

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DATE: Monday 12th December 2011
SUBJECT: UPDATE REPORT – PROPOSED EXTENSION TO RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME
BY: Head of Service Delivery
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: A two part report to update Members on the proposed extension to the existing Residents' Parking Scheme in Faversham, and to report a petition from residents of Nelson Street, Nelson Gardens and Nelson Terrace requesting ability to purchase Zone B Parking Permits.

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 contents of the report, and results of latest consultation, and recommend that:-**

- **officers abandon proposals to extend the existing Residents' Parking Scheme to include Edith Road, Belmont Road and Kingsnorth Road**

- **officers amend the next Traffic Regulation Order to include residents of Nelson Street, Nelson Terrace and Nelson Gardens as eligible to purchase Zone B Residents Parking Permits**

The consultees be advised accordingly.

Introduction/Background

1. Following various consultations, objections, comments and petitions in relation to the proposed extension of the existing Faversham Residents' Parking Scheme to include Edith Road, Belmont Road and Kingsnorth Road, a final door-to-door consultation has been carried out to obtain a definitive set of consultation results on these proposals. This survey was completed on the evening of 23rd November 2011, from 17:45 to 19:45, and included all properties in the three roads.

2. As a separate issue, but still related to the Faversham Residents' Parking Scheme, a petition has now been received from residents of Nelson Street, Nelson Gardens and Nelson Terrace in Faversham. The petition, containing 28 signatures from 22 properties, is requesting Nelson Street's inclusion in the existing Zone B Parking Scheme area.

Issue for Decision

3. Edith Road, Belmont Road and Kingsnorth Road

There has been considerable consultation with residents on proposals to extend the existing Faversham Residents' Parking Scheme to include Edith Road, Belmont Road and Kingsnorth Road. Back in May 2010 an initial consultation took place with residents of Edith Road, Belmont Road, Kingsnorth Road and Canute Road on the possible inclusion of these roads in the Residents' Parking Scheme, following comments received from the Faversham Parking Review. The results of this consultation were reported to the Joint Transportation Board in June 2010, and Members recommended that the existing Scheme include these four roads.

4. In September 2010 a petition was received in relation to the proposed extension of the Residents' Parking Scheme and this was reported to the Joint Transportation Board in December 2010. Based on this petition and the previous consultation results, Members recommended that only Belmont Road and Edith Road be included in the proposed Scheme extension.
5. Following this decision, a letter containing a number of signatures from residents of Kingsnorth Road was received, requesting that part of Kingsnorth Road be included in the Scheme. This was reported to the Joint Transportation Board in March 2011, together with results of a parking survey carried out in January, and Members recommended that **all** of Kingsnorth Road be included in the Scheme extension.
6. Based on the decision of the Joint Transportation Board Members, a design showing the proposed layouts of the Scheme were prepared, and these were sent out to residents of Edith Road, Belmont Road and Kingsnorth Road for any comments. However, even though this consultation was only on the proposed Scheme design, a large number of objections were once again received against the previously-agreed Scheme extension. Newspaper articles appeared both against the proposals and in favour of the proposals, and the Scheme progression was therefore delayed.
7. In order to obtain a definitive set of consultation results for Members to consider, a consultation took place in Edith Road, Belmont Road and Kingsnorth Road on the evening of 23rd November, and the results of this consultation can be found in Annex A. This consultation was carried out on a door-to-door basis, out of office hours to obtain maximum response, and the date of this consultation was subject to officers' evening availability.
8. Although many properties were displaying notices of objection to the proposed Scheme, all properties were visited to confirm the views of the residents. In several cases, residents displaying the notices either supported the Scheme or had no views either way, but felt that they should support their neighbours by displaying the notices.
9. An excellent overall response rate of 74% was achieved, and where no replies were obtained notices were posted through doors to advise residents of the survey and giving both a 24 hour telephone number and e-mail address to leave responses of support, objection or undecided. The e-mail address and telephone number was available until 9:00am on Monday 28th November, and Annex A reflects the responses received up to 24th November. Verbal updates will be provided at the Joint Transportation Board Meeting if applicable to report any later responses.
10. As can be seen in Annex A, the majority of residents objected to the proposals to include their roads in the Residents' Parking Scheme. In Edith Road, there was a 67% objection from those who responded, compared to 25% support and 8% undecided. In Kingsnorth Road, there was a 70% objection from those who responded, compared to 25% support and 5% undecided. In Belmont Road, there was a 65% objection from those who responded, compared to 12% support and 24% undecided. This gave an overall figure of 23% supporting the Scheme, 68% objecting and 10% undecided.

11. In view of the low percentage of residents supporting the Scheme, it is recommended that proposals to extend the Residents' Parking Scheme into Kingsnorth Road, Edith Road and Belmont Road be abandoned.

12. Nelson Street, Nelson Terrace & Nelson Gardens, Faversham

A petition containing 28 signatures from 22 properties has been received from residents of Nelson Street, Nelson Gardens and Nelson Terrace in Faversham. The petition reads as follows:-

"Petition to have Nelson Street, Faversham, included in the Permit B Parking. We the undersigned agree that Nelson Street should be included"

13. On receipt of the petition, the originator was contacted to clarify the request of the signatories. The carriageway in Nelson Street is too narrow to accommodate parking bays and it would therefore not be possible to consider installing residents' parking bays similar to those in other areas of Faversham. Vehicles currently park part on the footway and part on the carriageway at the present time, and whilst not ideal this does make the best use of the limited space available for parked vehicles.

14. Following discussion with the petition originator, it was clarified that the petition was asking for residents of Nelson Street, Nelson Gardens and Nelson Terrace to be eligible to purchase Zone B parking permits, to allow them to park in adjacent roads covered by the Scheme, such as The Mall. At the present time, these roads fall just outside of the Zone B boundary.

15. Both Nelson Gardens and Nelson Terrace are only accessible via pedestrian accesses off of Nelson Street, and there is very limited parking capacity for the residents in this area. The only foreseeable objections to the request would be from residents within the existing zone, in roads such as The Mall, as there could be issues with increased number of vehicles putting pressure on the limited parking capacity.

16. Following the submission of this petition, one of the residents of Nelson Gardens has contacted this office to explain that they have received two fixed penalty notices as they had nowhere else to park but The Mall when returning home from night work. They have therefore requested the option of being able to purchase Zone B Parking Permits to allow them to park in neighbouring streets when there is no space in Nelson Street. They also pointed out that at the present time, residents of Nelson Street, Nelson Gardens and Nelson Terrace are parking within Zone B for the maximum permitted time without permits, and then move their vehicles. They also claim that residents of The Mall who do not possess permits are parking in the un-restricted Nelson Street, and state that for this reason there should be no capacity issues.

Recommendation

17. Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and the results of the latest consultation, and recommend that:-

- officers abandon proposals to extend the existing Residents' Parking Scheme to include Edith Road, Belmont Road and Kingsnorth Road
- officers amend the next Traffic Regulation Order to include residents of Nelson Street, Nelson Terrace and Nelson Gardens as eligible to purchase Zone B Residents Parking Permits

Report approved by – Head of Service Delivery

List of Background Documents: Annex A – Results of Door to Door Consultation.