

**SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 16 DECEMBER 2008**

**TRAFFIC ORDER AMENDMENT 21**

**CHANGES TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN EDENBRIDGE, SUNDRIDGE, WESTERHAM, HARTLEY AND CHEVENING**

Report of the: Community and Planning Services Director

Status: For decision

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**Executive Summary:** This report requests that Members approve the changes to the on-street parking Traffic Regulation Order for Edenbridge, Sundridge, Westerham, Hartley and Chevening.

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**This report supports the Key Aim of** safer communities and the effective and efficient use of 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;

- (a) The comments and objections to the changes in the on-street parking Traffic Regulation Order Amendment 21 be noted and the officer recommendations set out within this report be implemented.
- (b) The parking restrictions be introduced as proposed, subject to the officer recommendations set out within this report for Edenbridge, Sundridge, Westerham, Hartley and Chevening.

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**Background**

- 1 A review of parking restrictions in the parishes of for Edenbridge, Sundridge, Westerham, Hartley and Chevening has been undertaken following requests from a number of local residents, businesses and in some cases the Parish Councils.
- 2 Two rounds of consultation have been carried out, with the second round being the formal opportunity to object to the proposals. The formal objection period closed on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008.
- 3 The objection period generated a mixed result in terms of numbers of responses, ranging from nil for some schemes with others receiving numerous individual responses or petitions, An Executive Summary follows as item 4, with further details of each proposal in subsequent items.

#### 4 Executive Summary

##### *In the Parish of Edenbridge*

Town / Village	Respondent's details	Response summary	Recommendation	Action
<b>5. Edenbridge</b>	Mr Ritchie	Concerns that SDC have not considered the displacement of vehicles in other portions of the road	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made and vehicle displacement monitored
	25 signature petition from residents	Requesting the restriction be redesigned	Comments be upheld	Traffic Order to be amended to allow for scheme timing changes

##### *In the Parish of Sundridge & Ide Hill*

Town / Village	Respondent's details	Response summary	Recommendation	Action
<b>6. Sundridge</b>	None	None	N/A	Traffic Order to be made as proposed

##### *In the Parish of Westerham & Crockham Hill*

Town / Village	Respondent's details	Response summary	Recommendation	Action
<b>7. Westerham</b>	Mr Bulford	Concerns not enough consideration of disabled residents	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made as proposed
	Mrs Foster	Concerns about vehicle displacement	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made as proposed
	Mr Rogers	Concerns about vehicle displacement	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made as proposed
	Mr Stone	Feels scheme is not required	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made as proposed

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Town / Village	Respondent's details	Response summary	Recommendation	Action
	Sarah Goh	Scheme does not address problems	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made as proposed
	Zoe Trodd	Scheme does not address problems fully	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made as proposed
	Mrs Oram	Concerns whether scheme will address all issues	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made as proposed
	Mr Vickers	Concerns whether scheme will address all issues	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made as proposed

*In the Parish of Hartley*

Town / Village	Respondent's details	Response summary	Recommendation	Action
<b>8. Hartley</b>	Mr & Mrs Deane	Wishes to have the scheme amended to not cover the area outside of their property	Comments be upheld	Traffic Order to be amended
	Mr and Mrs Conway	Concerns about vehicle displacement and resident parking	Comments be set aside	Traffic Order to be made as proposed

*In the Parish of Chevening*

Town / Village	Respondent's details	Response summary	Recommendation	Action
<b>9. Chevening</b>	None	None	N/A	Traffic Order to be made as proposed

