

REPORT TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR DIRECT AND TRADING SERVICES

CONSIDERATION OF FORMAL (STATUTORY) CONSULTATION RESULTS -

PROPOSED PARKING CONTROLS CONTAINED IN THE SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL (HOLLYBUSH RECREATION GROUND AND COUNCIL OFFICES, SEVENOAKS) (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2016

Report of the: Chief Officer, Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For Decision

Executive Summary: The consideration of the results of the formal (statutory) consultation on proposed parking controls contained within The Sevenoaks District Council (Hollybush Recreation Ground and Council Offices, Sevenoaks) (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2016

This report supports the Key Aim of

- Caring Communities
- Sustainable Economy

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Dickins

Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that:

- (a) The objections received to The Sevenoaks District Council (Hollybush Recreation Ground and Council Offices, Sevenoaks) (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2016 (“the Order”) be set aside and the Order made, as published; and
 - (b) The proposed parking controls contained within the Order be implemented.
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Reason for recommendation:

The recommended proposals are aimed at providing better management of the Council’s car parks, in line with current legislation.

Background

- 1 A formal (statutory) consultation was undertaken during July 2016 in respect of proposed parking controls in the Hollybush Recreation Ground car parks and access roads and in the Sevenoaks District Council offices car parks in Sevenoaks, contained within The Sevenoaks District Council (Hollybush Recreation Ground and Council Offices, Sevenoaks) (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2016.

- 2 The purpose of this report is for the Portfolio Holder to consider the responses in favour of and objecting to the proposed parking controls for the Hollybush Recreation Ground Car Parks and Access Roads that were received during the formal (statutory) consultation, together with Officers comments and recommendations given in Appendix 1 of this report, and decide whether to:
 - (a) Uphold the objections and abandon some or all of the proposals published
 - (b) Uphold the objections in part, and modify (by reduction) some or all of the proposals published and implement the modified proposals
 - (c) Set aside the objections, and implement some or all of the proposals published
- 3 Since no objections were received to the proposed parking controls for the Council Offices Car Parks during the formal (statutory) consultation, these proposals can be implemented without the need for a Portfolio Holder decision.

Introduction

- 4 For the formal (statutory) consultation, public notices were published in the local press and were displayed in or near the car parks concerned inviting comments on the proposals.
- 5 Information on the proposals, together with a link to an online survey, was also provided on parking consultation page the District Council's website.

Hollybush Recreation Ground Car Parks and Access Roads (off Hollybush Close), Sevenoaks

- 6 The proposed parking controls for Hollybush Recreation Ground Car Parks and Access Roads consisted of the following:
 - Introducing a restriction to prevent obstruction by vehicles parked "out of bay".
 - Introducing a 4 hour maximum stay period in the day to prevent all-day and long stay parking and to help protect parking for visitors to the recreation ground and its amenities.
 - Introducing permits to allow organisations associated with the recreation ground to park in certain areas and for longer than the maximum stay period.
- 7 There were 91 responses to the formal (statutory) consultation. These consisted of 80 completed online questionnaires, 8 responses erroneously submitted via another online consultation, 2 individual responses and a petition (containing 12 signatories).

- 8 Of the 91 responses, 30 (33%) were in favour and 61 (67%) were opposed to the proposed parking controls.
- 9 Appendix 1 of this report contains a summary of the responses received, together with Officers' comments and recommendations.

Council Offices (Staff) Car Park (off Gordon Road), Sevenoaks

- 10 The proposed parking controls for the Council Offices (Staff) Car Park (off Gordon Road) consisted of the following:
 - Specifying Saturdays and Sundays between 7am and 7pm as the days/hours when the parking place is available;
 - Restricting the use of the parking place to passenger vehicles, goods vehicles and motorcycles;
 - Restricting the locations in which vehicles can be parked in the parking place to parking bays; and
 - Specifying no daily charge for parking a vehicle in the parking place.
- 11 No objections were received to the formal (statutory) consultation, and hence these parking proposals can be implemented without the need for a Portfolio Holder decision.

Council Offices (Visitors') Car Park (off Argyle Road), Sevenoaks

- 12 The proposed parking controls for the Council Offices (Visitors') Car Park (off Argyle Road) consisted of the following:
 - Restricting the use of the parking place to passenger vehicles, goods vehicles and motorcycles
 - Restricting the locations in which vehicles can be parked in the parking place to parking bays;
 - Restricting the use of the parking place to vehicles displaying a valid pass or disabled person's badge; and
 - Specifying no daily charge for parking a vehicle in the parking place.
- 13 No objections were received to the formal (statutory) consultation, and hence these parking proposals can be implemented without the need for a Portfolio Holder decision.

Options

- 14 The options for the parking proposals for Hollybush Recreation Ground Car Parks and Access Roads (off Hollybush Close), Sevenoaks are to:

- (a) Uphold the objections, and abandon some or all of the proposals published
- (b) Uphold the objections in part, and modify (by reduction) some or all of the proposals published and implement the modified proposals
- (c) Set aside the objections, and implement some or all of the proposals published

Key Implications

Financial

The costs incurred in implementing the proposals contained within The Sevenoaks District Council (Hollybush Recreation Ground and Council Offices, Sevenoaks) (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2016 will vary depending on the decision taken, but if all the proposals are taken forward as published, the total cost would be in the region of £6,000. This cost would be met by the District Council from its parking account operated under the agency agreement with the County Council.

Legal Implications

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

The TRO may prohibit, restrict or regulate the use of the off-street parking places. It may have effect at all times or at specified periods or times. Specific classes of traffic may be exempted.

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 the statutory consultation for off-street parking proposals are reported to and considered by the Portfolio Holder for Direct and Trading Services, who has delegated authority to make a decision on whether to make the TRO as proposed, to vary it (by reduction) or to abandon it.

Equality

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.

Risk Assessment Statement

There are no additional risks identified that are outside those already covered within the standard Risk Assessment for carrying out parking enforcement on the Public Highway.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Summary of responses to the formal (statutory) consultation for the parking proposals for Hollybush Recreation Ground car parks and

access roads, Sevenoaks, and Officers' comments and recommendations

Sources of Information:

The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016, as amended.

www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/362

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

Contact Officer(s):

Jeremy Clark ext. 7323

Richard Wilson,
Chief Officer, Environmental and Operational Services

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