

CABINET
29 October 2020

**FORMAL PARKING CONSULTATION RESPONSES: WEST HILL
WARD – SHEPHERDS LANE**

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the responses received from local residents following a formal statutory consultation undertaken between 10th September and 1st October 2020 as part of a Traffic Regulation Order process to implement a scheme to extend the days and hours of operation of the residents parking bays in Shepherds Lane between Nos.1a and 59.
- 1.2 A total of seven responses were received from the formal statutory consultation, three indicated no observations about the proposals or were in support whilst four objected to the proposals. Details of the responses are highlighted in the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the responses to the consultation outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the report, be considered.
- 2.2 That the extension of the days and hours of operation, Monday – Sunday 9.30am to 8:00p.m, of the residents parking bays in Shepherds Lane, between Nos.1a and 59, as shown coloured pink on the plan at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

3. Background and Discussion

- 3.1. At the 31st October 2019 meeting [Min.No.53], the Cabinet approved a scheme to extend the hours and days of operation of the residents parking bays outside Nos. 1a to 59 Shepherds Lane, from Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 4.00 pm to Monday to Sunday 9.30 am to 8.00 pm (see Appendix A showing map of the affected area). This followed concerns raised by some local residents living opposite Dartford Boys' Grammar School that those visiting the school premises beyond the school day, are reducing the opportunity for residents to park close to their homes.
- 3.2. The report presented to the Cabinet in October 2019, highlighted the results of informal consultation undertaken between 4th and 17th March 2019 which included the following parking scheme options:
- Extend only the hours of operation e.g. 9.30 am to 8 pm;
 - Extend only the days of operation e.g. Monday to Saturday (six days per week) or Monday to Sunday (seven days per week);
 - Extend both the days of operation and the hours of the day e.g. Monday to Saturday or Monday to Sunday and 9.30 am to 8pm;
 - Do not change the scheme's hours of operation i.e., leave as Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 4 pm.

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3.3. As part of the informal consultation, the Council provided an online survey enabling respondents to engage with the informal consultation easily. The overall response rate was 81%. Residents were asked to choose one of four options shown in the table below and also indicate their preferred hours and days of operation should they choose one of the options in 1 to 3. The results were as follows:

	Overall Response Rate %	Number of responses	% of households	% of respondents
Option 1 – Extend hours of operation	81.3	0	0.0	0.0
Option 2 – I support the proposals to extend only the days of operation into the weekend	81.3	1	3.1	3.8
Option 3 – I support the proposals to extend the hours and days of operation into the evening and into the weekend	81.3	14	43.8	53.8
Option 4 – I object to the proposals and do not want them to be delivered	81.3	11	34.4	42.3

Residents' preference	% of household responses
Seven day scheme	40.0
Six day scheme	20.0
Weekend scheme supported but the preference for a 6 or 7 day scheme was not stated	40.0

3.4. The Cabinet agreed to progress completion of a Traffic Regulation Order as per Option 3 above i.e., extension of the hours and days of operation to Monday to Sunday 9.30 am to 8.00 pm. Whilst the Council's threshold of 50% or more households for scheme delivery was not achieved, it was noted that:

- There was a high turnout to the consultation in March 2019 with a combined percentage of almost 47% of households supported proposals to extend the days of operation into the evening and into the weekend. Of these, majority were in favour of a seven day scheme. In addition, a combined figure of 57.6% of respondents were

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in favour of proposals to extend days of operation into the weekend or extend the hours and days of operation into the evening and into the weekend.

- The proposed Option 3 will alleviate the key concerns raised by the majority of residents regarding safety around the school and parking capacity for local residents.

Formal Consultation Responses

- 3.5. The formal consultation was undertaken between 10th September and 1st October 2020. This included the publication of a draft Order notice, street notices in Shepherds Lane, legal documents made available at the Council’s Civic Centre and accessible via the Council’s website. The draft notice identified the proposal to extend the days and hours of operation of the permit bays to Monday to Sunday from 9.30am to 8.00pm.
- 3.6. A total of seven responses were received including four objections and three in support or no objections from Kent Police and local residents. The general comments received from local residents are summarised below:

Responses / Comments	Officer Response
<p>This section of Shepherds Lane is blighted every day with problem parking, caused by Dartford Grammar School for Boys (DGSB) and surrounding amenities.</p> <p>DGSB is an 18 hours a day 7 days a week site - the expansion of this site for more pupils, weekend sports fixtures, a church on Sunday, Becketts Gym, Events held at the Mick Jagger centre most weekends day and night as well as the doctors surgery mean that the bay restriction times are totally inadequate.</p> <p>The extension of the hours into the evenings and weekends is long overdue and will improve resident’s chances of finding a space.</p>	<p>Support for the proposal is noted.</p>
<p>In recent months residents have further frustrated things by employing their own parking management schemes - with bins and cones. Some cars then make</p>	<p>Support for the scheme is noted. However, placing obstructions on the highway to prevent parking can create a number of safety issues for drivers and also</p>

