

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD	Agenda Item: 6
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Meeting Date	Monday 9 th December 2013
Report Title	Faversham Town Centre Parking Restrictions
Cabinet Member	Cllr David Simmons
SMT Lead	Brian Planner
Head of Service	Brian Planner
Lead Officer	Brett O'Connell
Classification	Open

Recommendations	That Members agree to the progression of a Traffic Regulation Order to amend the parking restrictions within the core town centre area of Faversham to allow evening parking as set out in the report.
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Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1. This report provides details of a proposed change to the parking restrictions within the core pedestrianised area of Faversham Town Centre to allow evening parking following discussions with Faversham Town Council.

2 Background

- 2.1 Swale Borough Council Parking Services have been working with Faversham Town Council Growth and Development Group to review and improve parking provision within Faversham Town Centre. The aim has been to increase the availability of parking and so help to support retailers and businesses in the town.
- 2.2 As part of the work with the group the layout of the Central Car Park has been changed and this has created an additional 18 parking spaces. In addition the on-street parking restrictions around the town centre have been reviewed and it has been possible to reduce the restrictions in some areas to create additional on-street parking spaces.
- 2.3 A concern raised by the group was the parking restriction that covers the pedestrianised core area of the town centre. The town centre area is a Pedestrian Zone between 6am and 6pm with vehicle access restrictions. Outside these times there are no restrictions to vehicle access although the whole area is covered by a parking restriction prohibiting parking at any time.
- 2.4 As a Pedestrian Zone with a consistent parking restriction across the whole area there is no need for yellow lines although repeater 'At Any Time' parking restrictions signs are required throughout the area.

- 2.5 Under the current restrictions there are problems with driver compliance particularly in the evenings with vehicles often being parked in the area and drivers not aware that 24hour parking restrictions are in place.
- 2.6 To assist the evening economy the Faversham Town Council Growth and Development Group have requested that the parking restrictions are amended to allow evening parking.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 To remove all parking restrictions in the pedestrian zone would cause problems and lead to access difficulties. During the day only authorised vehicles should enter the town centre. However, the traffic order restricting access can only be enforced by the police whereas our Civil Enforcement Officers can take action against parking which helps to control the situation.
- 3.2 In the evening parking would be possible in parts of the town centre which would not cause access problems. However, experience has shown that, if not controlled, parking can take place in some of the narrow sections of streets in the town centre which would cause significant restrictions to access particularly for larger vehicles including the emergency services.
- 3.3 To allow evening parking would therefore require a mixture of parking restrictions with some areas remaining covered by the 24hour 'At Any Time' restrictions and other areas covered by restrictions between 6am and 6pm in line with the access restrictions.
- 3.4 Within a pedestrian zone it is not possible to have different parking restrictions without yellow lines. Therefore to change the restrictions would require yellow lines throughout the area although signing could be minimised as it is not necessary to provide no waiting signs for double yellow lines. As this is a conservation area the yellow lines would be of the narrow conservation style. A plan of the proposed restrictions is attached as Annex A.
- 3.5 The provision of yellow lines will impact on the on the visual amenity of the town centre. However, yellow lines will greatly assist with driver understanding and compliance with the proposed restrictions.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 An option would be to make no changes to the current restrictions. However, this would continue the problems with driver compliance and not assist with the provision of parking to assist the evening economy within the town centre.
- 4.2 An alternative option would be to amend the pedestrian zone to restrict parking to the hours of access of between 6.00am and 6:00pm. However, this could result in access problems if people park in the narrow sections of the town centre.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Council Conservation Officer who does not object to the proposals for yellow lines providing the signage is kept to a minimum and where signs are required they are fixed to existing street furniture, such as lamp columns, or on buildings to avoid street clutter.
- 5.2 Discussions have also taken place with Faversham Town Council Growth and Development Group who have referred the proposals to Faversham Town Council who support the proposed changes to the restrictions.
- 5.3 Any change to the current parking restrictions would require a Traffic Regulation Order which would need to be advertised in the local press and on site with any formal objects being reported back to this Board for consideration.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Promoting a Healthy Environment through safer Highways
Financial, Resource and Property	Making of Traffic Regulation Order and funding of road markings and signs which would require external funding. The Faversham Town Council Growth and Development Group have indicated that the Town Council would be prepared to cover the cost.
Legal and Statutory	Traffic Regulation Order changes
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Parking restriction will ensure that access is maintained within the town centre for emergency vehicles.
Equality and Diversity	Disabled badge holders would be able to continue to park for up to 3 hours within the restricted area proving obstruction is not being caused.
Sustainability	None at this stage

7 Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix A – Plan of proposed parking restrictions

8 Background Papers

None.