

ON-STREET PARKING RESTRICTION CHANGES – TR0 2013 AMENDMENT 15 –

VARIOUS ROADS –BESSELS GREEN, OTFORD & SEVENOAKS

Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board – 8 December 2015

Report of Chief Officer, Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: The consideration of responses to the statutory consultations on proposed new on-street parking restriction changes at Bessels Green, Otford and Sevenoaks

This report supports the Key Aim of

- Caring Communities (by providing parking facilities for disabled people)
- Sustainable Economy (by improving travel arrangements and reducing congestion)

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Dickins

Contact Officer Jeremy Clark ext. 7323

Recommendation to Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board:

That the Board considers the responses to proposed on-street parking restriction changes at locations in Bessels Green, Otford and Sevenoaks, and considers the Officer's comments and recommendations set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of this report

Reason for recommendation:

The recommended proposals are aimed at providing better management of the public highway, in line with current legislation and the Highway Code, as requested by Parish and Town Council, Members, resident groups and the public.

Introduction and Background

Introduction

- 1 The District Council, in liaison with the highway authority, Kent County Council, has recently conducted a statutory (formal) consultation in respect of parking restriction proposals contained in The Kent County Council (Various Roads in the District of Sevenoaks)(Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading &

Unloading and On-Street Parking Places)(Amendment 15) Order 201* (herein referred to as TRO 2013 Amendment 15).

- 2 The effect of the proposed TRO 2013 Amendment 15 is to amend existing and/or provide new parking restrictions in the following locations:
 - Bessels Green (Park Place)
 - Otford (Bubblestone Road, Sevenoaks Road, Station Road and Warham Road)
 - Sevenoaks (Avenue Road)
- 3 Descriptions of the proposals for Bessels Green and Otford contained in TRO 2013 Amendment 15, responses to the statutory consultation and Officers comments and recommendations are given in the Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.
- 4 The proposal for Sevenoaks (Avenue Road) did not receive any representations during the statutory consultation, but is described later in the report, for the Board's information.
- 5 Location plans are contained in Appendices 1A, 2A and 3.
- 6 The purpose of this report is for the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board to consider responses the proposals received during the statutory consultation and Officers comments and recommendations, and decide whether to:
 - (i) uphold the comments/objections, where received, and abandon the proposals contained in TRO 2013 Amendment 15;
 - (ii) note the comments/objections and amend the proposals to address the concerns, and implement the amended proposals; or
 - (iii) set aside the comments/objections and agree the implementation as proposed.

Background

- 7 The 3-week statutory consultation for the proposed TRO 2013 Amendment 15 commenced on 8 October and finished on 30 October 2015.
- 8 As part of the statutory consultation, public notices were displayed in each of the roads concerned and published in the local press inviting comments on the proposals.
- 9 In the case of the proposals for Bessels Green and Otford, a letter/questionnaire/plan was also sent to local addresses together with a pre-paid envelope, and information on the proposals, together with a link to a survey website, were provided on parking consultation pages the District Council's website.

Statutory Consultation - Bessels Green (Park Place)

- 10 As reported to the Board on 3 September 2015, the proposed parking scheme for Park Place, Bessels Green was developed following a meeting between residents of Park Place and local representatives.
- 11 Details of the proposed scheme are described in Appendix 1 and are shown on the plan in Appendix 1A.
- 12 During the 3-week statutory consultation, a total of 9 responses to the proposals for Park Place were received, 8 of which were submitted via the survey website and 1 by email.
- 13 A summary of the responses to the statutory consultation, and Officers comments and recommendations is also given in Appendix 1, for the Board to consider.

