

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: Monday 14th June 2010

SUBJECT: FAVERSHAM PARKING REVIEW UPDATE

BY: Head of Amenities & Environmental Services

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: A report for members to consider results of recent consultation carried out in various areas of Faversham, following the recent Faversham Parking Review.

Implications:

Human Resources Implications - None

Finance Implications – None

Legal Implications – Traffic Regulation Orders to be made

Crime & Disorder Implications (Section 17) - None

Equalities & Diversity Implications – None

Sustainability Implications – None

Risk and Health and Safety Implications – None

Corporate Plan Implications – Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.

Decision Required: That Members note the report and recommend that officers implement the following changes to existing waiting restrictions:

- **Abbey Street Area – Changes to Existing Residents' Parking Scheme Times & Inclusion of Court Street**

- **Between Canute Road and The Mall – Extension of Residents' Parking Scheme Area**

That Members note the report and recommend that officers carry out further detailed analysis of the responses received and potential costs and savings of the options available, prior to any amendments to the existing Voucher Scheme at Briton Road to Stone Street Area.

The consultees be notified accordingly

Introduction/Background

1. Based on the feedback received from some areas of Faversham following the recent Parking Review, consultation has taken place for changes to the existing parking restrictions within certain areas of the town.

2. Details of the consultation material sent out can be found in Annex A. A summary of the consultation responses can be found in Annex B, and details of the comments and feedback received are included in Annex C.

Issue for Decision

3. The proposals consisted of extending the existing operating times within the Abbey Street Area Residents Parking Scheme to alleviate reported parking problems associated with pubs and restaurants in the area, the proposed withdrawal of the existing Voucher Parking Scheme within the Briton Road to Stone Street Residents Parking Area and the possible extension of the existing Residents Parking Scheme to include Belmont Road, Edith Road, Kingsnorth Road and Canute Road.
- 4.
5. **Abbey Street Area – Proposed Changes to Residents Parking Scheme Times**

Feedback from residents in this area during the Faversham Parking Review included requests to extend the operating times of the current scheme from 8:30am – 6:30pm to 8:30am – 10:30pm (Monday to Saturday) to alleviate problems with parked vehicles visiting pubs and restaurants within the scheme. The proposals also included changing the waiting limit for non-permit holders from “one hour, no return within two hours” to “30 minutes, no return within two hours”. These operating times and restrictions will match those in the Napleton Road area of the Scheme.

Consultation therefore took place with residents in the area, including Abbey Street, Abbey Place, Abbey Road, Church Street and Vicarage Street. Residents of Court Street were also included in the consultation, as the proposals included the possible extension of the scheme area to include Court Street.

A summary of the responses received can be found in the table below:-

Road Name	Response Rate %	% Support	% Objections
Abbey Place	35	17	83
Abbey Road	14	50	50
Abbey Street	54	81	19
Church St & Vicarage St	27	75	25
Court Street	44	75	25
Summary	41	74	26

Majority support to proceed with the proposed amendments to the Scheme operating times was received from all areas, with the exception of Abbey Place and Abbey Road where support/objections were 1/5 and 2/2 respectively.

The main objections received related to the proposed change of waiting time for non-permit holders from 1 hour to 30 minutes. Many residents felt that 30 minutes was insufficient time for visitors, particularly those visiting the elderly and disabled. Many residents supporting the proposed operating times also requested that the waiting limit for non-permit holders remains at 1 hour.

Other objections received stated that the pubs and restaurants in the area were beneficial to the town and needed the business. The main objection from the Abbey Road residents was that the proposed amendments will displace parked vehicles into their road, and unregulated and private areas in and around Abbey Road.

6. **Between Canute Road and The Mall – Proposed Extension of Residents' Parking Scheme**

Feedback received from this area during the Faversham Parking Review included many comments that the existing Residents' Parking Scheme in nearby areas should be extended to include these roads. Based on this feedback, a consultation has now taken place with residents to include Belmont Road, Canute Road, Edith Road and Kingsnorth Road within the existing Residents' Parking Scheme.