## **5 Edenbridge comments, objections & responses (*in italics*)**

- 5.1 A letter was received on the 13/11/08 from Mr Ritchie. He has raised several reasons for his objections to the introduction of restrictions as detailed in Amendment 21. A summary of his objections is as follows (full details of all responses are available to view on [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk), with paper copies available for inspection at the meeting):
- 5.2 His objection is that vehicles will be displaced into the upper portion of Grange Close, Edenbridge and he would like to see restrictions introduced in the entire road. He comments that the scheme has not changed since the earlier informal consultation stage and so SDC have not properly considered the proposed restrictions.
- 5.3 *The District Council accepts that vehicles will move into the upper portion of Grange Close but following site visits are satisfied that there is sufficient parking capacity in this portion of the road to cope with this increase. The scheme is designed to prevent vehicles parking extensively in the narrower access portion of Grange Close as well as the entrance and turning junctions of the road, thus maintaining good access for emergency vehicles.*
- 5.4 A list of residents signatures objecting to the introduction of restrictions in the current form has been received by email on the 24/11/08. They request that the timed parking restriction on the entrance portion of Grange Close be changed from the planned Mon-Fri 8.30-6.30 to 7-10.30am only.
- 5.5 *The District Council feels that the excessive parking in this portion of road is caused predominantly by commuters parking for the nearby railway station. If the timings were amended to Monday-Friday, 7.00am-10.00am then this would also greatly reduce the parking demand in this portion of road. It is recommended that the times are set as Monday-Friday, 7.00am-10.00am to ease enforcement as this ties-in with other timed restrictions in the District. With this in mind the District Council agree to change the timings of the restrictions as detailed.*
- 5.6 There have been no objections to the formal consultation regarding the introduction of restrictions along Little Browns Lane, Edenbridge. The only response was from Kent Police who wrote in support of the measures
- 5.7 *Sevenoaks District Council intends to proceed with this scheme as proposed.*

## **6 Sundridge comments, objections & responses**

- 6.1 There have been no objections to the formal consultation regarding the introduction of junction protection restrictions in Main Rd, Sundridge. The only response was from Kent Police who wrote in support of the measures
- 6.2 *Sevenoaks District Council intends to proceed with this scheme as proposed.*

## 7 Westerham comments, objections & responses

- 7.1 An email was received from Mr Bulford regarding the proposed restrictions in 'Rysted Lane' Westerham. His main concern is that as a large number of the residents in this location are disabled or elderly they will be disadvantaged as he feels that no provision has been included for them and due to the introduction of controls the parking capacity will reduce.
- 7.2 He is also concerned about provision for their carers. Within his letter are also a number of questions regarding the number of permits to be issued, whether bays be allocated to specific houses and how much will the permits cost.
- 7.3 *There are no specific provisions for disabled or elderly within the scheme but Blue Badge holding residents may apply for a resident's parking permit at no charge. Disabled drivers may also to apply for a designated disabled parking space, which if all of the criteria are met, will enable a bay to be placed close to their property for use when displaying a valid nationally recognised 'Blue Badge', however, it is likely that the introduction of the proposed restrictions will free-up parking for residents and remove the need for a specific disabled parking bay.*
- 7.4 *The slight reduction in capacity caused by the introduction of safe passing areas to prevent use of the footway for passing will be offset by the large reduction in all day use of the parking area by non-residents.*
- 7.5 *The scheme is designed to give a two hour waiting period which should allow for carers and visitors to attend housebound persons or to allow for parking of transport vehicles. Visitors wishing to stay longer can be accommodated within the proposals by the use of Visitors' Vouchers. Any vehicle parked to allow persons to alight or exit is permitted to do so for as long as is required to 'load or unload'.*
- 7.6 An email from Mrs Foster regarding the proposed restrictions in Rysted Lane Westerham was received on the 11/11/08. She does not object to the proposals but does raise concerns regarding the probable location of displaced vehicles and the councils failure to tackle parking issues in the whole of Westerham at a strategic level rather than on a road by road basis.
- 7.7 *Any displaced vehicles may park within nearby roads. If these vehicles park safely and in unrestricted areas then they are entitled to do so. All new restrictions will be monitored and adjusted if so required after an evaluation period. If the parking levels increase to such a point that unsafe parking is forced to occur then the District Council will alter or increase the restrictions in the area.*
- 7.8 *The District Council reviewed parking controls within large portions of Westerham recently. These small individual schemes now being proposed are minor issues raised around the outskirts of the area previously reviewed. The reason for further roads not having restrictions introduced at this stage is*

