

# HIGH STREET, HAREFIELD - PETITION FROM RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES ASKING FOR A 'STOP & SHOP' PARKING SCHEME.

<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Councillor Keith Burrows
<b>Cabinet Portfolio(s)</b>	Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling
<b>Officer Contact(s)</b>	Hayley Thomas Residents Services Directorate
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A

## 1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition from residents and businesses asking for a 'Stop & Shop' parking scheme in High Street, Harefield.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	The request can be considered as part of the Council's strategy for on-street parking.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Residents' and Environmental Services.
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	Harefield

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting with the petitioners, the Cabinet Member:

1. Discusses with the petitioners their concerns with parking in High Street, Harefield;
2. Notes the introduction of parking charges at Harefield House car park, in line with conditions of the Section 106 agreement, which included a clause that if a public car park was not provided on the site within two years of the Council signing the formal lease, then it would be assigned back to the developer with no obligation to provide a public car park; and
3. Subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to add the request to the Council's parking programme and, when resources permit, to carry out informal consultation with business occupiers and residents of High Street, Harefield to establish if there is sufficient support for the consideration of a 'Stop & Shop' scheme.

## 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 21 signatures has been submitted to the Council from residents and businesses of Harefield. In a covering statement with the petition the lead petitioner states:

*"Now there is paid parking in the Cedars (Harefield House) there is now a great shortage of parking spaces in High Street, Harefield. In particular the owner of 19 High Street parks his vehicle for extended periods, sometimes as long as a month. My disabled customers have nowhere to park. My deliveries have nowhere to park. The situation is out of hand.*

*Parking management...timed parking e.g. short stay of 2 hours needed. The taxis and owner of 19 High Street abuse the parking facilities. Now there is parking charges at the Cedars (Harefield House) the problem is now worse."*

2. High Street is the main shopping parade in Harefield Village and is also in close proximity to Harefield Infants and Junior School and Harefield Hospital. As the lead petitioner alluded to in the covering statement submitted with the petition, the Council has recently introduced parking charges to the nearby Harefield House car park. As a result, the High Street would provide an attractive free place to park not only for visitors to the shopping centre but also visitors to the nearby hospital and staff for the local businesses and Infant/Junior School. A plan of the area is attached as Appendix A to this report.

3. The introduction of parking charges at Harefield House car park stemmed from the original planning approval for the Harefield House development, which included a provision of a 99 year lease for the Council to provide and maintain a public car park. The Cabinet Member will recall that had the Council not taken on the lease of the car park the land would have been reassigned back to the stewardship of the developer with no obligation to maintain it as a public car park.

4. The petitioners are asking the Council to install a 'Stop & Shop' parking scheme. From the petition submitted it would appear that most of the signatures appear to be customers or residents who live within the village. Should the Cabinet Member wish to give consideration to the introduction of a 'Stop & Shop' scheme, it is recommended that the Council undertakes its own informal consultation to determine if there is sufficient support from all those directly

affected. Subject to the Cabinet Member's decision the results of such consultation can be reported back to the Cabinet Member and Ward Councillors for further consideration.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report, however if the Council were to consider the introduction of 'Stop & Shop' parking scheme in High Street, Harefield 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 an opportunity to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns.

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

If the Council subsequently investigates the feasibility to introduce a 'Stop & Shop' parking scheme in High Street, Harefield consultation will be carried out with businesses and residents to establish if there is overall support.

## **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 to review the need for a 'Stop & Shop' parking scheme in High Street, Harefield 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**

Petition received.