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| Report to | Lead Member for Transport and Environment |
| Date | 5 September 2005 |
| By | Director of Transport and Environment |
| Title of Report | Normandale, Bexhill on Sea : Petition requesting a review of parking |
| Purpose of Report | To consider a petition requesting an immediate review of the parking in Normandale. |

RECOMMENDATION

To advise the petitioners that their concerns relating to parked vehicles will be considered within the next Bexhill Parking Restriction review.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no financial implications at this stage in respect of the recommendations detailed in this report.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 At the County Council meeting on 7 December 2004 Councillor Dyason presented a petition to the Chairman expressing "concern about the lack of action to remove dangers inherent in Normandale caused by the inconsiderate parking mainly by the employees of Hastings Direct" and "requesting that the council expedite the review of the parking situation without further delay".

2.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members' room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners be invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

3. Comments/Appraisal

3.1 Normandale is situated in a predominantly residential area of Bexhill. A number of years ago a large office block was built as a regional office for the Hastings and Thanet Building Society. Following a merger with the Anglia Building Society the regional office was relocated. The Office block therefore stood empty for many years.

3.2 Hastings Direct Insurance Company have subsequently taken over this building and expanded considerably in the last few years. This has led to many employees' vehicles being parked on the public highway, resulting in the situation referred to by the petitioners.

3.3 Due to the practicalities and costs involved in progressing Traffic Regulation Orders it is the working practice of the Department to undertake parking restriction reviews by area / town when a number of issues can be investigated together.

3.4 At present in the eastern area of the county, there are 19 parking restriction reviews awaiting investigation. These have been prioritised and Bexhill is currently ranked at number 4.

3.5 Within the current workloads experienced by the Traffic Section it is expected to commence investigation of the Bexhill Parking Review in the spring / summer of 2006. It is not possible to be more definitive about the timescale due to the nature of the Traffic Regulation Order process and the need for the traffic team to respond at short notice to other road safety issues.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 Formal parking restrictions on the public highway require the backing of a Traffic Regulation Order made under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984. This is a time consuming and costly process. It is therefore important that best use is made of the limited resources available.

4.2 The progression of parking restrictions within an area review has been found to be the most economical and effective method of addressing all such concerns. The prioritisation of each review produces the most effective use of these resources and ensures that those sites of greatest need are addressed first.

4.3 Whilst the concerns of the residents of Normandale are appreciated the relative importance of this issue would not merit a high enough priority to ensure an immediate review. The area will be included in the next review of parking restrictions in Bexhill.

BOB WILKINS
Director of Transport and Environment

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Local Member: Councillor Dyason

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.