

<b>SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Report Title</b>	Formal Objection – Traffic Regulation Order Swale Amendment 52 2023
<b>EMT Lead</b>	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
<b>Head of Service</b>	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Mike Knowles, Seafront & Engineering Manager (SBC)
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	Members are asked to note the formal objection received to the Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that the disabled persons’ parking bay in South Avenue, Sittingbourne, is formalised as advertised.

## **1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides details of a formal objection received following the advertising of our latest Traffic Regulation Order, Swale Amendment 52 2023.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Following a request from Kent County Council, a Traffic Regulation Order has been drafted to formalise existing disabled persons’ parking bays which have been previously installed as advisory around the Borough. This is first of several planned Orders to complete this work. The Order also covered the proposed removal of redundant bays.
- 2.2 The Order was formally consulted between 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024. During the consultation a total of 4 formal objections were received and details of these and our responses can be found in Annex A.

## **3 Proposals**

- 3.1 Following receipt of the 4 formal objections, discussions took place with the objectors which resulted in just one formal objection remaining, against the proposed formalising of the existing disabled persons’ parking bay outside 14 South Avenue in Sittingbourne.

- 3.2 The objection was against a new disabled persons' parking bay being installed outside 14 South Avenue, stating that there was already a bay outside of 12 South Avenue, and highlighting the fact that on-street parking capacity was already limited.
- 3.3 A response was sent to the objector advising that there was no intention to install an additional bay, and that the Traffic Regulation Order was formalising the existing bay outside 12/14 South Avenue. It was also confirmed that the existing bay outside 6 South Avenue would remain advisory at this time.
- 3.4 The objector then suggested that the blue badge holders for the bays outside 6 and 14 South Avenue could share one bay, and a response was sent confirming that this would not be practical for the blue badge holders. Despite asking if the objector wished to uphold the objection no further response was received, and this objection is therefore being reported to the Swale Joint Transportation Board to consider.

## 4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The alternative option of leaving the existing disabled persons' parking bay as advisory is not considered practical, as the bay would not be enforceable against motorists without a blue badge parking in the bay, preventing its use by the disabled resident.

## 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 As detailed above, a formal consultation on the proposals was undertaken as part of the Traffic Regulation Order Swale Amendment 52, and this ran from 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024, slightly longer than the usual formal consultation process to take the Christmas break into consideration. Post-consultation discussions also took place with the formal objectors as detailed in Annex A.

## 6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Cost and resource for installing Signs on site for formalised bays and removal of redundant bays. Cost of £50 for Kent County Council to arrange Sealing of Traffic Regulation Order.

Legal, Statutory and Procurement	Sealing of Traffic Regulation Order by Kent County Council.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	The formalisation of current advisory bays will enable enforcement to take place which will improve accessibility for blue badge holders needing to park closer to their properties. The removal of redundant bays will improve the wellbeing of residents by increasing the capacity of on-street parking available.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

## 7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Annex A – Formal Objections received and Responses to Objectors

## 8 Background Papers

None