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*due to the Council's wish to let parking in the outer areas to be where possible self-controlling and to resist the need to introduce restrictions in every road.*

- 7.9 Mr Rogers emailed on the 24/11/08 to register his concerns over the possibility of vehicles being displaced from Rysted Lane into nearby roads. He also feels that Council does not appear to have considered the area as a whole rather than just an individual road.
- 7.10 *Any displaced vehicles may park within nearby roads. If these vehicles park safely and in non-restricted areas then they are entitled to do so. All new restrictions will be monitored and adjusted if so required after an evaluation period. If the parking levels increase to such a point that unsafe parking is forced to occur then the District Council will alter or increase the restrictions in the area.*
- 7.11 *The District Council reviewed parking controls within large portions of Westerham recently. These small individual schemes now being proposed are minor issues raised around the outskirts of the area previously reviewed. The reason for further roads not having restrictions introduced at this stage is due to the Council's wish to let parking in the outer areas to be where possible self-controlling and to resist the need to introduce restrictions in every road.*
- 7.12 Mr Stone sent in an objection letter on the 17/11/08 regarding his concerns about the proposed restriction changes to The Green, Westerham. He doesn't think that the restrictions are beneficial or required and will only assist the trade of the local café and not the community as a whole.
- 7.13 He states that the current controls work well and give a good mix of parking and he would like stronger action taken against any traders who place their own equipment in the parking bays thus preventing vehicles parking.
- 7.14 *The restriction in this area is designed to maintain a good access for emergency service vehicles along the narrowest portion of 'The Green', as well as to address the concerns of the Café, who have problems associated with vehicles parking directly outside their business. Whilst this will reduce parking capacity slightly it will not have a generally detrimental effect on trade in the area.*
- 7.15 *The placement of trading equipment (including table and chairs) on the Highway would be an issue that the Highway Authority would need to manage.*
- 7.16 Sarah Goh emailed the District Council on the 28/10/08 to register her objection to the proposed restrictions for Black Eagle Close as she believes they will not fully prevent vehicles from parking and causing obstructions to the road preventing deliveries. She wishes to have the restriction redesigned and increased in length on the eastern side of Black Eagle Close. She also mentions

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the problem is only at the bottom of the road and does not wish to see a problem created in the residential upper portion of the road.

- 7.17 *These restrictions are only being introduced in locations that will aid traffic flow and safety and this is especially true at the junction of A25/ Black Eagle Close. The extent of the restrictions will be in accordance with guidelines detailed within the Highway Code and will maintain a clear entrance for emergency vehicles.*
- 7.18 *Any displaced vehicles may park within the residential area of the road. If these vehicles park safely and in unrestricted areas then they are entitled to do so. All new restrictions will be monitored and adjusted if so required after an evaluation period. If the parking levels increase to such a point that unsafe parking is forced to occur then the District Council will alter or increase the restrictions in the area.*
- 7.19 A response email from Zoe Trodd was received on the 30/10/08 registering her concerns that the proposed restrictions may not keep the entrance to Black Eagle Close completely clear of vehicles thus causing a potential obstruction to emergency vehicles.
- 7.20 She is also concerned that due to parking levels in the road being high, this will be further stressed when these restrictions are introduced causing vehicles to park further along the road increasing parking levels in the residential area of the road.
- 7.21 *These restrictions are only being introduced in locations that will aid traffic flow and safety, this is especially true at the junction of A25/ Black Eagle Close. The extent of the restrictions will be in accordance with guidelines detailed within the Highway Code and will maintain a clear entrance for emergency vehicles.*
- 7.22 *Any displaced vehicles may park within the residential area of the road. If these vehicles park safely and in non restricted areas then they are entitled to do so. All new restrictions will be monitored and adjusted if so required after an evaluation period. If the parking levels increase to such a point that unsafe parking is forced to occur then the District Council will alter or increase the restrictions in the area.*
- 7.23 A letter was received on the 29/10/08 from Dorothy Oram. She does not object but does reiterate concerns regarding junction protection and general levels of parking within the area of Rysted Lane, Westerham.
- 7.24 *This scheme has been designed to address the issues raised by Dorothy Oram. The District Council has developed the restrictions following concerns about parking levels in the area and will monitor the situation after the introduction of controls.*

