

## **MEADOW CLOSE AND EVELYN AVENUE, RUISLIP – PETITION OBJECTING TO WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

**Cabinet Member**

Councillor Keith Burrows

**Cabinet Portfolio**

Planning and Transportation

**Officer Contact**

Catherine Freeman

**Papers with report**

Appendices A and B

### **HEADLINE INFORMATION**

**Purpose of report**

To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition of 21 signatures has been received from local residents objecting to the waiting restrictions on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue

**Contribution to our  
plans and strategies**

The request for waiting restrictions on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue has been considered in relation to the Council's road safety plan

**Financial Cost**

There are no costs involved with the recommendations in this report

**Relevant Policy  
Overview Committee**

Residents' & Environmental Services

**Ward(s) affected**

Eastcote and East Ruislip Ward

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Cabinet Member:**

- 1. Notes the petition objecting to the waiting restrictions on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue**
- 2. Meets with and listens to the petitioners concerns regarding the waiting restrictions on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue**
- 3. Subject to the outcome of (2), confirms the need for 'at any time' waiting restrictions on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue for 10 metres from each respective kerbline, as shown on Appendix A**
- 4. Asks officers to keep under review the parking issues on Evelyn Avenue on the bend south-west of the junction with Meadow Close**

## **INFORMATION**

### **Reasons for recommendation**

A local Ward Councillor, on behalf of local residents, requested the proposed waiting restrictions to prohibit obstructive parking on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue. Section 243 of The Highway Code recommends that vehicles should not park within 10 metres of a junction.

### **Alternative options considered**

The Cabinet Member could decide to remove or alter the length of the waiting restrictions.

### **Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)**

None at this stage

### **Supporting Information**

1. The Council received a request for waiting restrictions on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue from a local Ward Councillor in November 2008. The local Ward Councillor was concerned that vehicles, in particular large vans, were parking too close to the junction of Meadow Close. This obstructive parking was causing visibility difficulties, particularly for vehicles exiting Meadow Close.
2. Following investigation, an initial proposal was developed for 'at any time' waiting restrictions on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue for 10 metres from each respective kerbline, as shown on Appendix A. The local Ward Councillor was consulted on the proposal and subsequently suggested that the proposed waiting restrictions should be longer on the south-western side of the junction to improve sightlines for vehicles exiting Meadow Close. The Council revised the proposal to include a longer length of double yellow lines on the south-western side of the junction. The directly affected residents were informed in writing of the proposed waiting restrictions, as shown on Appendix B. The Council received two objections from residents concerned about the extent of the proposed waiting restrictions. Following a further site visit, and in response to the residents' objections, it was decided that the Council would take forward the initial proposal for 'at any time' waiting restrictions on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue for 10 metres from each respective kerbline, as shown on Appendix A. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, The Highway Code recommends that vehicles should not park on a bend or within 10 metres of a junction.
3. Formal notice was given of the Council's intentions for public consultation and notice of intent was advertised on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 for 21 days. The Council did not receive any objections to the proposal during the statutory consultation period and proceeded to advertise the Order of Making for the waiting restrictions. Subsequently a petition was received on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009. This unfortunately was some time after the closing date for objections. Following the Order Making, arrangements were put in place with the contractor to install the yellow lines on the junction Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue. In cases where programmes of work are longer term, the Council may defer implementation of measures where some element of doubt has arisen. However, the fact that the original request came from concerned residents and a Ward Councillor needs to be borne in mind, and the nature of the request was in any case in line with the requirements of the Highway Code. The

Cabinet Member may agree that it is unreasonable to withhold measures unduly pending the resolution of conflicting views and petitions.

4. In accordance with Council Policy the petition is reported to the Cabinet Member. The petition has 21 signatures objecting to the proposed 'at any time' waiting restrictions on the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue and suggesting that the money would be better spent on road re-surfacing. Of the 21 signatures, 10 are residents of Evelyn Avenue from 5 properties in this road. The petition did not appear to include residents from Meadow Close.
5. The petitioners' state that: *'This is a residential area, the road is not used as a short-term parking area for any schools, shops or businesses and it is felt that it is a waste of Councils resources for something that really is not a problem'*.
6. The petitioners ask if the Council is going to implement double yellow lines on junctions Borough wide. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, the Council considers installing 'at any time' waiting restrictions on junctions for road safety reasons particularly in response to requests from residents or local concern.
7. For the Cabinet Member's information, following the statutory consultation period, the Council also received a letter from a resident of Evelyn Avenue in support of the proposed waiting restrictions.
8. The comments received from the petitioners are acknowledged but the Highway Code clearly recommends that vehicles should not park within 10 metres of a junction, and a local Ward Councillor, on behalf of local residents, has requested the waiting restrictions to prohibit obstructive parking. It is also considered an objection on grounds of financial saving is not valid.
9. In July 2009 the Council was contacted by a resident of Oakfield Close concerned about visibility difficulties on the northbound approach to the bend on Evelyn Avenue, south-west of the junction with Meadow Close due to the persistent parking of commercial vehicles. The resident has requested that the 'at any time' waiting restrictions on Evelyn Avenue at the junction with Meadow Close are extended to approximately 30 – 50 metres on either side of the junction.
10. During the time of a recent site visit, one van was observed to park on Evelyn Avenue, south-west of the junction with Meadow Close. The location of the parked van did not appear to obstruct visibility on the approach to the bend. Therefore it is recommended that the Council keeps under review the parking issues on Evelyn Avenue on the bend south-west of the junction with Meadow Close.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no costs involved with the recommendations in this report

## **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

### **What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

To confirm the need for waiting restrictions to remove obstructive parking and reduce accident risk at the junction of Meadow Close and Evelyn Avenue

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

- Public Notice of the proposals has been given in the local newspaper and Notices displayed on the streets affected
- The local Ward Councillors have been consulted and no objections have been received.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

### **Legal**

The consultation and order making statutory procedures followed in this case are set out in Part 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (the Act) and its related secondary legislation. Section 122 of the Act means that the Council must balance the concerns of the objectors, as mentioned above, with the statutory duty to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic.

The safety risks identified in this report, and the recommendations of the Highway Code are a relevant consideration in deciding whether the Order is confirmed. In considering the consultation responses and views of petitioners, 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 were conscientiously taken into account.

### **Corporate Property**

### **Relevant Service Groups**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petition received 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009