A summary of the responses received can be found in the table below:-

Road Name	Response Rate %	% Support	% Objections
Belmont Road	38	83	17
Canute Road	34	47	53
Edith Road	76	64	36
Kingsnorth Road	74	46	54
Summary	57	55	45

Feedback received from residents in this area varied greatly from road to road. A large majority of responders from the Belmont Road and Edith Road areas supported the proposals to extend the existing Scheme into their roads, but decisions were split in the Canute Road and Kingsnorth Road areas, with slightly more residents supporting than objecting to the proposals.

Many objectors stated that the problems with parking occur in the evening and at weekends, and that the introduction of a Residents' Parking Scheme in their area would not assist them. Concern was also expressed that the extension to the current scheme will displace parked vehicles into adjoining roads, creating more parking problems, and that the main problem with parking is simply too many residents' vehicles for the spaces available. A few responders from Canute Road stated that it is imperative that if the Scheme is extended into adjoining roads it must also include Canute Road, otherwise there will be problems with an excessive number of vehicles parked in this road.

With majority support to include Belmont Road and Edith Road within the Residents' Parking Scheme it is felt that we should proceed with these proposals. By extending the Scheme into these two roads, there is the possibility of displacing vehicles into Canute Road and Kingsnorth Road and for this reason it is considered that the Scheme should also include these roads.

7. Briton Road to Stone Street – Proposed Withdrawal of Voucher Scheme

Following the recent consultation with residents in the above area on proposals to withdraw the existing Voucher Scheme within the Residents' Parking Scheme, we received a mixed response from householders.

A summary of the responses received can be found in the table below:-

Road Name	Response Rate %	% Support	% Objections
Briton Road	34	64	36
Dorset Place	35	43	57
Norman Road	19	57	43
Roman Road	37	40	60
Saxon Road	44	29	71
Stone Street	51	34	66
Union Street	15	25	75
Victoria Street	15	50	50
Summary	36	40	60

Many objectors stated that the removal of the Voucher Scheme would have a severe impact on the parking capacity for those residents who have purchased parking permits. Comments were also received that the revenue lost in nearby car parks by allowing free on-street parking for up to 2 hours will outweigh any savings generated through the Voucher Scheme removal. There were also suggestions to install parking meters in the roads to allow non-permit holders to pay to park within the Scheme area.

The installation of parking meters will obviously require an initial outlay cost, and the anticipated period of time to recoup these costs will need to be considered.

This is obviously an emotive issue, and one that will require a thorough analysis of all responses and suggestions received. Investigations into potential costs and savings will also need to be carried out prior to determining the options available.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the comments/objections made by the consultees and recommend the following actions:-

- **Abbey Street Area – Proposed Changes to Parking Restriction Times**

That Officers proceed with the proposed amendments to the operating times of the current Residents' Parking Scheme in the Abbey Street and surrounding areas from "8:30am – 6:30pm" to "8:30am – 10:30pm" Monday to Saturday, but that the waiting limit for non-permit holders remains as "1 hour, no return within 2 hours". Also, that the Scheme Area be extended to include properties in Court Street.

- **Between Canute Road and The Mall – Proposed Extension of Residents' Parking Scheme**

That Officers proceed with the proposed extension to the existing Residents' Parking Scheme area to include Belmont Road, Edith Road, Kingsnorth Road and Canute Road.

- **Briton Road to Stone Street – Proposed Withdrawal of Voucher Scheme**

That Officers carry out further detailed analysis of the responses received and potential costs and savings of the options available, prior to removing the existing Voucher Scheme.

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Date: 25th May 2010

Report approved by – Head of Amenities & Environmental Services

List of background documents –

Annex A – Copy of consultation material

Annex B – Summary of responses

Annex C – Copy of the comments and objections