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- 7.25 A response was received from a Mr Vickers on the 20/11/08 detailing his concerns that the restrictions proposed do not go far enough and may not fully address the parking problems in the area..
- 7.26 He has requested that the double yellow line restrictions on the eastern side of Black Eagle Close between the 'A25' junction and the fork In the road be joined together.
- 7.27 *The District Council did consider this option at the earlier informal consultation stage but due to large opposition at that stage has decided to do a less inclusive scheme and then to monitor the effects and to increase the restrictions if required at a later date. Whilst parking will remain heavy in Black Eagle Close these restrictions will prevent vehicles parking on the junctions or corners of the road thus improving safety and access for emergency vehicles.*

**8 Hartley comments, objections & responses**

- 8.1 The introduction of restrictions in Quakers close has been objected to by Mr & Mrs Deane who emailed a response on the 11/11/08. They do not wish to have a restriction outside of their property as they feel it will adversely effect the value of the property and the placement of any associated signage is not supported.
- 8.2 *The restriction length was increased to run in front of the property known as 'The Birches' from the original proposal at the earlier informal stage at the request of several respondents. However as Mr & Mrs Deane were not one of those respondents it now seems inappropriate to continue the restriction this far along and as such the District Council will amend the restriction length on the northern side so that it stops at the western boundary of 'The Birches'.*
- 8.3 The introduction of restrictions in Quakers Close has been objected to by Caroline Conway via email on the 23/11/08 on the grounds that the displaced parking further along the road will increase and due to the start time of the proposed restrictions any residents will not be able to park in that location overnight as they will have to move their vehicles early in the morning.
- 8.4 She also raises concerns over the levels and location of footway parking and inconsiderate parking that already takes place within the road..
- 8.5 *These restrictions will deter all-day parking in the road from non-residents and will ease the parking capacity problems within the road from 10am onwards. Whilst this does mean that any vehicle left overnight in the area when the restriction comes into force at 7am will have to be moved it will allow the area to be used as a residential parking area and by reducing the overall levels of parking help maintain an easier access for emergency service vehicles and refuse vehicles.*



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8.6 *Vehicles are not permitted to park on the footway as they are committing a moving traffic offence whilst entering and exiting the footway. This is a criminal act and is enforceable by Kent Police as it is an endorsable offence. Whilst it is not within the remit of this report and the subsequent introduction of restrictions to address these issues, her concerns will be forwarded to Kent Police for consideration.*

**9 Chevening comments, objections & responses**

9.1 There have been no objections to the formal consultation regarding the introduction of junction protection and corner protection restrictions in Bessels Way or Larkfield Road, Chevening . The only response was from Kent Police who wrote in support of the measures

9.2 *Sevenoaks District Council intends to proceed with this scheme as proposed.*

**Risk Assessment Statement**

By not introducing the measures proposed in Edenbridge, Sundridge, Westerham, Hartley and Chevening, the current parking problems associated with unregulated and inappropriate parking will continue.

By not amending errors and omissions in the existing orders, the existing orders could be challenged, and appeals against penalty charge notices could be upheld. Parking enforcement in areas of known errors would be unavailable.

**Sources of Information:** Existing on and off-street parking traffic regulation orders held by the Parking and Amenity team

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**KRISTEN PATERSON  
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