

APPLICATIONS FOR DISABLED PERSONS (BLUE BADGE) PARKING BAYS

Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board – 19 June 2024

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance & Trading

Status: For Information

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: Report on the latest applications for disabled persons (blue badge) parking bays within the District, which have been assessed in accordance with the assessment criteria set by Kent County Council.

This report supports the Key Aims:

Caring Communities (by providing parking facilities for disabled people)

Sustainable Economy (by improving travel arrangements and reducing congestion)

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Irene Roy

Contact Officer(s): Richard Taylor, Ext. 7412

Trevor Kennett, Ext, 7407

Recommendation to Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board:

That the Board:

- (i) Notes the applications received for disabled persons parking bays listed that did not satisfy Kent County Council's assessment criteria, and declined.
- (ii) Approve the applications received for disabled parking bays listed in the report that satisfied Kent County Council's criteria and following public consultation for progression.

Reason for recommendation:

The disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay scheme is aimed at providing better management of the public highway, in line with current legislation and the Highway Code.

Introduction and Background

1. Kent County Council (KCC) has the power to provide on-street parking places on roads within its area for which it is the traffic authority for the purpose of relieving or preventing congestion on the public highway.
2. This power frequently exercised to establish disabled persons' (blue badge) parking bays (DPPBs) on the public highway close to the homes of disabled persons who would otherwise have difficulty parking near to their homes.
3. An application process exists, through which a person can request that a DPPB established close to their home.
4. The District Council administers local requests for DPPBs on behalf of KCC, evaluates them using assessment personal and locational criteria set by KCC, and manages and funds their provision.
5. KCC has produced an application form and guidance notes for requests for DPPBs, which is available for applicants to download from the District Council's website.
6. Since the previous report to the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, applications were received for DPPBs to be provided in the following locations, and these have been evaluated in accordance with KCC's assessment criteria and have been declined:
 - Clare Way, Sevenoaks - Has the provision of off-street parking at the property.
 - Swanley Lane, Swanley - Applicant did not receive the appropriate benefits to meet the criteria.
 - Vicarage Hill, Westerham - Applicant did not receive the appropriate benefits to meet the criteria.
 - St Peters Row, Fordcombe - Applicant did not receive the appropriate benefits to meet the criteria.
 - Caxton Close, Hartley - Applicant did not receive the appropriate benefits to meet the criteria.
 - Norman Court, Edenbridge - Road already at capacity for disabled persons parking bays.
 - Conifer Way, Swanley - Carriageway in this particular road did not meet the required 6.3 metres.
 - Glebe Road, Sevenoaks - Carriageway in this particular road did not meet the required 6.3 metres.
 - Deanery Road, Edenbridge - Carriageway in this particular road did not meet the required 6.3 metres.
 - Pear Tree Close, Swanley - Carriageway in this particular road did not meet the required 6.3 metres.
 - Richards Close, Chiddingstone Causeway - Road already at capacity for disabled persons parking bays.

7. Since the previous report to the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, applications were received for DPPBs to be provided in the following locations, and these have been evaluated in accordance with KCC's assessment criteria and have been approved for progression:

- Plough Walk, Edenbridge – We received an eligible application and all 4 neighbours were consulted regarding the proposal of the bay and no objections were received.
- Alder Way, Swanley – We received an eligible application, all 23 neighbours consulted regarding the proposal of the bay, and no objections received.
- Caxton Close, Hartley – We received an eligible application and plan to reassign existing bay outside number 29 Caxton Close.
- Stackfield, Edenbridge – We received an eligible application and plan to reassign existing bay in communal car park at rear of number 12.

Other options Considered and/or rejected

No other options considered.

Key Implications

Financial

There are no financial implications to this report.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

There are no legal implications or risks associated with this report.

Equality Assessment

In the case of applications for DPPBs which satisfy KCC's assessment criteria, the provision of disabled persons parking bays helps meet the requirement in the Equality Act 2010 to provide 'reasonable adjustments' to those who fit the lawful definition of disability.

Climate Change Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to tackle the challenge of climate change. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Background Papers

The Equality Act 2010

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/362/contents/made>

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/27>

The Traffic Management Act 2004, as amended

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/18>

The Highway Code

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code-road-safety>

Adrian Rowbotham

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance & Trading