

## Station Road and High Street Otford – Request for New Waiting Restrictions

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To: **Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, 11 March 2020**

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

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

Classification: **For information**

Ward: **Otford and Shoreham**

Division: **Sevenoaks North**

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**Summary:** **The report summarises the outcome of an investigation by Officers into the feasibility of introducing new waiting restrictions within Station Road and High Street Otford. Officers have concluded that the measures do not meet the criteria for relieving congestion nor are considered safety critical. And therefore it is not recommended that these restrictions be introduced as a safety scheme at this time.**

### For Information

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#### **1.0.1 Introduction and Background**

1.1 Officers have received petitions from Otford Parish Council requesting waiting restrictions within Station Road and High Street Otford. These petitions were presented to the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board meeting on 3rd December 2019.

#### **2.0 Investigations**

2.1 These proposals were considered in terms of both relieving congestion and whether they met the criteria of being safety critical.

2.2 In considering the impacts on congestion, Officers considered the nature of the location and the strategic importance of the routes affected.

2.3 For this location, it is noted that Station Road is on the A225 and as such has high volumes of traffic throughout the day, especially during the morning and evening peak times. This is due to Station Road being a principle route into Sevenoaks (recognised by DfT as a primary location). The photographs received from the petition, showing the locations of the parked vehicles indicate that Station Road whilst busy, appears to be wide enough to accommodate both the passage of traffic and accommodate parked vehicles.

2.4 There are schools both on the High Street and Station Road. Both schools would generate traffic at the times of school start and school finish. As such, the school would contribute to the increased volume of traffic and parked cars at two specific times of the day.

2.5 In deciding whether the proposals are safety critical, Officers considered the personal injury crash record from Kent Police, as well as anecdotal evidence. Officers have considered whether there is a pattern of personal injuries that could have been avoided if the parking restrictions were in place.

2.6 In these locations where the proposals are specified, there is no such pattern. Furthermore, there have been no personal injury collisions within the past three years which are related to parked vehicles.

### 3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The parking restrictions that have been proposed do not receive support from Officers in their current design. This is concluded due to the following safety concerns:

#### 3.2 The removal of the effect of traffic calming

Parked vehicles act as traffic calming as they slow the approach speed of vehicles. In the locations specified, the length of the waiting restriction proposed may be likely to increase the existing speed of traffic on both Station Road and High Street Otford. Previous concerns have been raised regarding the perceived speed of traffic at this location.

#### 3.3 Timing of issues

The current issues that are being experienced most often occur when children are being delivered to or collected from the schools. It is recognised that during these times, many of the children would be under the care of a responsible adult or would be travelling in vehicles. As such, this would not satisfy the criteria of being safety critical.

3.4 The evidence provided from the Primary School shows that children are arriving late for school and it is suggested that this may be due to the heavy traffic at the location. However, parents are aware of the time that is required for travel to the school and this should be accounted for during journey planning. To help the schools with active travel planning, Officers can provide further assistance and advice. Contact will be made with the schools to review their School Travel Plans.

#### 3.5 Displacement

It is unknown whether the parked vehicles referred to in the petition involve local residents, visitors to the local area, commuters, drivers dropping off or collecting school children, a combination of these or others. Factors. Using historical evidence, if waiting restrictions were to be introduced at this site, vehicles may be displaced into other areas. This may lead to vehicles being parked within streets that are unsuitable for this volume of parking, leading to safety concerns in other locations.

### 4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Officers are not able to support the proposals provided for a new safety related waiting restriction scheme within High Street and Station Road Otford at the current time. It is recommended that this site be revisited should the situation or proposals change in relation to the safety concerns illustrated.

4.2 It is also recommended that Sevenoaks District Council be approached to pursue the possible investigation of Station Road and High Street Otford through an amenity parking scheme.

Future Meeting if applicable: N/A	Date: 06/02/2020
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