

COBDEN CLOSE, UXBRIDGE - PETITION REQUESTING THE EXISTING RESIDENTS' PERMIT ONLY PARKING SCHEME IS EXTENDED

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

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition from residents of Cobden Close, Uxbridge asking for the existing Parking Management Scheme to include all of Cobden Close and that the operational times are extended to 8am to 8pm.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's strategy for on-street parking.
Financial Cost	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services.
Ward(s) affected	Uxbridge South.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Meeting with the Petitioners, the Cabinet Member agrees to:

1. Listen to their concerns with the current parking arrangements in Cobden Close.
2. Subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to add the request to the Council's extensive parking programme for further investigation.

Reasons for recommendation

The petition hearing will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the petitioners of their concerns and suggestions.

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 31 signatures from residents of Cobden Close has been received by the Council. In an accompanying statement, the lead petitioner states *"Currently parking is a problem with people parking in the turning area, vehicles blocking cars in, having to park a long way from where we live, and vehicles without residents' permits. Not enough of the roads are enforced to prevent current parking issues"*.

2. The lead petitioner goes on to say *"The aim of this petition is to have the parking enforcement company to monitor and enforce ALL of the bays in Cobden Close from 8am to 8pm"*.

3. Cobden Close is a residential cul-de-sac which is situated close to Uxbridge Town Centre with all of its many amenities. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, Cobden Close currently benefits from being included in the Uxbridge South Parking Management Scheme which was implemented in December 2003. This scheme provides some dedicated on-street parking places for permit holders but there are also some off-street parking areas currently managed separately by colleagues in Hillingdon Housing Services. Having checked the Council's Highway Adoption records for Cobden Close from 1984, it appears that the intention was always to keep the off-street parking areas as private. A location plan of the area is attached as Appendix A to this report.

4. As the Cabinet Member is aware, the Council has powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to provide suitable and adequate parking on the Highway. Parking bays and waiting restrictions on the highway are underpinned by a legal document known as a Traffic Regulation Order (TROs) and as the Highway Authority the Council can change and/or amend these TROs through a legal process. As a result, the request to amend the current operational hours of the on-street bays from Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm to 8am - 8pm has some merit but would be subject to a statutory consultation if approved in principle by the Cabinet Member.

5. In the petition, residents allude to the fact that they would like to see "ALL" of the bays in Cobden Close enforced from 8am to 8pm which would imply the off-street areas as well as the on-street parking. As these areas are not adopted Highway, it is not usual for requests like this to be considered. Whilst these parking areas are not individually allocated, they are available at no charge to residents and their guests on a first come first served basis. Cobden Close is a "mixed use" development incorporating general housing and sheltered accommodation. The latter group of residents in particular benefit from the flexibility of parking bays which can be used by visitors and support providers from health and social care. However, as a consequence, these areas could be open to abuse as they are not enforced.

6. However, in these particular circumstances and after discussing the parking issues with petitioners, the Cabinet Member may ask officers to liaise further with colleagues in Hillingdon Housing Services to discuss possible options to manage these parking areas and to bring him a further report with options for him to consider.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report. If works are subsequently required, suitable funding will need to be identified within the parking programme.

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

None at this stage.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

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

Legal

There are no specific legal implications for the proposal which amounts to an informal consultation with residents of Cobden Close to ascertain if there is support for the extended Parking Management Scheme. A meeting 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 consultation.

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.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered. If specific advice is required, Legal Services should be consulted.

Corporate Property and Construction

There are no Corporate Property and Construction implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received.