

**REPORT FOR: Traffic and Road Safety
Advisory Panel**

Date of Meeting: 23rd November 2011

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT**

Three petitions relating to:

1. Kingshill Avenue - Area Traffic Management Scheme
2. Canons Corner, Stanmore - Support changes to provide parking
3. Station Parade, Whitchurch Lane - Petition for better parking

Responsible Officer: Brendon Hills - Corporate Director
Community and Environment

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Appendix A - Canons Corner,
Stanmore - Plan of proposed parking
scheme
Appendix B - Canons Park Station
Area Parking Review - Notes of
Stakeholders Meeting

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out details of the petitions that have been received since the last meeting of TARSAP and provides details of the Council's investigations and findings where these have been undertaken.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Kingshill Avenue – Area Traffic Management scheme

- 2.1 Two petitions objecting to the proposals were presented to the council by different groups of local residents, one from the Alicia Avenue area and the other from the residents of Elmsleigh Avenue area.
- 2.2 The first petition contained 44 signatures from residents of Alicia Avenue between numbers 33a and 73(odd) and 34 and 76 (even). The petition states:
- “We the undersigned residents of houses in Alicia Avenue between numbers 33A and 73 (odd) and 34 and 76 (even) are totally against any option which involves the removal of the mini roundabout and section of carriageway narrowing and strategic one-way working on Alicia Avenue”*
- 2.3 The second petition was presented to the council by a group of local residents from Elmsleigh Avenue area. The petition contained 136 signatures, the majority of whom were local residents of Elmsleigh Avenue. The second petition states:
- “We the undersigned are not happy with the proposed scheme. We strongly recommend the council adopts the ‘Do nothing’ option for the entire scheme. We believe the proposed scheme will impede on quality of life and have a detrimental impact for the residents of Elmsleigh Avenue and other surrounding roads”*
- 2.4 A meeting with local councillors and officers was held on 4th October 2011 to discuss the results of the public consultation and agree a way forward.
- 2.5 Based upon officers recommendations local members agreed not to progress either of the traffic management schemes further because of the 349 residents (44% response rate) who responded to the questionnaire 71.5% had opted for the ‘Do Nothing’ option.
- 2.6 It was agreed, however, to take forward the proposal for waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) at junctions because 64.2% who responded to the questionnaire were in favour of these measures compared to 29.8% against.
- 2.7 Officers are currently preparing the waiting restrictions proposals (mainly at junctions) to improve access and visibility. The intention is to carry out the statutory consultation within the forthcoming weeks.

Canons Corner Stanmore - Petition to support proposed changes to parking

- 2.8 A petition was received on 21st October 2011 which contains 402 signatures from shoppers using the shopping facilities at Canons Corner. The petition states:
- “We, the undersigned support the proposed changes to provide parking for the shops of Canons Corner, London Road, Stanmore. We believe that these shops would close as a result of the current parking restrictions which are making the use of these stores very difficult.”
- 2.9 The background to this matter is that a petition requesting parking controls was presented to the panel in July 2010. Following surveys a public consultation exercise was undertaken and the results were presented to the November 2010 meeting of the panel. The outcome was that the Panel agreed that the proposals should go to statutory consultation and be incorporated with other changes in Stanmore as part of the review of CPZ zones B and H. A plan showing the proposals is contained at Appendix A.
- 2.10 The unforeseen by-election at Canons Ward followed by another in Stanmore Park and the consequent requirement not to carry out substantive consultations during these periods of purdah has unfortunately delayed the Stanmore Parking consultations. In addition it was not felt appropriate to carry out consultation during the summer holiday period when many people are away.
- 2.11 Statutory consultation was therefore carried out in October 2011 and the results on changes across Stanmore including Canons Corner are currently being analysed.
- 2.12 In respect of Canons Corner, comments were received via the consultation questionnaire but no statutory objections were received. However, other sites which are part of the Stanmore CPZ review did receive objections and these are being looked at to see if they can be resolved.
- 2.13 In order to minimise costs, the required legal traffic orders and newspaper advertisements have been progressed as a batch and unfortunately this means that progress is governed by the time taken to address the most complex objections. After considering the detailed objections elsewhere officers will decide if it is more expedient to progress those sites which have no objections separately. A verbal update on progress will be given at the panel meeting.
- 2.14 The lead petitioner has been informed of the background to this situation and that this petition would, as normal practice, be reported to this Panel meeting.

