

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

Date: **22 February 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 Bedford Grove, Eastbourne**

Purpose of Report: **To consider whether to consult on introducing permit holder parking in Bedford Grove**

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that the request will be progressed to see if permit holder parking should be introduced in Bedford Grove, Eastbourne.

1. Background Information

1.1 At the County Council meeting in December 2015, Councillor Rodohan presented a petition to the Chairman. The petition asks East Sussex County Council to implement residents' parking bays in Bedford Grove, Eastbourne. The petitioners ask for the scheme to be operational Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, for permit holders to be able to park without time limit and for anyone else to be able to park for up to two hours free of charge. The full text of the petition can be found in Appendix 1.

1.2 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. 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 the issue of around 198 permits generating a potential annual revenue of approximately £4,950. This revenue figure is based on two permits being issued to each of the 99 properties in this road.

2.2 The figure must be balanced against the restricted space available in this road. There would be approximately 46 parking spaces if a formal scheme is installed in this road. If two permits were made available to each property then it is clear the number of permits issued would heavily outweigh the amount of available parking. The County Council's usual practice is to limit the number of permits issued to 1.5 permits per parking space. This would mean a maximum of 69 permits issued with a potential revenue of £1,725 per annum.

2.3 It is suggested that the initial allocation should be restricted to one permit per property to ensure a fair process of allocation. After the first month of being available, the allocation should be opened up to any property requiring a second permit if the maximum number of permits issued has not been reached. This will be on a first come, first served basis up to the issue of a maximum 69 permits.

2.4 In March 2014, Councillor Rodohan presented a similar petition to the County Council. Officers contacted Councillor Rodohan and it was agreed to include the petitioners' request in the next review of parking in Eastbourne. As there were other similar requests from residents in surrounding roads it was agreed to consult on introducing a new permit zone in the Upperton area. Informal consultations took place in November 2014 and further detailed consultation was carried out in June 2015. The feedback from the detailed consultation did not show an overall desire for a scheme to be introduced throughout this area of Upperton. Officers met with Councillor Rodohan to discuss these proposals and it was agreed not to progress with the overall scheme.

2.5 In October 2015 the formal consultation took place in Eastbourne. It was following this review that the petitioners raised another request with Councillor Rodohan and the second petition was presented to full Council in December 2015. This petition asked for permit parking Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, with two hours free parking for non-permit holders.

2.6 The petition presented to the County Council in December has 69 signatures representing 40 properties in Bedford Grove. As there are around 99 properties in this road the petition still does not show a majority of residents have signed up for this scheme.

2.7 Officers met with Councillor Rodohan and the lead petitioners in December 2015 to discuss their request and suggest a way forward. It would be very resource intensive to effectively enforce a single road where there is a two hour free parking period for anyone. As the desire of the residents was to eliminate all-day parking by commuters and local workers, it was suggested that this aim could be achieved by introducing a much reduced parking control. This would be restricted to permit holders only between the hours of 11am and 1pm. Residents would be able to purchase permits for visitors during the operational hours, and parking would be free for anyone else outside these hours.

2.8 At the meeting in December 2015 it was also suggested that consultation takes place on a much smaller scale, restricted to Bedford Grove and the immediate surrounding roads (See the location plan in Appendix 2). It was explained to the lead petitioners that letters would be sent to addresses in these roads. It was also explained that legally the council has an obligation to place Notices in the affected roads and in the local newspaper and these proposals would be open for any member of public to make a representation.

2.9 It is not usual to introduce permit parking schemes in single roads due to the limited road space available, the resources needed to enforce these restrictions, and the displacement effect this type of parking control can cause. If the scheme is progressed to advertisement it is suggested that it is treated as a stand-alone proposal and should not set any precedent.

2.10 If the scheme does gain Lead Member approval it is recommended it goes to formal consultation without further recourse to informal consultation. It would need to fit in to the County Council's Traffic Regulation Order Forward Plan and is likely to be advertised around May 2016. It is estimated that any objections to the scheme would be reported to Planning Committee in July 2016 for their consideration and recommendation. Subject to any recommendations of the Planning Committee it is likely the scheme would be installed in October 2016.

2.11 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 advise the petitioners that their request is progressed to see if permit holder parking should be introduced in Bedford Grove.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Rodohan

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Appendix 1

Full text of the petition presented to County Council in December 2015

We the undersigned wish to see Residents' Parking introduced in Bedford Grove. We believe Bedford Grove has special circumstances which should allow it to be an exception to the existing parking conditions of surrounding roads. These are:

- a) The vast majority of residents who took part in the recent East Sussex County Council consultation "Upperton Parking Review 2015" voted in favour of Residents' Parking;
- b) Bedford Grove is a narrow road, densely populated, leading to a high ratio of resident-owned cars to parking space. Therefore commuters' vehicles regularly deprive residents of being able to park close to their homes Mon-Fri-8am-6pm;
- c) Bedford Grove properties do not have any facility for off-road parking;
- d) Bedford Grove is a mixed-occupancy road – families, retired people, working people, students, home-owners, renters (short and long term), single-occupancy homes. Therefore it has a high proportion of residents moving around the road during the day, wanting to park near their homes;
- e) Bedford Grove's width does not allow two vehicles to pass each other, which frequently causes one car to have to reverse down the road and then back out onto Eversfield or Carew Road (a bus route) which is highly dangerous;
- f) Vehicles often have to be stopped in the middle of the road to allow residents/contractors working for them to load/unload people/tools, thereby blocking the road to other vehicles – including emergency vehicles;
- g) Bedford Grove is swamped by commuters parking or wishing to park in it Mon-Fri, often leading to unpleasant incidents with some commuters being rude or aggressive;
- h) East Sussex County Council already has designated a one-off road in the area to have Residents' Parking (Commercial Road) so there is a precedent for the action.

We wish to see shared parking bays introduced which would be available to permit holders without a time limit and to anyone else for a period of up to two hours. The permit scheme would operate Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Each qualifying household would be able to purchase up to two annual resident permits, expected to cost £25 for the first permit and £75 for the second. Permits would also be available for visitors to park without time limit. Non permit holders will be able to park for up to two hours free of charge.

Note 1: 69 signatures are on the petition.