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<p>a sudden stop in the traffic to move the obstructions. I anticipate residents would not continue to take such measures with the extended hours proposed.</p>	<p>vulnerable road users, including cyclists and pedestrians.</p>
<p>Changing the parking times will have no benefit to the residents, only to their disadvantage unless it is controlled by parking wardens adequately, which current resources do not allow for, so this will be a waste of resources and tax payers money and illegal parking will continue to abuse and ignore parking times, as they do now, knowing that they will not be held to account.</p>	<p>Objection noted, however, extending the hours and days of operation of the resident permit parking bays would discourage parking on residents bays after 4pm. If a driver without a permit does so, a contravention will mean a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) can be issued. In addition, existing enforcement regime will be reviewed in line with the proposal taking into consideration compliance levels.</p>
<p>We are only allowed one residents permit which means we can only park one car in the parking bay and park the other car in an adjoining road, pushing parking problems onto their already congested roads. We feel that the bays should be 100% for residents above anyone else. The requirements of residents must be a priority over visitors who are of an unknown number at any given time.</p>	<p>Objection noted. The Council currently operates a one permit per household scheme based on road space available. The proposed extension of hours and days of operation of the existing residents' bays will ensure that priority is given to residents with permit allocation beyond the existing controlled period. This is proposed in order that residents' use of the parking spaces is prioritised, rather than being taken up by parking linked to school events. The Council do not intend to make any changes to existing visitor parking allocation which is capped at 15% of permit allocations. Therefore the proposal should not result in an increase in visitor parking related to resident households.</p>
<p>The original complaints regarding parking are during school term time, extending the restrictions on parking to the weekend and later in the evening will not make any effect on parent's parking during school days, but will penalise households in Shepherds Lane when friends or family visit them</p>	<p>Objection noted. The Council also received complaints about parking issues outside school term as there was concern that people attending events at the Mick Jagger Centre were parking on residents bays after the existing hours of restrictions and at weekends. The proposal will</p>

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at the weekends or during the week after work.	address these concerns and give priority to local residents. The Council do not intend to make any changes to existing visitor parking allocation and therefore the proposal should not impact existing usage of visitor parking permit.
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- 3.7. Based on the comments received from the formal consultation exercise carried out in September 2020, objections were based on concerns about the Council's policy of allowing one resident's parking bay per household and the potential impact on friends/visitors. Concerns were also raised about the lack of inadequate enforcement.
- 3.8. The Council currently operates a one permit per household scheme and about 15% visitor parking allocation based on overall road space available. It is noted that only four responses objected on this basis and three of these were the same letters signed by different households. Members may wish to consider whether the wider benefits of the proposal outweigh the impact on a few households given that there are visitor parking spaces available and that residents with more than one car per household could potentially park in other streets nearby.
- 3.9. In terms of the concerns about adequate enforcement. As indicated in the report to the Cabinet in October 2019, the existing enforcement regime will be reviewed in line with any new proposals taking into consideration compliance levels.
- 3.10. Questions were raised about the basis of Cabinet's decision in October 2019 as the Council's threshold of 50% of households' support was not met. This matter has been addressed in paragraph 3.4 to the report.
- 3.11. In view of officers' consideration of the objections to the formal consultation outlined in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.10 to the report and Cabinet's previous consideration of the informal consultation undertaken in March 2019, Members are recommended to approve the progression of the proposal to extend the days and hours of operation, Monday – Sunday 9.30am – 8.00 pm. of the residents parking bays in Shepherds Lane between Nos.1a and 59. If approved, officers will progress the second stage of the Traffic Regulation Order process and publish the 'made' Order notice, to ensure that respondents are informed of the Council's decision.
4. Relationship to the Corporate Plan
- SC 1: Use the Council's statutory functions to increase public safety in the Borough
- SC 3: Increase public perception of the Borough as a safe place.

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5. Financial, legal, staffing and other implications and risk assessments*

Financial Implications	Costs will be met from existing budgets.
Legal Implications	Changes to the parking restrictions will be carried out in accordance with the statutory process for Traffic Regulation Orders.
Staffing Implications	Will be from existing staff resources.
Administrative Implications	None.
Risk Assessment	Vehicle displacement may occur resulting in residents from neighbouring streets requesting parking management regulations. It is KCC's 'policy not to propose regulations within neighbouring streets for the same highway management reasons within three years of a statutory TRO consultation exercise.

6. Details of Exempt Information Category

Not applicable

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Map of affected area.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<u>Documents consulted</u>	<u>Date / File Ref</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Section and Directorate</u>	<u>Exempt Information Category</u>
Parking consultation: West Hill Ward – Shepherds Lane	-	Lukman Agboola Principal Transport Planner	Planning & Regeneration	N/A
	-	(01322) 343410 & Paul Nevard Transport Engineer (01322) 343216	Parking Services, EARS	N/A

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Appendix A – Advertised Scheme Proposal

