

SEVENOAKS SATURDAY MARKET

Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board - 5 December 2017

Report of Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services

Status For Information

Key Decision No

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Matthew Dickins

Contact Officer John Strachan, Ext. 7310

Recommendation to Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board: That the report be noted.

Reason for recommendation: To debate and understand the need for the double yellow line restrictions at this location.

Introduction

- 1 The Chairman has placed this item on the agenda at the request of County Councillor Crabtree -

“You will see from the below messages and attachment from the Town Clerk, Linda Larter, that the parking restrictions in the parking bay in the High Street where the Saturday market sellers trade is causing great difficulties for them.

Sevenoaks is a market town and a market has been situated at this part of the town for a couple of hundred years which still brings in many people to Sevenoaks on a Saturday, increasing the foot fall for the other shops in the town. If the market traders decide to leave, this would be to the detriment of Sevenoaks residents and shop keepers.

I am most concerned about the situation and am officially requesting that this problem is placed on the December JTB Agenda as a matter of urgency so that the situation can be discussed fully and a decision made as to how we can move forward to save the market.”

Background

- 2 Double yellow lines are generally used to prevent vehicles parking on the highway in locations where a vehicle would either cause danger and or obstruction to other road users and or pedestrians.

- 3 Vehicles can stop on yellow lines to load and unload bulky goods.
- 4 This section of carriageway in the High Street, Sevenoaks is generally narrow, barely accommodating the flow of two-way traffic. It is, in the main controlled either by double yellow lines (against the West footway) to prevent parking, or pay and display bays (against the East footway).
- 5 Part of the carriageway adjacent to the Chequers pub is recessed in to a wider section of footway to a depth of around 1.8 metres, allowing the siting of a 3-4 vehicle parallel parking bay. On weekdays this is a pay and display bay, on Saturdays the bay accommodates the Sevenoaks Saturday Market.
- 6 As the kerb-line tapers in to the footway it is controlled by double yellow lines, that have existed since at least 2010.
- 7 Without a yellow line restriction vehicles could park in the recessed area, but their front or rear would project more or less fully in to the main carriageway. This would obstruct the free flow of traffic at the part of the High street.
- 8 Back in May of this year Sevenoaks District Council received a complaint that vehicles belonging to the market traders were parked illegally on the yellow lines and they were affecting traffic flow.
- 9 On investigation it was found that instead of stopping on the yellow lines to load and unload, and then relocating their vehicles to an alternative location, some market traders were parking on the yellow lines all day.
- 10 Civil Enforcement Officers gave advice to the traders and they are now refraining from parking on the yellow lines.
- 11 District Officers have explored alternative options including relocating the market, and removing the yellow lines.
- 12 Regrettably no suitable alternative location has been found.
- 13 The considered view of Officers is that the current yellow lines are needed to maintain traffic flow and safety.

Key Implications

Financial

None

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

Under the Agency Agreement with Kent County Council, the District Council has a duty to enforce all parking restrictions in the District.

Equality Assessment

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

Environmental Impact

Allowing market traders to park at these points of the High Street on a Saturday will increase congestion in Sevenoaks town and the associated emissions from vehicles held in traffic.

Conclusions

District Officers have explored alternative options including relocating the market, and removing the yellow lines. Regrettably no suitable alternative location has been found. The view of Officers is that the current yellow lines are needed to maintain traffic flow and safety.

Richard Wilson Chief Officer

Environmental and Operational Services