

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

05 June 2023

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision

1 PARKING UPDATE

1.1 Summary

The Borough Council has for many years divided requests for changes to parking restrictions into separate Phases of the "Parking Action Plan", or for wider areas as discrete "Parking Reviews".

1.2 This report covers the progress of the current Phase (Phase 14), the content of the next Phase (Phase 15) of the Action Plan and an update on the Borough's parking reviews.

1.3 Current Procedure

1.3.1 The current procedure for requesting and progressing changes to parking restrictions is as follows:-

- Request received and added to waiting list.
- Sites collated into manageable phases
- Approval for the next phase reported to Joint Transportation Board with recommendation to move to informal consultation.
- Report to Joint Transportation Board on the outcome of informal consultation with recommendation to alter/adjust proposals if appropriate and to move to formal consultation.
- Report to Joint Transportation Board following formal consultation with recommendations to approve/abandon proposals.
- Install approved schemes.
- Review of impact of proposals after 12 months if required.

1.4 Phase 14

- 1.4.1 The sites within Phase 14 (Annex 1) were subject to a previous report to the Joint Transportation Board have been assessed and have been progressed to an initial design.
- 1.4.2 We are currently carrying out informal consultation on the locations that form Phase 14.
- 1.4.3 This informal consultation started on 19th May 2023 and closes on 11th June 2023, and gives frontagers the opportunity to comment on the proposals.
- 1.4.4 We will be reporting this consultation to a future meeting of this Board for consideration. Before progressing to the formal consultation.

1.5 Phase 15

- 1.5.1 Phase 15 of the Parking Action Plan shown in Annex 2 will be developed once Phase 14 progresses to it's formal consultation stage.
- 1.5.2 Members will note that the list includes 31 locations, which is considered to be the maximum number of schemes that can be addressed within the available staff resources with the Parking team.

1.6 Future Phases

- 1.6.1 A further list of 94 requests is shown in Annex 3 which is the Holding List for consideration in future phases of the Plan.

1.7 Phase 15 Consultation

- 1.7.1 Subject to Member approval it is proposed that locations and proposals recommended for consideration in **Annex 2** should now be taken forward for investigation and then to informal consultation.
- 1.7.2 The response to the informal consultation will be reported back to a future meeting of this Board.

2 PARKING REVIEWS

- 2.1.1 In addition to the Phased Parking Action Plans, the Borough Council has an agreed programme of Parking Reviews, where more complex issues or packages of measures can be addressed.
- 2.1.2 There are currently three Parking Reviews being progressed, Kings Hill, Hadlow and Hildenborough, with a future review programmed for Snodland.
- 2.1.3 The delivery of the Borough's parking reviews has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, not only has it impinged on the Council's ability to carry out

reviews, but there has also been a significant variation in day-to-day parking habits as there has been a shift to more home working and less travel to work.

2.2 Kings Hill Parking Review

2.2.1 The parking issues in Kings Hill cover a number of locations across the development, with a variety of issues relating to the style of the development and the number of adopted and private roads.

2.2.2 Due to the size and nature of Kings Hill it has been agreed that the site would be considered as a series of estate specific reviews.

2.2.3 The Council has taken proposals through informal consultation and formal consultation. However, local Members have asked that the review be placed on-hold to allow additional locations to be bought forward.

2.3 Hadlow Parking Review

2.3.1 The Council has developed proposals for parking restrictions across Hadlow (and Golden Green) and took the proposals to informal consultation with residents and the Parish Council earlier this year.

2.3.2 The results of that consultation are the subject of a separate report to this meeting of the Board, where the responses are discussed and revisions to the proposals are to be considered.

2.4 Hildenborough Parking Review

2.4.1 The Council has developed proposals for parking restrictions across Hildenborough and took the proposals to informal consultation with residents and the Parish Council earlier this year.

2.4.2 The results of that consultation are the subject of a separate report to this meeting of the Board, where the responses are discussed and revisions to the proposals are to be considered.

2.5 Legal Implications

2.5.1 The powers allowing the Borough Council to carry out parking management activity are contained in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, supplemented by formal agreement with Kent County Council as the Local Highway Authority, in respect of its powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004. In particular section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation 1984 Act imposes a general duty on local authorities exercising functions under the Act to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of safe and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

- 2.5.2 The Borough Council carries out parking enforcement under an Agency agreement with Kent County Council by way of a Traffic Regulation Order, under the terms of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (and its amendments), the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.
- 2.5.3 Changes to parking charges are made via an Amendment Orders to the Council's on and off-street parking Traffic Regulation Orders, using the procedures set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and will reflect any temporary amendments to procedures introduced to address Covid-19 restrictions. The proposals have followed and exceeded the requirements of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England & Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 2.5.4 The matters raised in this report are considered to be routine, uncontroversial or not legally complex.

2.6 **Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 2.6.1 Funding to implement works associated with the Parking Action Plans and the Parking Reviews exists within the Borough Council's revenue budgets.

2.7 **Risk Assessment**

- 2.7.1 The comprehensive assessment and consultation process applied to Parking Action Plans provides the assurance that the Borough Council has the will and ability to adapt proposals brought forward, in the light of comment and circumstances, and to ensure that it achieves a best balance of local parking needs. A regular review of the schemes is crucial to ensure that the Council correctly and effectively manages 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.

2.8 **Policy Considerations**

- 2.8.1 Asset Management
- 2.8.2 Communications
- 2.8.3 Community
- 2.8.4 Customer Contact
- 2.8.5 Health and Safety

2.9 **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 2.9.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

2.10 Recommendations

It is **RECOMMENDED** that –

1. the Board agree the locations listed for Phase 15 of the Parking Action Plan shown in Annex 2, and
2. the holding list of requests shown at Annex 3 be held for future consideration in future phases of the Parking Action Plan

Background papers:

Annex 1 - Phase 14 locations

Annex 2 - Phase 15 locations

Annex 3 - Holding list

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