
The Rise, Shenden Way and Weald Road, Sevenoaks – Parking Survey

To: **Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, 7th March 2018**

Main Portfolio Area: **KCC – Growth Environment and Transport**

By: **Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste**

Classification: **Information**

Ward: **Sevenoaks Kippington** Division: **Sevenoaks Town**

Summary: **The report summarises the results of a parking survey carried out in December 2017 and outlines recommendations of any potential parking restrictions.**

For Information

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Kent County Council has received complaints from residents of large numbers of commuters parking in their roads. The residents' complaints are that the commuter parking is causing issues of restricting access, visibility and obstruction, with drivers parking in unsafe and inconsiderate ways outside their properties. Residents are concerned that commuters are increasingly parking on both sides of the roads as a result of displacement caused by the implementation of parking restrictions in nearby roads.
- 1.2 These complaints have been received by Kent County Councillor Margaret Crabtree and officers from KCC Highways. The streets identified with this issue were Weald Road, The Rise and Shenden Way, Sevenoaks. Residents have requested parking restrictions in these roads to prevent all day parking by commuters.
- 1.3 These issues were raised by a representative of the residents at the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board meeting on 14th June 2017. It was resolved at this meeting that with funding from Councillor Margaret Crabtree, a parking study be carried out in these roads, in consultation with KCC and that the results of the study be presented at a future meeting of the Board.
- 1.4 KCC officers have attended these locations on several occasions and although there was a limited amount of on-street parking evident, no issues related to parking were observed during these visits.

2.0 Survey

- 2.1 Following discussions with Councillor Margaret Crabtree, it was agreed that; the parking survey would be undertaken in Weald Road, The Rise and Shenden Way, Sevenoaks. The roads were surveyed over five consecutive days at set times of 07:00, 10:00, 13:00, 16:00 and 19:00 hours. The survey was undertaken manually and parking data collected including, number of vehicles parked, vehicle locations, vehicle type, timescale vehicle parked, any dangerous or inconsiderate parking and to record any site details e.g. existing parking restrictions and dropped kerbs.

2.2 The parking survey was carried out over five days between Monday 20th November and Friday 24th November 2017. The results of the survey were sent to KCC on 20th December 2017.

3.0 Survey Results

3.1 The parking survey results are included at Annex 1

3.2 The survey has been divided into the following categories:

Results – Vehicle occupancy by street, duration of stay, arrivals vs departures during the survey period

Parking – Vehicle information

Capacity – Length of existing parking restrictions and calculated parking capacity

Link Classified – Details of vehicle turnover during the survey

Stress level – Stress level on parking capacity by occupancy

3.3 There were some unknown conditions encountered by the survey team during the time of the survey e.g. whether parked vehicles were those of; commuters, residents, visitors, delivery drivers, contractors undertaking work on premises, parents taking their children to or from school, drivers dropping off or picking up passengers. This includes those vehicles observed parking across dropped kerbs.

3.4 The survey was undertaken manually and recorded a snapshot of data at the time of their visits, which were at specific times and in the main recorded the amount/location of vehicles parked. The survey would not have calculated or recorded parked vehicles in-between these times.

3.5 During the survey there was no evidence of parallel parking in these roads i.e. vehicles parked opposite each other on both sides of the road.

3.6 The main arrival times were between 10:00 – 13:00 and main departure times were between 19:00 – 22:00.

3.7 The results show that the available parking capacity in each road was good, with average stress levels on available parking spaces between 1% and 51% per day.

3.8 The parking peaked at 85% occupancy on Tuesday 21st November in The Rise between 13:00 – 16:00.

3.9 All properties on The Rise have off-road parking for at least one or two vehicles, therefore there is no loss of parking amenity, regardless of the occupancy.

3.10 Incidents of unlawful parking on yellow lines and inappropriate parking blocking driveways etc. were limited during the survey.

3.11 There were very few cars parked in Shenden Way during the survey, this may be due to the road being narrow and drivers less likely to leave their vehicles here.

3.12 The recent scheme to introduce parking restrictions in the Kippington area may have contributed to the displacement of parked vehicles to surrounding roads, which explains the perceived increase in parking in Weald Road, The Rise and Shenden Way. This is particularly evident at the north east end of Weald Road as virtually the whole of Turners Gardens had parking restrictions introduced as a result of the Kippington scheme.

3.13 Parking in north east section of Weald Road may be due to some of the residents in nearby roads e.g. Lea Road not having any form of off-road parking facilities.

3.14 Parking in this section of Weald Road may be causing issues at peak times where the road narrows on the bend between Turners Gardens and Lea Road. Weald Road has a regular bus route and reports have been received by KCC of buses being obstructed by parked vehicles.

3.15 The proportion of vehicles parked in these three roads when compared to other roads in Sevenoaks is similar and during the survey period the amount of issues encountered causing obstruction, poor visibility or restricting access was negligible.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Based on the survey results, it is recommended that parking restrictions be introduced in Weald Road between Turners Gardens and Lea Road and to include corner protection in Lea Road. This is to improve the safety at this point, improve traffic flow and prevent obstruction.

4.2 It is not recommended to introduce parking restrictions in The Rise or Shenden Way. There must be a lawful reason for making a Traffic Regulation Order for parking restrictions and as there is no loss of amenity or issues related to safety here, KCC would not be in a position to lawfully introduce restrictions.

Future Meeting if applicable: N/A	Date: 18/01/2018
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Annex List

<i>Annex 1</i>	<i>Parking Survey Data/Results</i>
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