

PARKFIELD AVENUE, HILLINGDON – PETITON REQUESTING PARKING AND SPEEDING RESTRICTIONS

Cabinet Member	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio	Planning and Transportation
Officer Contact	Catherine Freeman
Papers with report	Appendices A and B

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from residents of Parkfield Avenue requesting parking restrictions and a 20 mph speed limit for the road.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's strategy for on-street parking and road safety
Financial Cost	There are no financial implications to this report
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' & Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Hillingdon East

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Meets with and discusses with the petitioners' their concerns with speed of traffic and obstructive parking in Parkfield Avenue;
2. Subject to (1) asks officers to place this request on the Council's road safety programme for subsequent investigation and the development of possible options;
3. Instructs officers to liaise with the Police and local Safer Neighbourhoods teams to investigate and if appropriate undertake some local enforcement

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To investigate in further the detailed concerns of the petitioners

Alternative options considered / risk management

Options can be discussed with the petitioners

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage

Supporting Information

1. The Council has received a petition with 54 signatures from residents of Parkfield Avenue requesting parking restriction and speed reduction measures for this road.
2. Parkfield Avenue is predominately a residential road with some off-street parking. The south-western end of Parkfield Avenue joins with New Broadway, which consists of commercial premises. There are existing 'Mon – Sat, 8:00 am – 6:30pm' waiting restrictions on both sides of Parkfield Avenue between the junction with New Broadway and a point opposite the northern wall of No. 6 Parkfield Avenue, at shown in Appendix A.
3. The petition request includes a detailed letter which sets out various concerns relating to Parkfield Avenue. One issue is the volume of vehicles using Parkfield Avenue as a cut-through from Uxbridge Road through the Oak Farm estate, to bypass traffic queues on Long Lane, as well as providing a route to Swakeleys School.
4. The petitioners have also raised concerns regarding the number of motorists speeding along Parkfield Avenue; in particular, residents report that they have witnessed local businesses using this road to test drive cars at high speeds.
5. In addition, the petitioners have highlighted problems with obstructive parking in Parkfield Avenue. Vehicles regularly park at the south-western end of the road, after the operational hours of the existing waiting restrictions. This causes access and visibility difficulties at the junction with New Broadway.
6. The petitioners have provided photographic evidence of vehicles being advertised for sale on the eastern footway of Parkfield Avenue, near the junction with New Broadway. Residents have also complained that vehicles from another business regularly block driveways at this end of the road, even though waiting restrictions are present.
7. In response to these concerns, the petitioners have requested the Council to install and regularly enforce 'At any time' waiting restrictions on both sides of Parkfield Avenue between the junction with New Broadway and the entrance to the alleyway. The petitioners have also requested a 20mph speed limit to be introduced in Parkfield Avenue, or the installation of traffic calming measures such as road bumps.
8. The Cabinet Member will be aware that the Council does not introduce the older style of rounded-top road humps because of the level of objection from both residents and the emergency services, whose response times can be seriously affected by such features. The Council sometimes considers the installation of speed tables to help reduce vehicle speeds in residential roads. A speed table is a long speed hump with a flat section in the middle.

9. Following receipt of the petition, Council officers have liaised with the lead petitioner regarding the request for additional waiting restrictions in Parkfield Avenue. The petition leader indicated on a plan their requested locations for 'At any time' waiting restrictions, which replace existing 'Mon-Sat, 8:00am – 6:30pm' waiting restrictions, as shown at Appendix B. The petition leader has requested that the existing waiting restriction outside Nos. 4 and 6 Parkfield Avenue be removed and replaced with white carriageway bar markings.
10. It is suggested that the Cabinet Member discusses in detail with petitioners their concerns with speeding traffic and parking options and endeavour to determine options that officers could investigate in detail as part of the Road Safety Programme as resources permit. Residents should be aware that the introduction of loading and waiting restrictions can in some cases lead to higher traffic speeds.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report. The investigation of feasible measures can be carried out with in-house resources. However, if measures are introduced in Parkfield Avenue, a budget will need to be identified.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

It will allow further consideration of the petitioners' concerns.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Consultation with local residents would be carried out if suitable measures could be identified to address the petitioners' concerns.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

No comments

Corporate Procurement

No comments

Corporate Landlord

No comments

Legal

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.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition regarding obstructive parking and the speed of vehicles in Parkfield Avenue, dated 07 May 2010