

**SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 7 OCTOBER 2008**

**THE SWANLEY AND SEVENOAKS PARKING REVIEWS – IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

Report of the: Community and Planning Services Director

Status: For information

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**Executive Summary:** This report advises Members of the implementation of the Swanley and Sevenoaks Parking Reviews and of issues that have arisen.

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**This report supports the Key Aim** of the effective and efficient use of Council resources.

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Williamson

**Head of Service** Head of Environmental and Operational Services – Mr. Richard Wilson

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**Recommendation:** It be RESOLVED that Members note the contents of this report.

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**Introduction**

- 1 Formal public consultation for both of these schemes took place during 2007 with the outcome being reported for consideration to this committee in December 2007 and to the Council's Cabinet in December 2007 and January 2008.
- 2 Both schemes received approval for implementation
- 3 Following this, the process to make the Traffic Regulation Orders was completed and work schedules prepared to enable the necessary signing and lining work to be undertaken.

**Swanley**

- 4 Physical works to introduce the Swanley parking scheme were undertaken during April comprising signing, lining and installation of ticket machines. The new restrictions went live on 6 May.
- 5 Issues that have arisen since implementation include:
  - displacement parking in Goldsel Road at bridge over the A20 beyond the limit of the yellow lines (in the parish of Crockenhill);
  - requests for the removal of parking bays in Bramley Close to improve access to certain properties;

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- concerns about visibility at the junction of High Firs and Goldsel Road when exiting High Firs due to the presence of parking bays to one side of the junction;
  - request for some areas of single yellow lines in the area of Cyclamen road to be changed to double yellow lines to prevent parking on and near bends and junctions; and
  - concerns about a drive access in between parking bays in Cyclamen Road.
- 6 In relation to the displacement parking in Goldsel Road, restrictions to prevent parking at this location are being proposed as part of a package of parking measures for Crockenhill parish. Otherwise, the issues raised will be considered as part of the scheme review which is to be carried out in October / November this year.

**Sevenoaks**

- 7 Works to introduce the Sevenoaks parking scheme followed on from those undertaken in Swanley and were carried out during April, May and June, the extent of the work requiring a longer implementation period. The new restrictions went live on 30 June.
- 8 Issues that have arisen since implementation include:
- displacement parking in the Bradbourne Lakes area;
  - displacement parking in Hopgarden Lane (originally included in the proposals but withdrawn having taken account of comments received from residents during the consultation period);
  - displacement parking in the area of Bayham Road and Serpentine Road;
  - requests to review the signing and lining installed in the conservation area at The Vine so that it is more sympathetic to the surrounding area;
  - requests to relocate posts outside certain properties to improve the visual amenity for residents; and
  - concerns over the charging structure in respect to parking permits for people who work in the town centre.
- 9 Proposals have been agreed and approved to extend restrictions into the Bradbourne Lakes area to deal with the displacement parking (as provided for as part of the original approval process). At the time of preparing this report, it was expected that these works would be implemented towards the end of September.
- 10 The issues of displacement parking in Bayham Road and Serpentine Road and the cost of parking permits for town centre workers were raised at a meeting of the Council's Cabinet held on 31 July. In response to questions

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from members of the public, the Chairman advised that the problems in the area of Bayham Road would be considered once the schools had returned to session. The cost of permits for non-residents would be considered under the review of the parking scheme which was due to be to take place in December 2008.

- 11 We are looking at the issues relating to Bayham Road and Serpentine Road as a matter of urgency but any solution must take account of possible further displacement into adjoining areas. Considerable work is needed to assess the implications of any proposed changes in this area.
- 12 The signing and lining in The Vine conservation area is being considered to determine what options may be available to lessen the impact of the parking restrictions recently introduced.
- 13 The relocation of posts is currently being considered to see where improvements can be made.
- 14 Otherwise, issues raised will be considered as part of the review.

**Parking Enforcement**

- 15 In response to the Swanley and Sevenoaks parking schemes and others introduced earlier in Edenbridge and Westerham, and to help facilitate the enforcement of rural areas of the district, the Council is in the process of increasing its enforcement resources by two additional Civil Enforcement Officers (previously known as Parking Attendants).
- 16 Despite the more recent parking schemes enabling greater effectiveness of enforcement resources, there has been a steady increase in the amount of parking and waiting restrictions to enforce throughout the district. Accordingly, the Council is keen to ensure that adequate enforcement resources are available to respond to enforcement needs.

**Financial**

- 17 The take up of pay and display parking areas in Swanley has been slower than expected, but this is thought to be due to the displacement parking which is occurring further along Goldsel Road. It is too early to estimate whether income predictions will be met.
- 18 Pay and display income for Sevenoaks is gradually increasing with time, but is currently below expectations. However, allowance should be made for the summer holiday period which will have an effect upon income levels.
- 19 The take up of permits has generally be lower than expected, particularly in relation to town centre, but this would be related to the displacement parking issues which are due to be considered. Again, it is too early to estimate whether income predictions will be met.

**Summary**

- 20 The parking schemes for Swanley and Sevenoaks were introduced to enable the Council to better manage where people park, to improve road safety and the flow of traffic, and to improve parking facilities for residents. On the whole, it is considered the schemes have been a success, although it is acknowledged that there are some issues remaining which need to be resolved.
- 21 Schemes of this nature are usually reviewed after six months of operation. Therefore, both of these schemes will be reviewed in the period up to the end of December. A further update report will follow outlining any further action to be taken and to request any approvals to Traffic Regulation Orders.

**Sources of Information:**

**Contact Officer(s):** Gary Connor Ext. 7310

**KRISTEN PATERSON,**

**COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES DIRECTOR**