

## SEVENOAKS TOWN PARKING REVIEW GROUP

### NOTES OF MEETING NO. 23 - HELD 1 APRIL 2009

<b>Present:</b>	Gary Williamson	Portfolio Holder (The Built Environment)
	Elizabeth Purves	Local Member
	Felicity Broomby	Local Member (for item 5)
	Jan Van der Velde	Chamber of Commerce
	Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks Town Council
	Andy Bracey	Senior Engineer
	Gary Connor	Parking and Amenity Manager

**Distribution:** All Group members, Cllr Peter Fleming, Cllr Felicity Broomby, and Wiebke Arnolds.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies from: Ann Dawson, Linda Larter, Mike Bamforth, Chris Beach, Philip Runacres, Alvin Chantler and Richard Wilson.

#### **2. MATTERS ARISING**

- Consultation re: the six-month review: undertaken and on the agenda.
- Proposals for Bayham Road junctions: discussed and proposals progressed.
- Hartsland area: on the agenda.

#### **3. SEVENOAKS PARKING REVIEW AMENDMENTS**

Following the last meeting, members of the Parking Group had been asked to confirm their agreement to the proposed actions in response to the public consultation undertaken. The results were tabled (copy attached).

Where the consensus view was that the actions be agreed, this was confirmed at the meeting. In respect to classifications, the following comments were made and the actions stated agreed:

- **The Drive** – the outcome that the proposed action be disagreed was confirmed, i.e. the proposal would be progressed rather than abandoned.
- **Sackville Close and Bradbourne Road** – it was noted that there was a split vote from residents, that all day parking occurring in Sackville Close was related to the school and not rail commuters, but that it was not a safety concern. It was considered there was insufficient justification to warrant progressing these proposals, but that the situation should be monitored and the issues be further considered if necessary.
- **St Johns Hill** – Following discussion as to the merits of the proposals in terms of improving visibility and safety for people exiting the Caxton House car park against the loss of parking spaces, it was agreed that the safety considerations ought to take precedence and, therefore, the proposals were agreed. It was

noted that there were also parking facilities provided for shoppers in Dartford Road and Mount Harry Road, and that problems with parking provision in Holly Bush Lane were due to be considered as part of the Hartsland area “scheme”.

In connection with the proposals for Greatness Road, requests to deal with parking at the junction of Northview with Seal Road may also be taken on board while undertaking formal consultation, subject to discussion and agreement with Kent Highways. It was agreed that this should be progressed, but that the minimum amount of yellow lines be proposed.

#### **4. BUSINESS SURVEY**

A brief summary of the responses was tabled, along with a draft copy of the survey results.

It was noted that all businesses in the Sevenoaks Town Council area had been invited to take part in the survey. The response rate is 21% which is roughly what would be expected. It was thought that those businesses that were unhappy with the parking situation or those that had parking problems, were more likely to take part as opposed to those who were more content, which may bias the survey results.

The initial results were in an “unfiltered” state and needed to be adjusted to take account of business locations in order to relate the survey to the parking review. In addition, many of the questions needed to be analysed in detail to take account of quantified responses and linked topics. Results to be brought to the next meeting.

It was agreed that the survey would be made live again for two weeks on the Council’s website and the Chamber of Commerce would contact businesses to give anyone who did not respond a further opportunity to do so.

#### **5. HOPGARDEN LANE**

A letter from Mr and Mrs Wheatley, concerning access problems to and from their property due to parking just up from the junction with Grassy Lane, was tabled and reference was also made to correspondence from other residents on the same issue. It was noted that the number of cars parking tended to vary from 5 to 10 or thereabouts. There were feelings that they reduced the road width when the road was not that wide, and that it was making access to and egress from driveways difficult.

In order to resolve the situation, it was agreed that the parking restrictions should be extended on both sides from the junction up to “Johnsons” and that these take the form of a one hour restriction between, say, 11am and 12 one side and 2 and 3pm on the other. It was considered that should the parking displace further along the road, there were suitable areas where parking could take place without necessarily obstructing driveways.

## **6. TURNERS GARDEN**

It was noted that all day commuter parking was occurring at the top end of the road just off the junction with Weald Road. This issue had been raised by three residents. Taking into account the road layout and volume of traffic, this was not considered to be a problem that needed addressing at present. However, it was agreed that this would be kept under review and should the situation worsen and begin to encroach upon the junction or cause obstruction further along the road, the matter should be discussed with Kent Highways to determine the appropriate action.

## **7. HARTSLAND AREA**

A proposal to survey all residents / properties in the area to establish views on the parking situation was supported as a good means of providing base data which could then be used to assess the problems / issues and help formulate a scheme possibly tailored to the needs of individual roads. However, it was noted, that taking into account the dense nature of housing and narrow roads in the area, parking demands are likely to outstrip availability if any form of parking control is considered.

It was considered that the survey should be in written form by post with the option of completing via the website. It is likely this will be ready to send out sometime in May.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- The start date for the reduced cost for business permits was queried and was confirmed as commencing on 6 April.
- The substance of the recent press article suggesting that Kent County Council would be taking over income from on-street parking was queried. It was confirmed that this was not correct and that the enforcement service was subject to an Agreement which provided for two years notice of termination.
- Officers were requested to contact the resident at 25 Vine Avenue to confirm what was to happen about the post outside her house, which she wanted moved.
- Comments received from a gentleman from Milton Keynes, who had visited Sevenoaks and parked in the Stag car park and considered that the evening parking charge was very reasonable, were passed on for information.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting towards the end of June. (NOTE: the date has since been set at **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 10am in the Members Room** as usual).

## **ACTION POINTS CARRIED TO NEXT MEETING**

- Parking review amendments to be progressed as agreed.
- Business survey results to be presented at the next meeting.
- Proposals for Hopgarden Lane to be progressed as agreed.
- Residents survey for the Hartsland area to be drawn up and sent out in May.
- Resident at 25 Vine Avenue to be contacted regarding post outside property.