

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 15TH MARCH 2011

TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS – TRO 2009 AMENDMENT 19A – HITCHEN HATCH LANE, SEVENOAKS

Report of the: Community and Planning Services Director

Status: For decision

Executive Summary: This report requests that Members approve the introduction of a traffic regulation order amending the existing on-street parking bay on the north side of Hitchen Hatch Lane, Sevenoaks.

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

Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that

The comments and objection to the changes in the on-street parking Traffic Regulation Order 2009 Amendment 19a be noted and the proposals be implemented.

History

1. In 2008 the District Council implemented a parking scheme near to Sevenoaks Station to effectively manage on-street parking, both for residents and commuters.
2. The scheme included limited waiting and Area H permit parking bays on Hitchen Hatch Lane.
3. Some residents of Hitchen Hatch Lane have expressed concern about visibility of oncoming traffic when exiting their driveway (though no accidents have been recorded) as the parking bays ‘encouraged’ traffic to be closer to their side of the road.
4. The comments relate to a driveway adjacent number 65 Hitchen Hatch Lane that serves several properties on the southern side of the road. The parking bay is on the opposite side of the road to this, as shown in Appendix A.
5. The take-up of Area H2 permits has been steady, but there remains spare capacity within the parking bays in that area, so the parking bay that has raised concerns could be reduced without sacrificing facility to permit holders.

Proposal

6. The proposal is to reduce the existing limited waiting parking bay on the north side of Hitchen Hatch Lane by 32m, and to extend the corresponding double yellow lines by a similar amount.

Formal Consultation

7. Formal consultation was undertaken in November 2010 and consisted of letters to frontagers of the proposals, notices on-street, advertisements in the local press inviting comment and supporting documents placed ‘on deposit’ at the District Council Offices. Letters were also sent to the normal ‘statutory consultees’ including the emergency services. Additionally, the proposals were placed on the District Council’s web pages.
8. These formal consultations complied with (and exceeded) the statutory requirements set out in the Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England & Wales) Regulations 1996.

Consultation responses

9. The consultation produced responses, details of each reply are set out in Appendix C and are summarised below.

Response summary	
Number of properties directly written to	10
Number of responses received	3
Percentage response	30%

10. Of those who replied, the responses were as follows;

Hitchen Hatch Lane		
Responses	3	
In favour of proposal	2	66.66%
Against proposal	1	33.33%

Objection

11. The objection received related to the possible difficulty that occurs when a car parks directly opposite the access to one of the other properties fronting the parking bay in question, in an area where it is not proposed to be altered.
12. The objector admits that the problem is rare, and only occurs when a car is parked and two cars pass that point at the same time, but is concerned that the reduction in the capacity of the parking bay will mean the problem occurs more frequently.

Recommendations

13. Given that the objector's problem only occurs rarely and in view of the current take-up of permits for this area and the current remaining capacity, it is not likely that the perceived problem will escalate. Additionally, the reported problem is little different to any other situation where parking occurs opposite a driveway, whether there be restrictions in that area or not.
14. As the District Council monitors the take-up of permits, problems of parking areas being over-subscribed are avoided.
15. It is recommended that the objection be set aside and the parking bay be altered as proposed.

Key Implications - Financial

16. The estimated costs for the signing and lining works necessary for amending the parking bay on the north side of Hitchen Hatch Lane is approximately £500, to be met from the Sevenoaks District Council's on-street parking account.

Key Implications - Community impact and outcomes

17. The proposal should alleviate the concerns of residents about perceived emergency access problems and improve access and egress from the properties opposite.

Key Implications - Legal, Human Rights, etc.

18. The procedures appropriate to the promotion, advertisement and introduction of a traffic regulation order (as set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 have been followed and exceeded.

Key Implications - Risk Assessment Statement

19. The proposals should have no increased level of risk beyond those relating to the management of on-street parking.

Sources of Information:

Existing on and off-street parking traffic regulation

orders held by the Parking and Amenity team

Appendix A Plans of proposals

Appendix B Traffic Order Amendment 19a

Appendix C Formal consultation responses

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KRISTEN PATERSON

COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES DIRECTOR
