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| SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD | Agenda Item: 8 |
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| Meeting Date | Monday 1 st March 2021 |
| Report Title | Informal Consultation Results – Proposed Amendments to Parking Restrictions in Swale. |
| Cabinet Member | Cllr Richard Palmer, Cabinet Member for Communities |
| Head of Service | Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure |
| Lead Officer | Mike Knowles (SBC) |
| Classification | Open |

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| Recommendations | <p>Members are asked to note the results of the recent informal consultations and recommend that:-</p> <p>(1) the proposed double yellow lines in Clarence Row, Sheerness, <u>either</u> be progressed <u>or</u> abandoned;</p> <p>(2) the proposed reduction of the existing single yellow line outside Nos.2-8 St Catherine’s Drive, Faversham, <u>either</u> be progressed <u>or</u> abandoned;</p> <p>(3) the proposed double yellow lines in Monarch Drive, Sittingbourne, be abandoned;</p> <p>(4) the proposed double yellow lines in Attlee Way, Milton Regis, be progressed.</p> |
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1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of recent informal consultations undertaken on various proposed amendments to waiting restrictions in the Borough. The requests for changes to parking restrictions have come via Ward Members and County Members, following requests from residents. Two of the proposed schemes have been funded through the County Members’ Highway Grant.

2. Background

- 2.1 Copies of the informal consultation material sent to residents, including plans of the proposals, can be found in Annex A. The responses to the informal consultation for each area can be found in Annex B.

3. Issue for Decision

(1) Possible Double Yellow Lines – Clarence Row, Sheerness

- 3.1 A request was received via a Ward Member for an informal consultation to take place with residents to gauge support for possible double yellow lines to be installed on the south side of Clarence Row in Sheerness. This follows a report that vehicles parking on this side of the road are obstructing access to properties.
- 3.2 Seven properties were consulted on the possible restrictions, and a total of 4 responses were received, 3 supporting the idea and 1 objecting. Copies of all the responses were provided to the Ward Members. One Member has remained of the opinion that the double yellow lines should not be installed, and that the objector makes a strong argument, far stronger in their opinion than the supporters. Due to sensitive information within the comments received, some content has been redacted to maintain residents' anonymity, shown by asterisks in Annex B. Sheerness Town Council were included in the informal consultation and their comments can also be found in Annex B.

(2) Proposed Reduction of Single Yellow Lines – St Catherine's Drive, Faversham

- 3.3 A Ward Member for the area has requested the reduction of the existing single yellow line outside Nos 2 to 8 St Catherine's Drive in Faversham. The request to reduce the lines, which restrict parking between 10am and 11am Monday to Friday, is to allow some un-restricted on-street parking for residents. The informal consultation highlights the point that without these restrictions, which were introduced to prevent all day parking by commuters, any vehicles will be permitted to park in this section of road without limit.
- 3.4 Of the 11 properties consulted, 8 responses were received, 4 supporting the proposals and 4 objecting. Supporting comments included recent additions to vehicle numbers in the area and lack of on-street parking capacity forcing residents to park on the existing restrictions. Objecting comments included the fact that without the restrictions in place road users will be disadvantaged by obstruction to visibility and access, individual pedestrian access to properties will be obstructed and the fact that the lines were introduced to prevent parking by commuters which will return if the restrictions are removed.
- 3.5 Ward Member Comments: One of the Ward Members has provided the following comments on the proposals:- *"I think that it is important to explain to Members of the JTB where the existing single yellow line has already been removed and this further removal is adjacent to the existing and at the furthest end of the close. A resident of the properties concerned said to me 'the fairest option would be a focused parking*

zone for the residents of properties 2-32, even numbers only. The remainder of properties on St Catherine's Drive have driveways and do not require on street parking.' As other residents of St Catherine's Drive opposed the introduction of the residents parking scheme and as it is not feasible to have a small parking zone for specific properties, I support this proposal for a reduction in the length of single yellow line."

