

SEVENOAKS RESIDENTS' PARKING REVIEW

Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board - 14 June 2017

Report of Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on the further consideration of on-street parking restrictions in Zone A in Sevenoaks and the proposed report on parking provision in the town.

Portfolio Holder Councillor Matthew Dickins

Contact Officer(s) John Strachan, Ext. 7310

Recommendation to Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board:

The report be noted and officers be advised to postpone further consideration of parking provision in Zone A until a holistic review of parking in the town as a whole can be carried out.

Introduction & Background

- 1 Members will recall that at the meeting on 6 December 2016, officers presented a report on parking in Zone A, with particular consideration to Gordon Road and Argyle Road. The report and appendices demonstrated that there was no evidence to support a change to the restrictions in the Zone.
- 2 Some residents of Gordon Road and Argyle Road attended the meeting to speak to the item and submitted a proposal requesting one of three alternative parking arrangements which they felt would better suit their needs.

The Board resolved that:

- a) *“Officers be recommended to begin the process for consulting on further restrictive parking measures in Gordon and Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, as set out in Option A of the petition, except with visitor parking only to be limited to 2 hours; and*
- b) *Officers draft a report to consider parking provision in Sevenoaks town as a whole, in consultation with local Board Members who*

express interest, to be presented at the next ordinary meeting of the Board.”

Option A referred to a proposal that would restrict parking to permit holders only in parts of Gordon and Argyle Roads.

- 3 Since the December meeting, the new Bradbourne multi-storey car park has opened enabling a number of commuters, who parked in pre-approved parts areas on-street, to now park in the Bradbourne car park, which has provided further relief in Zone A.

Scope for Reviewing Parking Management

- 4 Town centre parking is a finite resource and changes to its management should be considered carefully so as not to unfairly disadvantage any particular user such as residents, shoppers, workers, tourists or other visitors. Furthermore, the Council has long taken the view that wherever possible there should be a range of parking in the town centre to support those with different levels of income. In reaching its resolution, Members recognised that any changes to arrangements in Zone A would disadvantage other legitimate users at a time when availability of parking is at a premium, hence ‘resolution b’ was proposed by the then Chairman and duly passed.
- 5 Despite the evidence previously presented to the Board, further consideration of parking on Gordon and Argyle Road is not ruled out. However, to do so in isolation would risk creating the aforementioned problems. Likewise, the need for a review of parking in Sevenoaks town centre is supported but such an exercise must again take a holistic, rather than piecemeal, approach to ensure the needs of the largest possible number of people are met and in the most efficient manner possible, to help support the town. Such a review will be a considerable undertaking, taking many months and involving a wide range of stakeholders. Whilst the parking on Gordon and Argyle Roads is not long-stay (except for permit-holders), Members will be aware of the particular pressures on long-stay spaces within the town. It is therefore considered that such a comprehensive review of parking provision could only take place once the Council has been able to meet the demonstrable need for long-stay spaces by increasing provision at Buckhurst 2.

Proposed Action

- 6 Members are therefore advised to postpone further consideration of parking provision in Zone A until a holistic review of parking in the town as a whole can be carried out.
- 7 Should the Board wish to proceed with the informal consultation originally recommended under resolution ‘a’, it would remain scheduled for the first quarter of 2018.
- 8 Irrespective of the Board’s recommendation, the Council will continue to carry out an enhanced enforcement regime in Zone A, focusing in particular

on Gordon and Argyle Roads, to help ensure the scheme operates efficiently, thereby enhancing the experience of resident permit holders and other legitimate users.

Key Implications

Financial, Legal, Risk, Human Rights & Equality Impacts

None.

Conclusions

The Council wishes to ensure the needs of residents are balanced with the needs of others who also need to park in Sevenoaks town centre. Work is planned to increase parking capacity in the town, after which a first principles review of all parking provision is planned. The approach recommended at the December meeting would hinder the Council's aims and the proper management of parking within the town. In the meantime, should there be a material change in the situation officers will bring this to the attention of the Board.

Appendices None

Background Papers [Sevenoaks Residents' Parking Zone A Report & Appendices, 6 December 2016](#)

[Minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, 6 December 2016](#)

[Petition and Supporting Documents Relating to Parking in Gordon and Argyle Roads, 6 December 2016](#)

Richard Wilson
Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services