

MERROWS CLOSE, NORTHWOOD – PETITION REQUESTING RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME

Cabinet Member	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio	Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Report Author	Hayley Thomas, Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
Papers with report	Appendix A

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To advise the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from residents of Merrows Close requesting 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 is none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Northwood

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Meets and discusses with the petitioners their concerns with parking in their road and the possible options to address the issues that would be acceptable to residents.
2. Subject to No. 1 asks officers to add the request to the Council's overall parking programme so an informal consultation can be carried out.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To give the Cabinet Member an opportunity to discuss with the petitioners the problems in their road and if appropriate consult residents on the possibility of introducing parking restrictions in Merrows Close.

Alternative options considered

Alternative options to address non residential parking will be part of the consultation with residents if the Cabinet Member gives approval for a scheme to be added to the programme.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage.

Supporting Information

1. A petition with nine signatures has been received from residents of Merrows Close, Northwood, asking for a residents' parking scheme; this represents 90% of households in the Close. The Council's usual procedure is to only hear petitions with 20 signatures or more. However, a request has been received from a local Ward Councillor for this petition to be heard by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling.
2. Merrows Close is a small cul-de-sac off the Rickmansworth Road. Its location is indicated on Appendix A and is a short distance from Holy Trinity Primary School and Mount Vernon Hospital. In a covering letter submitted by the secretary of the Merrows Close Residents' Association, it is reported that vehicles are often parking dangerously and residents are finding it difficult to enter and exit the close safely. They associate the parking with employees and parents/carers from the nearby Holy Trinity School.
3. The Cabinet Member will be aware that a zebra crossing was recently installed on Rickmansworth Road, close to the junction of Merrows Close. This was introduced as a consequence of the Holy Trinity Primary School Travel Plan and a number of requests from local residents asking for a safe crossing point for the area. It is probable that parking has transferred to Merrows Close following the implementation of this new crossing, which has greatly improved safety for pedestrians crossing the busy Rickmansworth Road and makes Merrows Close an attractive place to park and drop off children to the school.
4. The Cabinet Member will also recall a similar request from residents of Thirlmere Gardens, which is a short distance from Merrows Close which is likely to benefit from a residents' parking scheme in the future. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member discusses with the petitioners their concerns with parking and adds the request to the Council's programme and consult with residents of Merrows Close on possible options to manage the parking as resources permit.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with recommendations in this report. However, if the Cabinet Member approves the inclusion of these requests in the Council's parking programme a subsequent bid would be required.

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 possible options to address these concerns.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The Council is required to carry out statutory consultation before a scheme can be introduced, to allow members of the public an opportunity to comment.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

N/A.

Corporate Procurement

None at this stage.

Legal

The Council's power to make orders creating residents permit parking arrangements are set out in Part IV, Section 45 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The consultation and order making statutory procedures to be followed in this case are set out in The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/2489).

In considering the 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. If a local authority decides to embark upon a non-statutory process of consultation the applicable principles are no different from those which apply to statutory consultation: see R (Partingdale Lane Residents Association) v Barnet London Borough Council [2003] EWHC 947 (Admin), [2003] All ER (D) 29.

Corporate Landlord

The report has no property implications and the Corporate Landlord has no comments.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received 13 October 2010.