

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Public Protection for Decision

Portfolio:	Public Protection
Subject:	Traffic Regulation Order - Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Wickham Road, Fareham
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regulation
Strategy/Policy:	
Corporate Objective:	A safe and healthy place to live and work

Purpose:

To inform the Executive Member of the outcome of the statutory advertisement of a proposal to introduce waiting restrictions in Wickham Road and to obtain authorisation to implement a Traffic Regulation Order.

Executive summary:

This report considers the reasons for proposing waiting restrictions in Wickham Road.

Recommendation:

That the waiting restrictions as shown at Appendix A are introduced.

Reason:

To reduce the risk of obstructions to the public highway and to improve road safety.

Cost of Proposals:

The cost of the proposals will be met by Fareham Borough Council's Traffic Management budget.

Risk Assessment:

There are no identified risks associated with this proposal.

Appendices Appendix A : Scheme drawing
 Appendix B : Responses to public advertisement

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 12 January 2016

Subject:: Traffic Regulation Order - Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Wickham Road, Fareham

Briefing by: Director of Planning and Regulation

Portfolio: Public Protection

Supporting Information

Background

1. Wickham Road forms part of the main A32 which runs from Gosport through Fareham, and northwards out of the Borough to Alton in northern Hampshire. Wickham Road itself runs from the roundabout junction at the northern end of Wallington Way, to the roundabout junction with North Hill, and shortly after this, to junction 10 of the M27 motorway.
2. As an A class road Wickham Road carries large volumes of traffic, but it has narrow sections along its length. Waiting restrictions have been provided along southern and middle sections of Wickham Road in recent years, this road has also benefitted from the reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph, and the introduction of a residents parking scheme for householders in Beehive Cottages
3. In the northern section in the vicinity of Furzehall Avenue, parking has increased significantly in recent months due to increased use of office and retail premises on the parkway site. This parking has led to many complaints as two way traffic cannot easily pass the parked vehicles, especially when large vans, buses or lorries form part of this traffic.
4. Numerous discussions have taken place about how this could be best addressed, including at a site meeting involving Ward Members, the Police, officers from both Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council, and the Executive Member for Public Protection.
5. As a result of these discussions, options for waiting restrictions were drawn up and discussed further. These options considered obstructions to the main road traffic, visibility hazards to vehicular entrances, and conflicts with traffic wishing to use the right turning lane into Furzehall Avenue. They also considered the merits of retaining a degree of parking which can serve to keep speeds from becoming too high, and keep pressure on parking in other roads from becoming too great.

6. It is not possible to provide a solution which satisfies all objectives, the best compromise was agreed to be that which is shown at Appendix A, and it is this which has been publicly advertised.

Consultations

7. The Police, Ward and County Councillors and Hampshire County Council officers have been consulted on this proposal and all have expressed their support.
8. The Statutory Consultees were consulted and no objections were received.

Representations

9. The proposal was advertised in November 2015 and 14 responses were received. Their comments, along with officer responses are summarised at Appendix B.
10. Of these responses, 6 were in support of the proposals, and 8 were opposed. Of those opposed, some were from office workers expressing concern that they would have nowhere available to park, and others were from local residents fearing that the parking would be displaced into roads where they live, leading to inconvenience to them.
11. With regard to parking for office workers, it is not the responsibility of Fareham Borough Council (FBC) to provide parking for them. The responsibility of FBC (as traffic management agents to Hampshire County Council) is to keep the public highway available for the flow of traffic. It is a common misconception that there is a "right" to park on the public highway, but this is not the case, parking is only tolerated where it does not lead to problems of obstruction or safety concerns, and both of these have been the subject of many concerns here.
12. Care has been taken during the discussions in advance of the public advertisement of the proposals, to take into account their disadvantages. The objections that have been expressed have been duly noted but they were expected, and no objections have been received which have raised any unexpected concerns.
13. The performance of the restrictions once introduced can be monitored, and if any particular concerns arise then they can be addressed, but at present the proposals appear to remain the best compromise solution to a difficult situation.

Conclusion

14. It is therefore recommended that the proposed waiting restrictions are implemented as advertised and shown at Appendix A.