

**North Mid Sussex County Local Committee**

**21 October 2019**

**East Grinstead Residents' Parking Scheme Review**

**Report by Director of Highways, Transport and Planning**

<b>Ref No: NMS05(19/20)</b>
<b>Key Decision: No</b>
<b>Part I</b>
<b>Electoral Division: East Grinstead South &amp; Ashurst Wood</b>

**Summary**

The North Mid Sussex County Local Committee (CLC) is asked to make a decision on whether to implement changes to parking/waiting restrictions in roads within the East Grinstead Parking Scheme.

A public consultation took place in April with residents and stakeholders on proposals to change some of the parking/waiting restrictions in roads across the town in order to improve safety, access and visibility as well as to increase the amount of parking available.

Overall, 8 representation were received during the consultation period, all objecting to the proposals. A summary of the comments are outlined in Appendix B.

Members of the CLC are asked to authorise the proposals as advertised. All changes that are introduced will be monitored closely and a further review of the parking scheme will be undertaken in the future.

**Recommendation**

That the North Mid Sussex CLC authorise the Director of Law and Assurance to bring the Traffic Regulation Order into operation as advertised.

**1. Background and Context**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of a recent public consultation into proposed changes to parking/waiting restrictions to the East Grinstead Residents' Parking Scheme.
- 1.2 A Residents' Parking Scheme (RPS) has been in place in East Grinstead since 2000, with the last extension taking place in 2016. At the time of the last extension, a commitment was made to monitor the impact of these changes and to carry out a further review in due course.
- 1.3 The recent review has been carried out as part of the County Councils RPS Annual Review programme.
- 1.4 A statutory advertisement took place between 4 and 25 April 2019 with residents and stakeholders on proposals to change the parking/waiting

restrictions in the RPS. A number of formal representations were received and officers are therefore obliged to ask members of the CLC to consider the results of the public consultation and make a decision on whether to implement the proposed changes.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 Full details of the proposals that formed part of the statutory advertisement can be seen in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The proposals have been put forward to try and improve road safety, reduce congestion and ensure effective enforcement can take place. In some locations within the existing RPS, efforts have also been made to increase the amount of available parking.

## **3. Resources**

- 3.1 The enforcement costs for the proposed parking/waiting restrictions would be met by income from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) or from the County Council's On-Street Parking Account. As such, the proposals (if implemented) would be self-financing.
- 3.2 The total scheme budget (incorporating design, consultation, implementation and maintenance costs) is £2,000 over the financial year 2019/20. This also comes from the County Council's On-Street Parking Account.
- 3.3 Policies to manage the demand for car use through the control of on-street parking tie in with County Council Policies. These include the Integrated Parking Strategy. Managing the demand for car use and parking also supports measures to tackle congestion and pollution, improve alternative modes of transport, particularly public transport, and improve road safety and residential amenity.

## **Factors taken into account**

### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 The formal consultation took place between the 4 and 25 April 2019, and in addition to a press release being issued and lamppost signs being erected in all roads affected, all consultation literature was made available on the County Council's web site and at East Grinstead Library. A statutory notice was also placed in the East Grinstead Courier.
- 4.2 An e-mail was also sent on 19 January 2019 to a number of key stakeholders (e.g. Mid Sussex District Council, Emergency Services and County Council Officers).
- 4.3 A total of 8 representations were made, all of which were objections. One of the objections made was a petition signed by 28 residents. A summary of the representations made can be seen in Appendix B, alongside the comments of officers with regard to road specific proposals.
- 4.4 Taking the representations received into account officers are of the view that the proposals should be implemented as advertised.

## 5. Risk Management Implications

Risk	Mitigation
If proposals are not taken forward this would result in some restrictions in the scheme not being enforceable and the best use of the road space for all users would not be achieved.	By conducting the review all the existing restrictions have been reviewed and any necessary changes made to ensure that the enforcement team can fully carry out their function in East Grinstead Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ).
If the proposals are implemented some residents and businesses may find their normal parking habits are affected. The majority of respondents objected to the proposed amendments and have expressed a wish for things to remain as they are.	All changes that are taken forward and implemented will be subject to a review and further necessary potential changes will be considered when the next review of the CPZ takes place.

## 6. Other Options Considered

- 6.1 Officers did consider leaving any changes to the existing CPZ to be considered as part of the Road Space Audit (RSA) programme. The RSA process is proving not to be the best vehicle for relatively small changes to existing CPZ's, so a programme of regular reviews of the CPZ's will continue.

## 7. Equality Duty

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 bans unfair treatment and seeks equal opportunities in the workplace and in the wider society. It also imposes a Public Sector Equality Duty which requires the Council to have regard to the requirements of that duty when considering decisions. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation
- 7.2 In this case, the intention of the proposals is to ensure fair access to road space for all users.

## 8. Social Value

- 8.1 For some residents and visitors the proposals offer them an opportunity to park more easily by adding to the overall capacity. Also by making advisory Disabled Bays mandatory thus ensuring their enforceability for the use of Blue Badge Holders.
- 8.2 That said, it is also accepted that residents/visitors who objected to the proposals are negatively affected. For example, some residents may not be able to park in their usual place if new waiting/parking restrictions are implemented. Road users who park inconsiderately and not in compliance with parking regulations will also be at risk of receiving a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN), issued by Civil Enforcement Officers employed by the local authority.
- 8.3 In most but not all circumstances, the individual will frequently put their own personal needs before those of the wider community. It is therefore

necessary to share out a scarce resource (such as the availability of parking) with controls and enforcement if the wider needs of the community are to be met. Parking schemes/restrictions are designed to stimulate behavioural changes and to encourage compliance with parking controls. If need be, changes can still be made to suit local preferences and then be subject to further consultation.

- 8.4 It is proposed that any new restrictions, if approved, be closely monitored over a period of time and an opportunity to make amendments will be available during the programmed review process.

## **9. Crime and Disorder Act Implications**

- 9.1 The County Council does not consider the scheme to create any crime and disorder issues. Officers have consulted with Sussex Police, who share this view. It is considered this will not change if implementation takes place.

## **10. Human Rights Implications**

- 10.1 There are not considered to be any Human Rights Act Implications.

### **Matt Davey**

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### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Tile Plans of the proposals

Appendix B – Summary of representations received

### **Background Papers**

None