(3) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Monarch Drive, Sittingbourne

- 3.6 A County Member has requested the installation of a section of double yellow lines in Monarch Drive, Sittingbourne. The proposals, to be funded through the County Members' Highway Grant, follow concerns from a resident that parked vehicles are obstructing the safe movement of vehicles around the junction.
- 3.7 Of the 6 properties consulted, two responses were received. One of these responses objected to the proposals, stating that parking at this location has never been an issue or obstructed neither vehicle or pedestrian access, and added that the proposed restrictions would create problems elsewhere on the street through vehicle displacement. The other responder, whilst not objecting to the proposals, stated that the planned restrictions are directly outside of their property and as they are currently in the process of applying for consent for a vehicle crossing would like any decision to be reviewed after this application had been considered. In view of the lack of support received during the informal consultation, initial thoughts are to abandon the proposed double yellow lines.
- 3.8 Ward Member Comments: One of the Ward Members has commented that "1) they are not aware of any problems regarding obstruction on road or pavement, 2) [the proposals] would displace parking to other corners/areas that may have a worse problem, and 3) being a private estate, having to slow down and be careful around parked cars is a good thing, not a bad thing." Another Ward Member has responded by saying "I have had residents complaining about the car parking in Monarch Drive and went round there a few times. I agree with putting yellow lines in."

(4) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Attlee Way, Milton Regis

- 3.9 A request for double yellow lines in Attlee Way and adjoining junctions was submitted by Ward Members through the County Member who agreed to fund the proposals through the County Members' Highway Grant. This was to alleviate problems with vehicles parking close to junctions and in other nearby locations, obstructing sightlines and the safe movement of vehicles. The proposals were submitted to Kent County Council prior to undertaking an informal consultation with residents, and the main concern raised was around the potential increase in vehicle speeds as a result of removing parked vehicles.
- 3.10 Of the 20 properties consulted, a total of 6 responses were received, 4 supporting the proposed double yellow lines and 2 objecting. In addition to these responses, a petition was received supporting these proposed restrictions. The petition, titled "Proposed Double Yellow Lines, Attlee Way Area, Sittingbourne", stated "we want double yellow lines both sides" and consisted of 34 signatures from a total of 28 properties. 12 signatures were from residents in the immediate vicinity of the

proposals, 20 were from other areas of the estate, and 2 were from another area of Sittingbourne.

- 3.11 Ward Member Comments: One of the Ward Members has confirmed his backing for the proposals as submitted.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the results of the recent informal consultations and recommend that:-

(1) the proposed double yellow lines in Clarence Row, Sheerness, **either** be progressed **or** abandoned;

(2) the proposed reduction of the existing single yellow line outside Nos.2-8 St Catherine's Drive, Faversham, **either** be progressed **or** abandoned;

(3) the proposed double yellow lines in Monarch Drive, Sittingbourne, be abandoned;

(4) the proposed double yellow lines in Attlee Way, Milton Regis, be progressed.

5. Implications

| Issue | Implications |
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| Corporate Plan | Improving Community Safety through safer Highways. |
| Financial, Resource and Property | Cost of Drafting Traffic Regulation Order, Site & Press Notices and Letters to Residents. Processing Order, Cost of Installing Lines and Signs on site. |
| Legal and Statutory | Drafting of Traffic Regulation Order, Sealing of Order in due course. |
| 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. |

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| Sustainability | None identified at this stage. |
| Health Implications | The introduction of double yellow lines on and around junctions to improve sightlines and vehicle movements could have a positive impact on the mental health of drivers by reducing stress levels and potential incidents of road rage. Proposed waiting restrictions where alternative parking for residents could be some considerable distance away could negatively impact on mental health by increasing stress for householders, including the possible displacement of vehicles into adjoining areas. |

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Annex A – Copy of Consultation Material and Plans of Proposals
- Annex B – Results of Informal Consultation

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None