

Committee: **Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**

Date: **25 January 2016**

Report By: **Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Title of Report: **Petition calling on the County Council to implement parking regulations in the form of a parking permit zone in Silchester Road, St Leonards-on-Sea**

Purpose of Report: **To consider whether to consult on introducing permit holder parking to the uncontrolled section of Silchester Road, St Leonards-on-Sea**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that the request will be considered as part of the next review of parking in Hastings. A consultation will need to take place to see if there is a desire from the wider community for the parking controls to be introduced in this section of Silchester Road, St Leonards-on-Sea.

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## **1. Background Information**

1.1 At the County Council meeting in October 2015, Councillor Webb presented a petition to the Chairman. The petition requested East Sussex County Council:

*“To implement parking regulations in the form of a residents parking permit zone in Silchester Road, St Leonards in East Sussex.*

*We ask for the County Council to do this due to the inherent parking problems on the road because of the lack of regulations currently in place. Residents are often unable to park anywhere near their homes despite living on a residential street.”*

1.2 Officers have clarified with the Local Member that the request is to extend the current controls to the section of Silchester Road, St Leonards-on-Sea between Gensing Road and Kenilworth Road. A location plan is included as Appendix 1.

1.3 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 a spokesperson for the petitioners is invited to address the Committee or Lead Member. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

## **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 The cost of introducing new parking restrictions in this area is estimated to be around £2,000. This will be met from the relevant Parking Account if a scheme is installed. New controls in this area could mean around 55 additional controlled parking spaces in zone K.

2.2 The controlled parking scheme in Hastings was introduced in 1999. Controlled parking (for zone K permit holders or 2 hours free parking for anyone else) was introduced in some sections of the roads south of Silchester Road. In 2007-8 Hastings Borough Council carried out consultation to extend zone K to neighbouring roads. The zone was extended to include the area of Silchester Road from its junction with London Road to its junction with Gensing Road and included the uncontrolled sections of the roads south of Silchester Road. Due to objections received at that time, the zone was not extended to include this section of Silchester Road.

2.3 In 2013, the County Council carried out further consultation following requests from local residents to extend the zone westwards to include the areas of Norman Road, Stanhope Place, East Ascent, Mews Road, and Maze Hill. Although this section of Silchester Road was not included in the consultation, it must be noted that there was strong opposition from local businesses and residents to the proposed extension of the scheme.

2.4 The petition presented to the County Council in October 2015 has 20 signatures from residents of Silchester Road showing that there is a strong desire for this section of the road to be included in the controlled zone. The petitioners' request has therefore been added to the list for consideration in the next review of parking in the borough of Hastings. Initial investigations and assessments are expected to begin in August 2016 with the first round of consultation anticipated to be in October 2016.

2.5 Any new parking controls or extensions to existing parking schemes can potentially impact on the availability of parking in the roads outside the immediate area. It is felt that the area of Kenilworth Road between its junctions with Silchester Road and Gensing Road should also be included in any future consultation.

2.6 Parking permits are restricted to two per household. The cost of a permit in this area is £35 for the first permit and £56 for the second permit. Parking spaces would not be reserved for individual residents and there would be no guarantee of a space if formal bays are introduced.

2.7 To effectively enforce controlled parking areas, it is necessary to install new parking signs on posts. These posts will generally be galvanized steel, and will have to provide a minimum ground clearance of 2.1 metres from the footpath to the bottom of the sign. Although we aim to use the existing street furniture where possible (such as lamp-posts), new posts and signs will be needed. These will be visually intrusive to the environment.

### **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

3.1 Controlled parking must have the support of local residents and businesses. Any new parking scheme or extension to an existing scheme also needs to strike a balance for the needs of all users and requires extensive consultation. The Lead Member is therefore recommended to agree that the petitioners' request is included for initial consultation as part of the next Parking Review in Hastings, scheduled to begin in August 2016.

3.2 If the initial consultation demonstrates a high level of support from local residents and businesses then it is recommended that the scheme is progressed to formal advertising. This will be open to further public consultation and objection, will need to follow the legal procedure, and could take around fourteen months to complete.

**RUPERT CLUBB**

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#### LOCAL MEMBERS

Cllr Trevor Webb

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None