

**TO:** SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
**DATE:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
**SUBJECT:** PETITION RECEIVED – PARKING RESTRICTIONS, WEST STREET, SITTINGBOURNE  
**BY:** Head of Service Delivery  
**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** A report in response to a petition received regarding parking restrictions in West Street, Sittingbourne.

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**Implications:**

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Human Resources Implications - None

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Finance Implications – None

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Legal Implications – Traffic Regulation Orders to be made

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Crime & Disorder Implications (Section 17) - None

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Equalities & Diversity Implications – None

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Sustainability Implications – None

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Risk and Health and Safety Implications – None

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Corporate Plan Implications – Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.

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**Decision Required:** **That Members note the contents of the report and recommend that discussions take place with Kent County Council over possible amendments to the existing restrictions.**

**That the petitioners be advised accordingly.**

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### Introduction/Background

1. An on-line petition containing 20 signatures, 17 of which appear legitimate, has been received in relation to the existing on-street parking restrictions in West Street, Sittingbourne, between the junctions of Dover Street and St Michael's Road.
2. The petition states *"We the undersigned petition Swale Borough Council to Support West Street (Sittingbourne) businesses by sorting out parking issues"*. The petition goes on to state that *"This petition has been started by customers and employees of West Street News, in Sittingbourne, as we believe that in order to help the businesses on West Street, the council need to take action to sort out the issue of stopping on this road to use local businesses. Action is required as trade for businesses is affected by traffic wardens turning away customers who stop on West Street to use the businesses located there. We feel that either a relaxation of the rules, or the creation of parking spaces is needed here. The latter solution is possible due to the geography of the area,*

*including a very wide footpath. This would mean that customers could be able to stop briefly to use the newsagents or other businesses”.*

### **Issue for Decision**

3. This issue has been discussed with the Parking Services Manager, who has also sited the petition. He has confirmed that there are existing parking restrictions in place, in the form of a single yellow line with timed restrictions between 8:30am and 6:30pm Monday-Saturday. As such, these restrictions are enforceable by the Civil Enforcement Officers to ensure the free flow of traffic and to ensure that road safety is maintained.
4. The Parking Services Manager has also confirmed that there are no agreements or concessions in place to allow parking within the restricted times.
5. Following receipt of the petition, it is proposed to discuss the existing restrictions with Kent County Council, who as Highway Authority are responsible for safety on the Public Highway. Regular liaison meetings now take place between Kent County Council and officers from both Swale and Maidstone Borough Council, and it is intended to use this forum to discuss this matter.
6. If Kent County Council consider that the existing restrictions could be eased in the vicinity of the shops in this section of West Street without impacting on the traffic flows or comprising highway safety, proposals could be progressed and a formal consultation would take place with all properties in the vicinity as well as other formal consultees including the Emergency Services.

### **Recommendation**

7. Members are asked to note the contents of the report and recommend that discussions take place with Kent County Council over possible amendments to the existing restrictions, and that the petitioners be notified accordingly.

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Date: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Report approved by – Head of Service Delivery