

NORTHWOOD HILLS AREA - PETITIONS BOTH REQUESTING AND OPPOSING A PARKING MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	David Knowles Residents Services Directorate
Papers with report	Appendices A & B

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received two separate petitions from residents who live in the Northwood Hills area. One asking for a Parking Management Scheme and one opposing the introduction of controlled parking measures. These petitions are brought to the Cabinet Member's attention in one report so that the opposing views expressed by petitioners' can be considered before a decision is made on how to proceed.
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	Northwood Hills

2. RECOMMENDATION

Meeting with the Petitioners, the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Discusses with petitioners their concerns with parking in the roads close to Northwood Hills Station.**
- 2. Notes the contrasting petitions and the points made by the respective petitioners.**
- 3. Subject to the outcome of the above decides if officers should informally consult on options to manage the parking in the Northwood Hills area or take no further action at the present time.**

Reasons for recommendation

The petition hearing will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the petitioners' and will be taken into account when deciding if a consultation on options to manage the parking should be undertaken.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. Two petitions have been received from residents of Northwood Hills regarding options to introduce managed parking within an area close to the station. One petition is in support of a Parking Management Scheme, whilst the other is opposing a scheme.
2. The first petition with 2512 signatures has been submitted to the Council under the following heading *"We the undersigned Northwood Hills residents request the London Borough of Hillingdon (The Council) to put residents first and urgently implement a residents only parking management scheme (with the same tariff and conditions applicable in other areas) within a 500 metre radius of the Underground Station (expandable) to prevent commuters and non-residents using our residential roads as a free car park"*
3. The second petition with 28 signatures, appears to have been organised as a direct consequence of the first petition and has been submitted to the Council under the following heading *"We the undersigned, all residents of Northwood Hills, object to the petition proposing that a 500 metre (expandable) controlled parking zone be implemented in Northwood Hills as the implications, if accepted, will have a devastating impact on residents with the potential reduction of over 140 parking spaces"*.
4. The Cabinet Member will be aware that previous consultations in the Northwood Hills area have received mixed responses but generally were not widely supported by the local community. The most recent area-wide consultation took place in 2009 when an information leaflet explaining to residents how parking schemes work was delivered to every household in the area, as shown on the plan attached as Appendix A to this report, together with a questionnaire asking for their views. The responses to this consultation were analysed on a house by house, street by street basis and while there were some pockets of support for a Parking Management Scheme, overall the majority of the residents who responded to this consultation indicated that they were happy with the current parking arrangements. After sharing the results with local Ward Councillors and in accordance with Council practice, it was decided to not to progress the introduction of a residents' parking scheme at that time.
5. During the same period a consultation with business occupiers in Joel Street was undertaken on the possible introduction of a "Stop and Shop" parking scheme which has proven

popular in other town centres across Hillingdon. The majority of the responses from local businesses indicated support for such a scheme and this was subsequently implemented in 2010.

6. The Cabinet Member will also recall hearing recent petitions from residents of Windsor Close, Oakdale Avenue and Briarwood Drive asking for a Parking Management Scheme which are all within close proximity to Northwood Hills Station and Town Centre.

7. The intention of a Residents' Permit Parking Scheme is to restore the balance of parking in favour of those living in that road. However, experience has shown that the introduction of a parking scheme in one road is that often the problem merely transfers into other nearby residential roads. Consequently, these schemes are usually only considered over a suitably sized area to make them both viable from an enforcement point of view and to avoid the problem of parking being transferred in large numbers to other residential roads.

8. Clearly from the recent petitions received, parking in the Northwood Hills area continues to be a highly contentious and on-going concern. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member meets and listens to petitioners both for and against a Parking Management Scheme in the area and with the input of the local Ward Councillors decides if officers should undertake an informal consultation on options to manage the parking in an agreed area, or take no further action to progress a scheme at the present time but to keep the matter under review.

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 special legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners their request for a parking management scheme and the petitioners request to oppose the parking

management scheme in Northwood Hills, 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.

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.

Corporate Property and Construction

None at this stage.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petitions received.