

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: SITTINGBOURNE RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME REVIEW
(AREA 2)

BY: Head of Amenities

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report informs Members of the formal consultation undertaken with residents in Area 2 of the Residents Parking Scheme. The consultation leaflet asked whether the scheme had improved resident parking, if alterations/maintenance were needed and a section was left blank so residents could submit any other comments they had.

Decision Required: • **That Members note the results of the Review**

Introduction

Area 2 of the residents parking scheme was completed August 2008, a review of the scheme has taken place in the form of a consultation. Residents were asked whether the scheme has improved parking and if there are any issues with the lining and signing in regards to maintenance and minor alterations. The leaflet also had a section left blank for resident's comments.

The roads included within this consultation were:

Rock Road
Burley Road
Epps Road
Ufton Lane (From Addington Road up to Connaught Road)
Park Road (From Addington Road up to Connaught Road)
Albany Road (From Addington Road up to Connaught Road)
Belmont Road
Connaught Road
Unity Street

A plan of the area consulted is included in Annex A.

The results of the consultation have been broken down into each individual street. The response rate is the proportion of households that responded to the consultation. The support or objection percentages are the views expressed in the responses received.

The results of the consultation are as shown in the tables below:

Road Name	Response rate %	Parking has improved %	Parking has not improved %
Rock Road	22	57	43
Burley Road	19	56	44
Epps Road	13	50	50
Ufton Lane	27	60	40
Park Road	20	83	17
Albany Road	36	100	0
Belmont Road	33	80	20
Connaught Road	23	67	33
Unity Street	14	50	50
Summary	21	65	35

Although there was quite a low response rate from the residents consulted, the overall results showed that a majority felt the scheme had improved parking.

Discussion

Below are some of the key comments submitted by residents. Each comment has a response. These comments have been submitted by residents that said the scheme had not improved parking.

Comment: There is never anywhere to park; we need proper parking bays along the road that everyone can park in.

Response: The results of the consultation show a majority of the residents feel the scheme has improved parking in their road. The parking bays are not segregated by a line, therefore, oversized vehicles are not restricted to one bay. The scheme ensures that residents have priority over the available space although nothing can be done if car ownership exceeds the road space available.

Comment: Due to yellow lines we have lost a space and made parking harder in the evenings. No one parks on the road during the enforced times, only the residents.

Response: Yellow lines were only installed where necessary. Yellow lines were installed at the junctions of roads, to improve visibility and across dropped kerbs to stop vehicles parking causing an obstruction. If only residents park in the roads during enforced times, this shows that the scheme is working by reducing non resident all day parking.

Comment: Don't think we should pay for a permit. But as I do I should be able to park in my road and not on double yellow lines. Everyone should have a permit to cover 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Response: The scheme is self funded by the income raised. Results of the consultation have shown that parking has improved during the day. The scheme was implemented to reduce non resident all day parking during the day, if the scheme was extended into the evening, this would have no benefit as it's the number of residents cars that are creating the parking problem.

Comment: Neighbours park in our disabled parking bay all night. Weekends are very bad and many residents do not have permits.

Response: If the vehicle parking in the disabled bay has a blue badge displayed then they are entitled to park there. If not, the resident needs to contact SBC. The scheme includes Saturday's due to town centre workers/visitors parking within the scheme area. We cannot force residents to buy a permit; some may not need a permit as they may only park outside the scheme enforcement times.

Comment: Scheme has not improved parking because we have 3 cars at our house and only 2 of the 3 can buy a permit. It should be open to all residents. If the scheme is installed further up Ufton Lane and Park Road where will our 3rd car park.

Response: The scheme provides a maximum of 2 permits per household, households with more than 2 vehicles parking long term have to park their vehicle outside the scheme area during enforced times. Each permit can have 2 vehicle registration numbers, but only one vehicle can use that permit at any one time. Households with more than 2 vehicles could rotate the use of the permit between themselves.

Comment: What is the point in the scheme if it's not properly policed. One house has up to 5 cars present am and pm everyday and gets one ticket in 10 months. There is no point if the scheme is not enforced in the first and last 2 hours. Easy Council revenue, £40 for nothing.

Response: The scheme cannot be enforced 24/7 due to manpower restrictions. Regular patrols are undertaken and enforcement action taken against those who contravene the restrictions. In areas where parking is restricted to two hours it is permissible to park for two hours at the beginning and end of the restricted period.