Informal/Statutory Consultations – Otford

- 14 Following the petition from the local community requesting amendments to the parking restrictions in Otford, which was reported to the Board on 10 March 2015, the District Council undertook an informal consultation during August 2015 in respect of proposed parking restrictions in various roads in the village.
- 15 The informal consultation included the original proposals requested in the petition, as well as some supplementary/alternative and complimentary options to the original proposals, intended to help improve traffic flow and the availability of parking for residents and visitors to local shops and businesses. The details of these are described in Appendix 2A.
- 16 A total of 296 completed questionnaires were received in response to the informal consultation, a summary of which is given in Appendix 2.
- 17 There was no clear majority in favour or against some of the original proposals and the supplementary/alternative options during the informal consultation, and in others there was a strong support or opposition.
- 18 Following the informal consultation, a 3-week statutory (formal) consultation for the Otford parking proposals was undertaken during October 2015.
- 19 As instructed by the Board, all of the original proposals requested in the petition were included in the statutory consultation. Where there was support during the informal consultation, supplementary/alternative options to the original proposals were included in the statutory consultation. Where there was strong opposition to supplementary/alternative options, these proposals were not taken forward to statutory consultation.
- 20 A total of 124 completed questionnaires were received in response to the statutory consultation, and 59 additional comments were made. A summary of the responses and the additional comments are listed in Appendix 2, together with Officer comments and recommendations, for the Board to consider.

21 Where Officers have recommended that the Otford parking proposals be modified, a plan showing the original and recommended changes has been given in Appendix 2A.

Statutory Consultation – Sevenoaks

22 As part of the development of the residential property at 12 Vine Court Road, Sevenoaks, Kent Highways granted permission for a vehicle access to the public highway in Avenue Road.

23 Accordingly the District Council has arranged a statutory consultation in respect of the following minor adjustments to the parking arrangements required to allow access to the new vehicle access:

- Avenue Road – replacing part of the existing dual use parking bay on the south side (in front of the new vehicle access) with double yellow lines.

24 A plan showing this parking proposal is given in Appendix 3.

25 No objections were received to the proposal during the 3-week statutory consultation, and hence it can be implemented without the requirement for a decision from the Board.

Options

26 The purpose of bringing the responses to the statutory consultation to the Board is for the Board to consider comments/objections, where received, and to:

- Uphold the comments/objections and abandon the proposals;
- Note the comments/objections and amend the proposals to address the concerns, and implement the amended proposals. (It should be noted that it is only possible to amend the proposals by reduction. Any extension to the proposed restrictions or change of type of restriction would form a new proposal and require a new statutory consultation);
- Set aside the comments/objections and agree the implementation as proposed.

27 No decision is required from the Board in respect of the proposal for Avenue Road, Sevenoaks, where no comments/objections were received, but this location has been included for information.

Key Implications

Financial

The costs incurred in implementing the proposals will vary depending on which ones the Board decides to implement, but if all the proposals are taken forward, the cost implication would be in the region of £12,000, and would be met by the District Council from its on-street parking account operated under the Agency Agreement with the County Council.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

A traffic regulation order (TRO) must be made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTA 1984) to cover the proposed on-street parking changes.

Section 1 of the RTA 1984 states that a TRO may only be made for the following purposes:

- avoiding danger to persons or traffic (including for anti-terrorist purposes);
- preventing damage to the road or to buildings nearby (including for anti-terrorist purposes);
- facilitating the passage of traffic;
- preventing use by unsuitable traffic;
- preserving the character of a road especially suitable for walking or horse riding;
- preserving or improving amenities of the area through which the road runs; and
- for any of the purposes specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of the Environment Act 1995 (air quality).

To meet one or more of the above, a TRO may prohibit, restrict or regulate the use of a road or any part of the width of a road by vehicular traffic of any class. It may have effect at all times or at specified periods or times. Specific classes of traffic may be excepted.

Before making a TRO, a formal (statutory) consultation procedure must be followed in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

Any formal objections received during this statutory consultation must be reported to the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board for a decision to be made on whether to make the TRO as proposed, to vary it (by reduction) or to abandon it.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended in this report have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equalities Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Bessels Green (Park Place) Parking Proposals - Consultation Responses and Officer Recommendation

Appendix 1A – Bessels Green (Park Place) – Location Plan of Parking Proposals

Appendix 2 - Otford Parking Proposals - Consultation Responses and Officer Recommendation

Appendix 2A – Otford Parking Proposals – Plan of Original and Recommended Proposals

Appendix 3 – Sevenoaks (Avenue Road) – Location Plan of Parking Proposal

Background Papers: The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002, as amended.
www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/3113

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended.
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/27

The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
www.legislation.gov.uk/cy/uksi/1996/2489/made

The Highway Code.
www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code

Richard Wilson
Chief Officer, Environmental and Operational Services