected with bushes. The carriageway is approximately between 5 metres to 6 metres wide and if cars were parked on both sides, this would severely impede access for large vehicles.

3. The Cabinet Member will be aware the Council can exempt roads from the Footway Parking Regulations and has approved criteria where that can occur. However, following initial investigation there appears to only be one location in Closemead Close where it may be possible to consider footway parking that fulfils the criteria but this will only create two to three additional parking places. Attached to this report as Appendix B is a detailed plan of the road with photographs indicating the current parking arrangements and the only location where following initial investigation footway parking could be considered.

4. Petitioners appear to also be asking for footway parking to be allowed across dropped kerbs with signs and road markings to indicate this. However, if the Council was to adopt this arrangement there is the potential that any vehicle could obstruct a resident’s driveway and the Council would not be able to carry out any enforcement action against any vehicle that parks there. Therefore it is not possible to recommend that footway parking be permitted to take place in front of dropped kerbs on the footway due to the risk of obstruction.

5. The Cabinet Member will be aware that in all such cases where parking provision is being considered in narrow streets, the views of the emergency services (in particular the London Fire Brigade) are sought as the ability of a fire appliance to pass through the road is clearly a critically important issue. Furthermore footway parking can reduce the space for legitimate pedestrian access especially for older people, wheelchair users and parents or guardians with buggies. There is also concern that the narrowness of the footway in Closemead Close coupled with the many private walls and hedges along the back of the footpath, would make access difficult were footway parking to be permitted.

6. Petitioners have also raised concern with vehicles speeding in Closemead Close. It is therefore also recommended that the Cabinet Member instructs officers to carry out a speed survey in a section of the road that petitioners feel speeding is an issue. The outcome of the subsequent surveys can then be reported back to the Cabinet Member and local Ward Councillors for further consideration.

7. Following initial investigation the suggestions put forward by petitioners may not provide much additional parking in the road. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member meets with petitioners to discuss their request in detail for footway parking in Closemead Close and subject to what residents tell him, considers the most appropriate further courses of action.

### **Financial Implications**

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report, however if the Council were to consider the introduction of footway parking in Closemead Close, 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 to decide if a footway parking scheme can be considered in Closemead Close and added to the parking programme.

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

None at this stage, but if the Cabinet Member decides for a footway parking scheme to be progressed in the future residents will need be consulted on possible proposals.

## **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.

## **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.

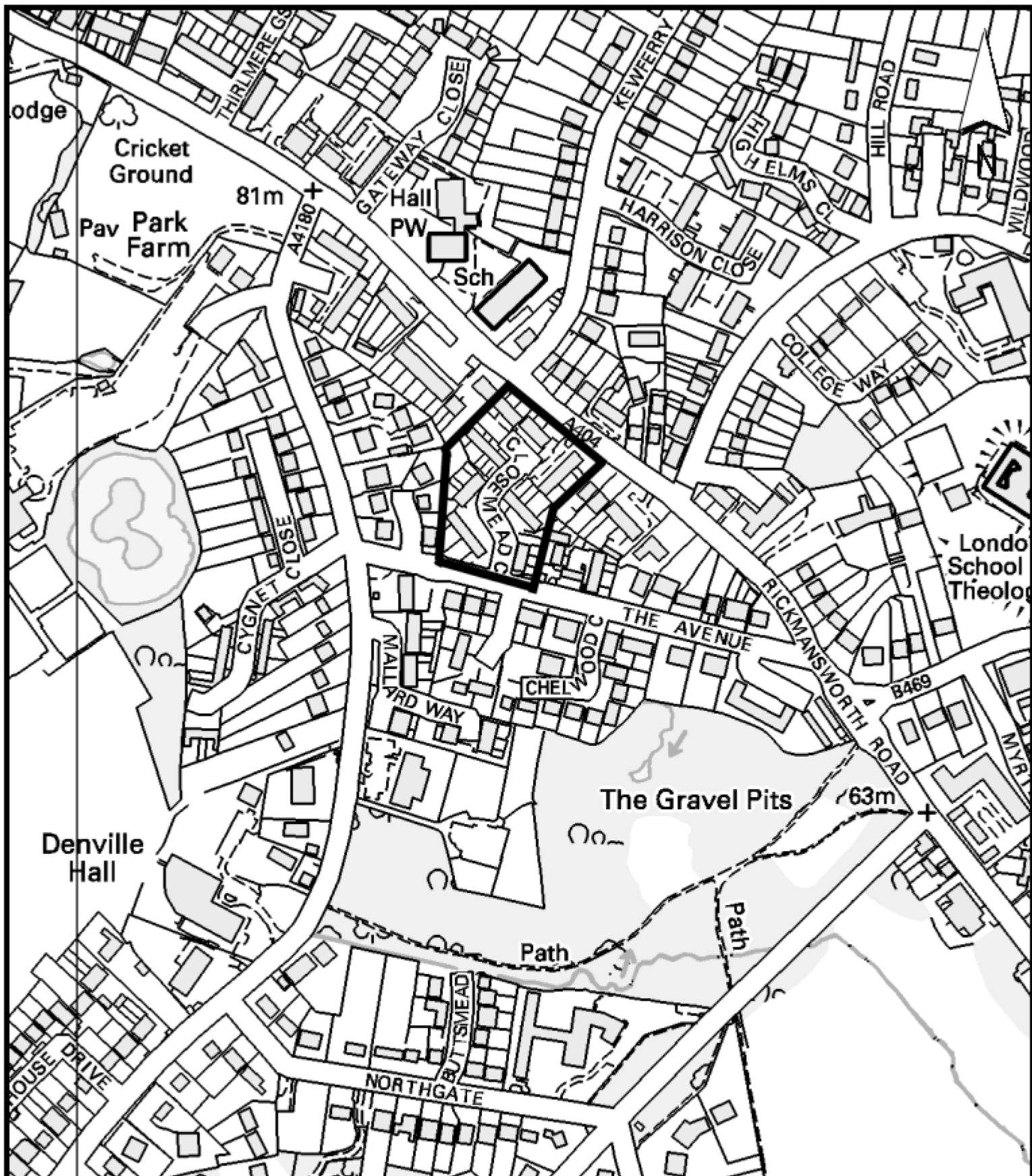
## **Relevant Service Groups**

None at this stage.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petition received – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013





## Closemead Close, Northwood

## Appendix A

Date September 2013

Scale 1:4,000



Extent of Closemead Close, Northwood





View southeast from outside No. 23



Only possible location suitable for footway parking on both sides of road



View towards the northwest corner of Closemead Close

KEY

Extent of private property



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Project  
**Closemead Close  
Northwood**

Scale 1:500(A3)	Designed KU	Drawn KU	Date 27/09/13
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