Recommendation

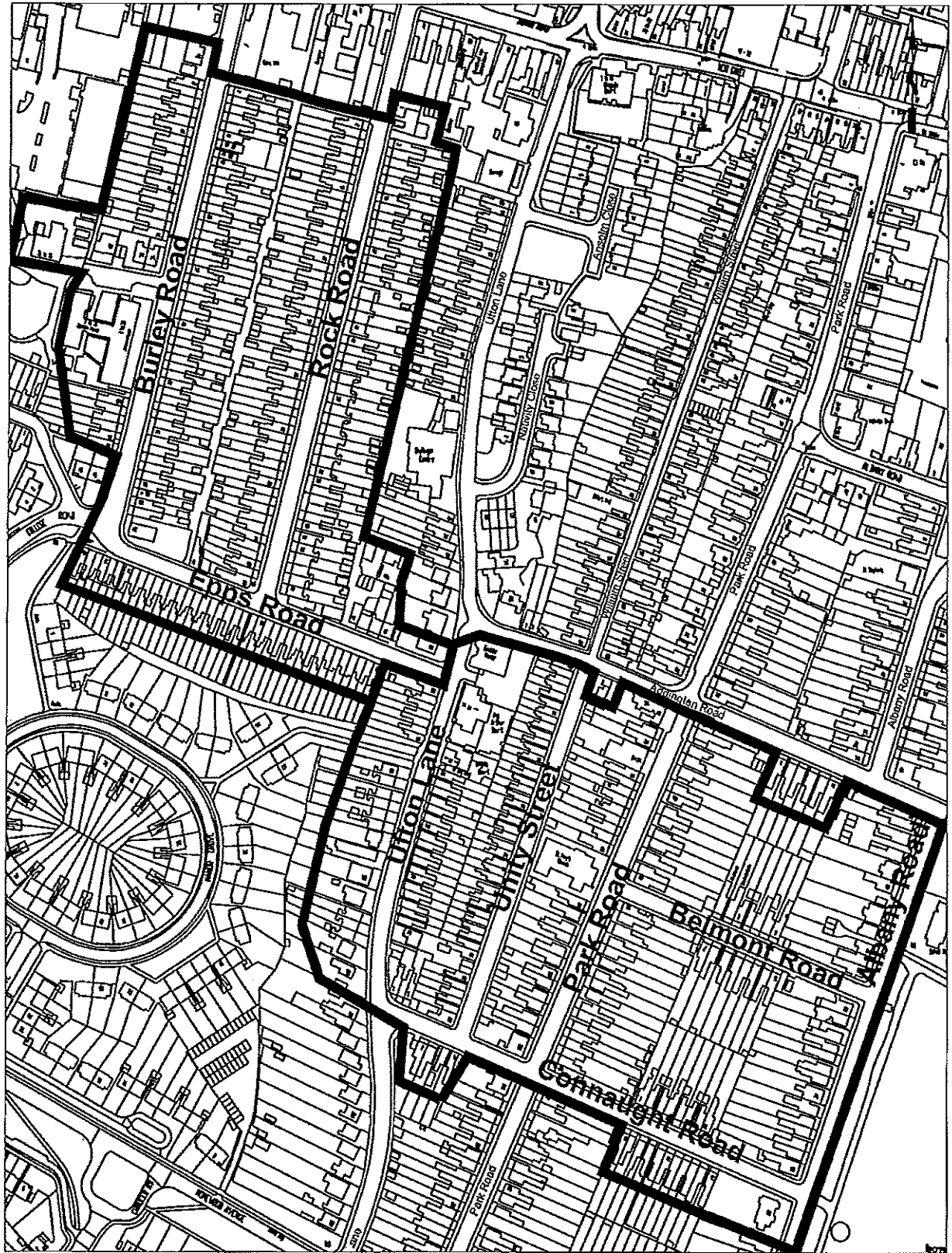
That Members note the results of the review.

Author - Brett O'Connell – Tel: 01795 417061

Date 19th August 2009

List of background documents – Annex A

ANNEX A



TITLE

Sittingbourne Residents Parking
Scheme Review - Consultation Area

DRAWN BOC

FILE REF.

DATE Aug 09

SCALE N.T.S

DRAWING NUMBER