Station Parade Canons Park - Petition for better parking

- 2.15 A petition was received on 17th October 2011 from businesses in Station Parade containing 20 signatures. The petition states:

“Petition for better parking at Station Parade, Whitchurch Lane, Canons Park, Edgware, HA8

The retail shops at Station Parade have put together this petition to raise the problems with parking in the slip road on Station Parade. We have seen a rapid decline in trading since the new housing estate opposite at Hitchin lane has been completed. There are various road safety proposals in discussion at the moment, which will also mean less parking available-but no one has highlighted the fact that many people living on the estate are now parking all day and evening for free, at the cost of many loyal customers and neighbours not being able to park and shop at their local shops, have their hair done or eat in their local bars and restaurants. We as traders, providing a much needed, local service can not go on much longer-we need support from Harrow Council to rectify this matter. We have had various meetings and can only come to the conclusion that paid for parking can be the only way forward-with the first “HALF HOUR FREE” for customers to pick up a newspaper, a bunch of flowers or their dry cleaning.

We would suggest something like the “Stop and Shop” schemes of Eastcote or Northwood Hills, with free parking after 6.30pm until 8.00am the next day.

We are sure Harrow Council does not want any more local businesses or shops to close in Harrow, we provide employment and security for many employees-but without your help, as a matter of urgency, we can only see failure.”

- 2.16 The background to this parking situation is well understood and a review of parking around Canons Station has been included on the programme reported to this panel each February for a number of years.
- 2.17 In February 2011 the panel agreed that consultation on reviewing parking should commence in 2011/12. This should commence with a Stakeholders meeting in April 2011 and conclude with a target date for implementing the proposals agreed in May 2012.
- 2.18 Unfortunately due to the unforeseen by-election in Canons ward and the requirement to not carry out any substantive consultations during the purdah period the stakeholders meeting was delayed until July.
- 2.19 Many of the issues highlighted in the petition were raised by local businesses, residents and groups at the stakeholders meeting and a copy of the notes is attached as Appendix B.
- 2.20 A consultation document is being prepared and it is hoped that this will be circulated to approximately 8000 households and businesses as agreed at the stakeholders meeting. This will give people, including the

petitioners, an opportunity to say what parking controls they would like to see in the area.

- 2.21 The panel will be aware that the results of the borough wide consultation on the parking strategy were reported to cabinet on 18th October 2011. Cabinet agreed the principle that parking charges for on-street parking and council controlled off-street parking should fall into four separate bands. These proposals to be based upon the extent of shopping characteristics, available car parks, existing public transport links and existing leisure facilities in the area. This would simplify the current arrangements that have evolved over time and be more transparent to the public. Cabinet also agreed that officers carry out further investigation into the actual parking charges and this would be the subject of a further report and public consultation.
- 2.22 It should be noted that the first half hour free requested in the petition is not being pursued and the issue has been addressed within the parking review reported to cabinet. However, the principle of free on-street parking in pay and display bays from 6.30pm to 8am (when no parking restrictions are in force) is already widely established and it is not envisaged there would be any changes in the proposals developed for Canons Park unless this was widely supported by the public. Introducing pay & display parking would mitigate the problems of residential and commuter use of any on-street parking in front of the shops whilst encouraging turnover of spaces for the benefit of businesses and their customers.
- 2.23 It is envisaged that the results of the public consultation at Canons Park will be reported to the February 2012 meeting of the panel and any measures agreed at that meeting will then be subject to statutory consultation.
- 2.24 The lead petitioners have been advised of the background to the current parking review and that the petition would be reported to this panel meeting.

Section 3 – Further Information

- 3.1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Panel about any new petitions received since the last meeting. No updates will be reported at future meetings as officers will liaise with the Chair of TARSAP and the Portfolio Holder directly regarding any updates.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications. Any suggested measures in the report require further investigation and would be taken forward using existing resources and funding.

Section 5 – Corporate Priorities

- 5.1. Any suggested measures in the report accord with our corporate priorities:
- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe
 - United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads
 - Supporting and protecting people who are most in need
 - Supporting our Town Centre, our local shopping centres and businesses

Section 6 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Kanta Hirani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 08/11/11		

Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Barry Philips, Team Leader - Traffic and Road Safety
Tel: 020 8424 2649, Fax: 020 8424 7662, E-mail: barry.philips@harrow.gov.uk

Paul Newman - Team Leader - Parking and Sustainable Transport
Tel: 020 8424 1065, Fax: 020 8424 7622,
E -mail: paul.newman@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Previous TARSAP reports and Public Consultation Documents