

BADGERS CLOSE, HAYES - PETITION OBJECTING TO PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Planning, Transportation & Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Caroline Haywood Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendices A & B
NOT FOR PUBLICATION This report contains confidential or exempt information	N/A

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received objecting to proposed parking restrictions in Badgers Close, Hayes.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's annual programme of road safety initiatives.
Financial Cost	There are no financial implications in relation to the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents & Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Botwell

2. RECOMMENDATION

Meeting with the petitioners, the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Considers the issues / concerns raised regarding the proposed waiting restrictions.**
- 2. Subject to the above, asks officers to seek the views of the emergency services.**
- 3. Ask officers to report the outcome of this meeting and the comments received to the formal consultation of proposed waiting restrictions on Badgers Close and to include all these views in a separate subsequent report for his consideration.**

Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail matters raised above with petitioners.

Alternative options considered / risk management

These can be identified from the proposed detailed discussions with the petitioners.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage

4. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1 The Council has received a petition containing 25 signatures which represents 18 of the 54 properties in Badgers Close under the following heading *'Please find attached a list of residents signatures from Badgers Close who are opposed to the planned no waiting / parking on the road opposite 35-39 Badgers Close. I have been a resident of Badgers Close for 20 years and in that time cars and vans have always used this part of the street for parking, never causing a problem for anybody until a new resident moved in.....There is more than enough room for emergency vehicles to pass when cars are parked, both ambulances and fire engines have had cause to visit this part of the close and can pass cars parked there without a problem. When these houses were built most households only had one car but now a lot of the households have two cars and parking is in short supply, if you go ahead with this proposal it will mean three to four residents may not be able to park in the close and visitors might have to park outside the close. By going through with this proposal, it will cause hardship to the majority of the residents in this part of the close.'*

2 Badgers Close is a residential cul-de-sac within Botwell Ward. The close has 54 properties and is laid out on two arms. There are 57 allocated private parking spaces in the road with kerb side space for approximately 18 vehicles. Badgers Close is a short distance from Hayes Town Centre via Botwell Common Road. The carriageway in this section of Badgers Close is approximately 5 metres wide with approximately 1.5 metre wide footways. A plan of the area is shown on Appendix A.

3 The Council received a request from a local resident through the Council's Road Safety Programme asking for measures to remove obstructive parking in the section of Badgers Close between No 35 and No 39 Badgers Close as access to this part of the road was being restricted by parked vehicles. As a consequence a detailed investigation took place.

4 Officers visited the site on numerous occasions and parking was observed taking place alongside No 46 Badgers Close. These parked vehicles, some of which were commercial vehicles, reduced the available carriageway width to one lane. As a consequence, access for emergency vehicles could be regularly affected, so it is recommended that subject to the testimony from petitioners and the views of members, that officers seek the views of the Police and Fire Brigade in particular. The majority of the off street parking spaces were empty during the visits by officers, however this is not uncommon during the working day.

5 In view of the above a proposal was developed to install 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions in a small section of Badgers Close opposite No 35 to No 39 Badgers Close, whilst still allowing parking in the rest of the road and in the private parking areas. The proposed restrictions are shown on the plan attached as Appendix B of this report. The local Ward Councillors were consulted on the proposal and supported it in principle.

6 The proposal was then taken through the statutory 21day consultation process, which involved the placing of advertisements in the local press and the display of public notices on site

and it was during this period that the Council received this petition objecting to the proposed waiting restrictions on Badgers Close.

7 The petitioners are concerned with the loss of parking for residents. The proposed yellow lines would remove parking for approximately four vehicles. However, during numerous site visits the parking area to the rear of No 45 Badgers Close has been empty, which nevertheless has parking occupancy for approximately eight vehicles.

8 It is therefore suggested that the Cabinet Member discusses with the petitioners their specific concerns and establishes what alternatives the residents would support and for the outcome of this meeting and other comments received to the formal consultation to be reported in a separate subsequent report for his consideration.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The recommendations will identify the extent of the petitioners concerns and look at possible solutions to mitigate these.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Consultation has been carried out on this proposal through a notice on site and in the local press. Local Ward Councillors have also been consulted.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that the costs associated with the above recommendations will be contained within existing revenue budgets

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners their objections to the proposed waiting restrictions in Badgers Close, 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 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 at that time.

Corporate Property and Construction

There are no property implications resulting from the recommendations set out in this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Petition received
- Statutory consultation