

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD	Agenda Item: 5
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Meeting Date	Monday 1 st March 2021
Report Title	Formal Objection to Traffic Regulation Order – Swale Amendment 21
Cabinet Member	Cllr Richard Palmer, Cabinet Member for Community
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Mike Knowles (SBC)
Classification	Open

Recommendations	Members are asked to note the formal objection and comments received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that the Order be progressed as advertised.
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1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of an objection and comments received in relation to the recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order, Swale Amendment 21, which proposes the introduction of a Residents' Parking Scheme in Fox Hill, Bapchild.

2. Background

- 2.1 A Traffic Regulation Order has been drafted on behalf of the developer of the Stones Farm Development in Bapchild, for a Residents' Parking Scheme to be introduced in the new parking area created by the re-alignment of the main A2. A copy of the Traffic Regulation Order can be found in Annex A, and a Statement of Reason summarising the contents of the Order can be found in Annex B. A plan of the proposed parking layout, provided by the developer, can be found in Annex C.

3. Issue for Decision

- 3.1 The formal consultation of the Traffic Regulation Order took place between 13th November and 4th December 2020. In addition to the standard procedure of advertising the proposed Order on site and in local newspapers, individual letters were also sent to nearby properties as an additional consultation method during the current pandemic restrictions. During the formal consultation, one objection was received and one comment. A copy of both can be found in Annex D.

- 3.2 The proposed Residents' Parking Scheme was requested by Members as part of the development planning consent, to ensure that the newly created parking area in Fox Hill, opposite the development, was not occupied by commuters and non-resident parking.
- 3.3 Operating in a similar way to the existing Sittingbourne and Faversham Residents' Parking Schemes, eligible householders would be permitted to purchase a maximum of two parking permits, at a current cost of £45 per permit. A plan showing the properties eligible to purchase permits for the scheme can be found in Annex E. This area was determined following close consultation with Bapchild Parish Council.
- 3.4 The operating times for the proposed scheme are 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, with parking by non-permit holders during this time limited to a maximum of 2 hours, with no return within 2 hours.
- 3.5 The objection focuses on the cost of purchasing a permit to park in a cul-de-sac which is stated to be nowhere near the property, and the fact that when the property was originally purchased free parking was available in front of the house. It is also stated that during periods of snow and ice, residents are unable to use their shared driveways and need to rely on on-street parking, which is claimed to be of insufficient capacity to accommodate all of the residents. Other comments include the number of vehicles owned by the household, and questions around how parents parking to drop off and collect pupils at the nearby Primary School are going to be monitored.
- 3.6 The objection states that the two-hour limit for non-permit holders will cause problems for visitors and workmen to the properties, who will need to park on-street in School Lane, causing issues for the residents in School Lane as well as those in Fox Hill.
- 3.7 It is acknowledged that the suitability of Residents' Parking Schemes differs for each household depending on individual circumstances, and that displacement of parked vehicles into adjoining roads is inevitable to a lesser or greater extent.
- 3.8 The other communication received during the formal consultation was a comment requesting that the shared access to parking at the rear of the properties be easily negotiable. We can confirm that a previous Traffic Regulation Order, prepared by Kent County Council, includes double yellow lines along the frontages of the properties, including the shared access, which should ensure access is maintained.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the formal objection and comments received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that the Order be progressed as advertised.

5. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Cost of Traffic Regulation Order is being funded by Developer, and signage and lining will also be installed by Developer.
Legal and Statutory	Sealing of Traffic Regulation Order by Kent County Council.
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.
Health Implications	The introduction of a Residents' Parking Scheme should minimise parking in the area by non-residents, ensuring residents can park within a reasonable distance to their properties, without having to cross busy roads. By controlling parking in the newly created cul-de-sac, safe access will be maintained to the properties and off-street parking facilities that they may have.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Annex A – Copy Traffic Regulation Order Swale Amendment 21
- Annex B – Statement of Reason
- Annex C – Plan of Proposed Parking Layout
- Annex D – Copy of Formal Objection and Comments
- Annex E – Plan of Eligible Properties to Purchase Permits

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None