

PETITION REQUESTING A PARKING MANAGEMENT SCHEME IN GROVE ROAD AND MOOR PARK ROAD, NORTHWOOD

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 requesting a Parking Management Scheme in Grove Road and Moor Park Road, Northwood.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered in relation to the Council's strategy for on-street parking controls.
Financial Cost	There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Northwood

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting with the Petitioners, the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Listens to their request for a Parking Management Scheme to be introduced in the area.**
- 2. Subject to the outcome of the above, decides if the request for a Parking Management Scheme in Moor Park Road, Grove Road and possibly roads in the surrounding area should be added to the Council's future parking scheme programme for further investigation and more detailed consultation when resources permit.**

Reasons for recommendations

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss with petitioners their concerns and if appropriate add their request to the parking schemes programme.

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 77 signatures has been submitted to the Council signed by residents of Moor Park Road and Grove Road under the following heading.

"We, the undersigned, ask the London Borough of Hillingdon to introduce a system of controlled parking on Grove Road/Moor Park Road. The present system of unregulated parking is a hazard for local residents and pedestrians"

2. In an accompanying statement the lead petitioner helpfully sets out the residents' concerns as:

"Moor Park Road and Grove Road experience car parking suggestion during the working week on a daily basis with cars parked outside residents' homes between 7.30am and 6.30pm. This results in one way traffic around 8-8.30am and 3.30-4pm. Other consequences include:

- a) Road visibility for children crossing the road is impaired;*
- b) Drivers' visibility for pedestrians is reduced;*
- c) Residents exiting driveways have reduced visibility of on-coming traffic;*
- d) Residents exiting driveways suffer from restricted manoeuvring as a result of cars parked close to and opposite driveways.*

The problem exists because all other surrounding roads have controlled parking or Parking Management Schemes in place - these two roads are unregulated.

3. Moor Park Road and Grove Road are predominantly residential roads just a short walk from Northwood Underground Station, Northwood town centre shops and the many local amenities. As the lead petitioner alluded, these roads are some of the closest roads to the town centre which do not benefit from either a residents' only permit parking scheme or limited time waiting restrictions. St Martin's Preparatory School is situated at the western end of Moor Park Road.

4. The Cabinet Member will recall that in 2010, the Council consulted Moor Park Road, Grove Road and Mezen Close on options to manage the parking. An information leaflet was delivered together with a questionnaire asking for their views. The information leaflet explained to residents the available options to control parking and that if they were satisfied with the existing arrangements to indicate this on the questionnaire. It also contained details on the operational aspects of a Parking Management Scheme. 110 were delivered and 54 returned, which is a response rate of 49%.

5. At that time the Council received a mixed response from the residents of Moor Park Road, with 16 wanting no change to the current parking arrangements, 10 wanting a waiting restriction, and three wanting a Parking Management Scheme to be implemented. Responses received from

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Mezen Close also indicated little or no support to change the existing parking arrangements. It was therefore recommended that these roads were not included in a possible scheme at that time and in accordance with Council practice, it was recommended that the parking arrangements in the above roads remain as existing.

6. Responses received from residents of Grove Road during the informal consultation indicated support for a Monday – Friday 1-2pm waiting restriction which are the days and the times the existing nearby scheme operates. A detailed design on waiting restrictions was subsequently prepared and was subject to a statutory consultation. During the consultation nine responses were received with six of these objecting to the proposals and three in support. All six of the objections received indicated that the restrictions will prevent residents from parking their own vehicles on-street during the hours of operation. A further nine objections were received outside of the consultation period. As there was significant local opposition to the proposals it was again decided not to progress these restrictions at that time in view of residents' concerns.

7. Although previous consultations on options to manage the parking in Grove Road, Moor Park Road and Mezen Close indicated little support for restrictions, a number of roads in the area have been included in the Northwood Parking Management Scheme. It is therefore likely that some parking may have transferred to these roads. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member discusses with petitioners their concerns and if considered appropriate, asks officers to add this request to the future parking scheme programme to see if residents would like to consider options to manage the parking in their roads. Although the petition does not specifically mention Mezen Close, given its close proximity to the other roads it seems appropriate to include this road in a possible future consultation if the Cabinet Member is minded to ask officers to add this request to the parking scheme programme.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report, however if the Council were to consider the introduction of parking restrictions in the area, 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 consider the petitioners request and available options the Council have to address these concerns.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

If the Council subsequently investigates the feasibility to introduce parking restrictions in the area, consultation will be carried out with residents to establish if there is overall support.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial implications set out above, noting there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations.

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners their request for a parking management scheme in Grove Road and Moor Park Road, Northwood 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.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received.