

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

12 March 2012

Supplementary Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matter for Recommendation to Borough Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 PARKING ACTION PLAN

Summary

It has recently come to light that a further location, not currently listed in the main report, requires investigation and may need the protection of waiting restrictions. It is the main entrance to the Tower Industrial Estate in London Road, Wrotham.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This industrial estate is currently split into a number of commercial units which generally share the main access directly on to the A20. This access has wide, deep visibility splays which are regularly obstructed by parked cars, vans and HGV's.

1.1.2 The problems caused have been specifically raised by Wrotham Parish Council and there has been some recent dialogue with the Parish Council that has given rise to this report.

1.2 The way forward

1.2.1 It is my intention during the coming months to look in detail at the situation within the site to ascertain what existing controls may be available relating to parking provision on the industrial estate and within the splays on to this primary distributor road. In liaison with KCC, we will look at the opportunities to maximise the use of available parking within the site and, if appropriate, take enforcement action to reduce the obstruction of visibility on the public highway.

1.2.2 Should this approach not lead to effective solutions then we may have no option but to consider the introduction of waiting restrictions within the vision splays and in the immediate vicinity on both sides of the A20. Without the latter parking is likely to be displaced to locations where, potentially, greater problems could be caused.

- 1.2.3 If it is not practicable to reduce this inappropriate and obstructive parking then I recommend that this location is added to Phase 6b for the introduction of waiting restrictions to restrict/manage the parking in this area.
- 1.2.4 This is an issue that may not have a readily deliverable total solution and may require considerable investigation. However, the current practices are clearly unsatisfactory and need to be addressed to examine how vehicular movement and parking can be managed more appropriately and safely.

1.3 Legal Implications

The on-street parking service is undertaken by the Borough Council on behalf of the County Council under the terms of the formal legal agreement. Planning enforcement action should only be undertaken where it is considered expedient to do so in the light of all material considerations.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 Funding to implement the parking action plan is provided within existing approved Borough Council Budgets.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 The assessment and consultation process applied to parking management should provide the assurance that the Borough Council has the will and ability to adapt the Parking Plans in the light of comment and circumstances to ensure that it achieves a best balance of local parking needs. A regular review of the schemes is crucial to ensure that we can correctly and effectively manage on street parking in these areas as the proposals are either introduced for safety reasons or to provide a more appropriate balance of parking needs.
- 1.5.2 A major risk is that scheme proposals encounter significant lack of local support. This risk is mitigated by the considerable effort devoted to ensuring there is widespread consultation on proposals through two stages of informal consultation before any formal stage of consultation is reached. There is also care given to ensuring that schemes are adjusted and adapted in the light of comments and observations received from the local community without compromising safety of the Councils commitment to deal appropriately with identified safety concerns.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Recommendation

- 1.7.1 That the actions as set out in this report **BE ENDORSED**.

The Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Mike O'Brien

Nil

Steve Humphrey

Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	All of the proposals are in line with national guidelines and re-iterates advice set out within the Highway Code. Any such parking that is affected by these changes is already contrary to that advice. There is no established right to park on the public highway, and the proposals all assist the maintenance of the right of access along the highway and to properties.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	The proposals should ease traffic movements and improve access to properties for all road users.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		N/A

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.