REPORT TO COUNCILLOR GARETH BACON, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC REALM – 15 NOVEMBER 2013

WAITING RESTRICTIONS – OBJECTIONS TO ADVERTISED PROPOSALS – WHITEHALL LANE / HOWBURY LANE, SLADE GREEN

Decision ref. ENV 15/13-14

ISSUES

A number of concerns have been raised by local residents and bus operators regarding the use of Whitehall Lane and Howbury Lane and the impact on street parking has had on traffic flows through the area. Further concerns have been raised that long term on street parking is creating an obstruction and interfering with sightlines at junctions. The concerns regarding on street parking have been discussed with Ward Members and Councillors at the Transport Users Committee and a decision was subsequently taken to consult residents on a proposal to introduce some additional lengths of waiting restrictions (yellow lines) to ensure that vehicles do not interfere with the free flow of traffic.

Where it was felt that the safe and/or efficient movement of traffic was being compromised by on-street parking activity, it was agreed that new waiting restrictions at some of the locations be promoted and the directly affected residents notified of the proposals.

Consequently the directly affected residents across the area were informed of the proposed waiting restrictions being promoted.

The statutory consultation exercise associated with the Traffic Management Order needed for the proposed waiting restrictions was also undertaken over a three week period during August 2013. The proposals for the locations, which are shown on Plan 1 attracted representations during this consultation exercise:

OPTIONS

(a) To introduce the proposals as advertised.
(b) To amend some or all of the proposals.
(c) To abandon some or all of the proposals.

DECISIONS

i. The waiting restrictions at the locations shown on Plan 1 be implemented as proposed.

ii. Following additional representation from residents and a local Ward Member, that additional restrictions are promoted at the Junction of Plantation Road and Green Street Green Road.
iii. The Deputy Director of Environment and Wellbeing (Public Realm Management) be authorised to make the necessary Traffic Management Orders; and

iv. The objectors and affected residents are notified of the Cabinet Member’s decision.

REASONS

The proposed waiting restrictions would ensure that adequate sightlines and visibility at the locations are retained, a key requirement in improving road safety. The proposals would also help ensure the safety and efficient movement of traffic on the road network.

Signed: Councillor Gareth Bacon                  Date: 19/11/2013

LAST DATE FOR CALL-IN:     06/12/2013
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WAITING RESTRICTIONS – OBJECTIONS TO ADVERTISED PROPOSALS – WHITEHALL LANE / HOWBURY LANE, SLADE GREEN

1. Background

A number of concerns have been raised by local residents and bus operators regarding the use of Whitehall Lane and Howbury Lane and the impact on street parking has had on traffic flows through the area. The issues have been discussed regularly by the Transport Users committee and it was subsequently agreed to propose some changes in the area.

Additional concerns had also been raised that long term on street parking is creating an obstruction and interfering with sightlines at various junctions.

Following site surveys and observations, it was agreed to consult residents on a scheme that includes some additional lengths of waiting restrictions (yellow lines). It was agreed that whilst some residents may be in favour of blanket wide restrictions, much in the form of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), there is a high demand from residents to also park on street. As a result the scheme put forward is proposed to strike a balance between ensuring any vehicle parked on street does not interfere with traffic flows, whilst appreciating that some sections of road still need to be kept clear of restrictions to provide parking on street. Furthermore, there are reservations with introducing restrictions along the entire lengths of roads through the area as vehicles would simply be displaced elsewhere and possibly to even less desirable locations.

Therefore, it was felt that the safe and/or efficient movement of traffic was being compromised by on-street parking activity, it was agreed that new waiting restrictions at some of the locations be promoted.

Consequently the directly affected residents were informed of the proposed waiting restrictions and the statutory consultation exercise associated with the Traffic Management Order needed for the proposed waiting restrictions was also undertaken over a three week period during August 2013. The proposals for the various locations, which are shown on Plan 1 attracted representations during this consultation exercise.

Comments and objections along with the officers response is shown in Appendix 1 attached to this report.

2. Recommendations

In the light of the comments and objections received, it is recommended that:

i. The waiting restrictions at the locations shown on Plan 1 be implemented as proposed;

ii. Following representation from residents and the local Ward Member, that additional restrictions are promoted at the Junction of Plantation Road and Slade Green Road.
iii. The Deputy Director of Environment and Wellbeing (Public Realm Management) be authorised to make the necessary Traffic Management Orders; and

iv. The objectors and affected residents are notified of the Cabinet Member’s decision.

3. Summary of Financial Implications

The cost of implementing these schemes is estimated to be £4,800 and can be met from the 2013/14 Revenue Budget for Traffic and road Safety schemes of £61,000.

4. Summary of Legal Implications

The statutory consultation exercise associated with the draft Traffic Management Order for the proposed waiting restrictions was undertaken in accordance with the Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996. The result of the consultation is now required to be considered by the Cabinet Member before a final decision is taken.

5. Summary of other implications

Equal Opportunities

There are no equal opportunity aspects to this report.

Community Safety

The proposals will help to improve road safety by removing obstructive on-street parking.

Environmental Impact

The proposals will reduce the amount of available parking on-street. As a result, some residents may find it difficult to park as close to their property as had previously been possible.

Human Rights

The proposals have been subject to formal consultations, with comments and objections reported to the Cabinet Member in this report. Subject to approval being given, the residents affected by these proposals will be notified.

6. Appendices

Plan 1: Plan showing proposals to which objections were received
Appendix 1: Summary of objections to proposals and Officers’ comments
Local Government Act 1972 – Section 100d
List of background documents

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Objections, comments and letters received in response to proposals for locations listed in this report.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contact officer:</strong></td>
<td>Paul Nevard, Traffic Engineer</td>
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<td><strong>Reporting to:</strong></td>
<td>Mike Frizoni, Deputy Director of Environment and Wellbeing (Public Realm Management)</td>
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