

THE AVENUE AND WEDGEWOOD CLOSE, NORTHWOOD - PETITION FROM RESIDENTS ASKING FOR A RESIDENTS' PERMIT PARKING SCHEME

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

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition from residents of The Avenue and Wedgewood Close, Northwood asking for a Residents' Permit Parking Scheme.
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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting with the petitioners, the Cabinet Member:

- 1. discusses with petitioners their concerns with parking in their area.**
- 2. notes the results of the previous consultations with residents of The Avenue and Wedgewood Close on a possible Parking Management Scheme.**
- 3. subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to add the request to the Council's extensive parking programme for further informal consultation.**

Reasons for recommendations

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 52 signatures has been submitted to the Council from residents of The Avenue and Wedgewood Close, Northwood under the following heading:

"Since yellow lines have been introduced in roads adjacent to The Avenue, parking in the road has increased with vehicles parking on both sides of the road (previously only one side had been used).

"The result of the restrictions in neighbouring roads is that it has become very difficult for residents to drive in and out of their drives and those residents who do not have off street parking have difficulty finding a parking place.

"The undersigned request that Hillingdon Council investigate this problem and in particular consider the implementation of a parking management scheme.

"This scheme should ensure that the approximate 10 properties who do not have off street parking have access to on street parking all day, and that the other residents have clear sight lines and turning circles when exiting their drives".

2. The Avenue and Wedgewood Close are residential roads situated just a short walk to Northwood Town Centre shops, underground station, Mount Vernon Hospital, schools and other nearby local amenities. As the lead petitioner alluded to in a covering statement submitted with the petition, many of the nearby roads already benefit from managed parking. As a result, The Avenue and Wedgewood Close could provide an attractive place for non-residents to park. A plan of the area is attached as Appendix A to this report.

3. As the Cabinet Member will recall, in July 2014, the Council undertook an area wide informal consultation with residents in the area on options to manage parking in their roads. A letter, information leaflet, questionnaire and reply paid envelope was delivered to every property in the area including The Avenue and Wedgewood Close. Responses to the consultation indicated that of the 15 residents who replied, nine were happy with the current parking arrangements, one would support possible waiting restrictions and five would like a residents' permit parking scheme. Responses from Wedgewood Close, which is a small close of just four properties, indicated that two residents were happy with the existing arrangements and one would support limited time waiting restrictions.

4. As the majority of residents from The Avenue and Wedgewood Close that took the opportunity to reply to the previous consultations did not support managed parking in their road, it was recommended that the parking arrangements should remain as existing.

5. However, as the lead petitioner mentions in the petition, some neighbouring roads did support some parking restrictions which have been subsequently implemented. As a result, and from the high number of households who have signed this petition, it would appear that the parking situation in the area may have significantly changed. Subject to the outcome of discussions with petitioners, the Cabinet Member may be minded to add this request to the Council's extensive parking scheme programme for further consultation.

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 set out above.

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners their request for a residents permit parking scheme in The Avenue and Wedgewood 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 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 at that time.

Corporate Property and Construction

None at this stage.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.