

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive Member for Public Protection for Decision

Portfolio:	Public Protection
Subject:	Traffic Regulation Order - Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Lower Bath Lane, Fareham
Report of:	Director of Regulatory and Democratic Services
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 and to obtain authorisation to implement a Traffic Regulation Order.

Executive summary:

This report addresses concerns in respect of parking in Lower Bath Lane where a number of houses have a residents parking facility. Complaints have been received that this parking facility is insufficient in comparison with other facilities in the area. Following consultations it is proposed to modify the waiting restrictions to address the concerns expressed.

Recommendation:

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

Reason:

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

Cost of Proposals:

The cost of the proposal will be met from the Traffic Management budget.

Risk Assessment:

There are no identified risks associated with this proposal.

Appendices Appendix A : Scheme drawing
Appendix B: Responses to formal consultation
Appendix C: Responses to letter drop

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 11 February 2014

Subject:: Traffic Regulation Order - Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Lower Bath Lane, Fareham

Briefing by: Director of Regulatory and Democratic Services

Portfolio: Public Protection

Supporting Information

Background

1. Lower Bath Lane is fronted by houses on the north east side, and Fareham cricket ground on the south west side. Local householders benefit from the facility to purchase residents parking permits, however the benefits afforded to them are less than those afforded to residents in most other roads in the Fareham Town Centre where residents parking permits are available.
2. In most cases where residents' parking exists, other parking is prohibited on Mondays to Saturdays between 8am and 6pm. The purchase of a residents parking permit provides an exemption from these restrictions.
3. In Lower Bath Lane the restrictions apply only between 10am and 4pm, and then only on Mondays to Fridays. In addition, parking is permitted within the restricted times for up to two hours for non-permit holders.
4. The reason for the two hour waiting is to afford parking for visitors to the cricket ground and the adjacent recreational area. However, there have been claims that too much benefit is afforded to non-permit holders, and residents have complained that they do not have sufficient benefit from paying for their permits.
5. In order to address the concerns, but also by way of retaining a reasonable parking facility for the recreational area and the cricket ground, it is proposed to extend the restricted times to apply 8am-6pm Mondays to Saturdays. During these times parking will still be available for up to two hours for non permit holders
6. To summarise, the effect of this change will be that non permit holders will still be able to park between 4pm and 10am without permits, also all day on Sundays, and for up to two hours during these restricted periods. This still affords a reasonably generous facility for recreational users of this area.

7. Anyone wishing to park for more than two hours during the restricted periods will be able to do so by using one of the nearby car parks, which are only a few minutes' walking distance away. These are Bath Lane, Lysses and Market Quay car parks.

Consultations

8. The Ward Councillors, County Councillor and Police were consulted on this proposal and all expressed their support.
9. The Statutory Consultees were consulted and no objections were received.

Representations

10. The proposal was formally advertised in October 2013 and twelve responses were received.
11. The responses to the formal consultation are shown at Appendix B. There were eight objecting to the proposals and four in favour of them. One of the respondents expressed concern that this proposal was unnecessary, and suggested that it might not meet with the support of the residents if we were to ask them all for comment.
12. It should be noted that of the comments opposing the changes, five carried identical wording at least in part. It could therefore be argued that five of the responses represent just a single view, albeit represented by five people.
13. Some of the residents had already asked that the restrictions should be brought into line with other residents parking schemes in Fareham. Since not all of those who had asked for the restrictions had response to the formal advertisement, it could appear that the overall reaction to the advertisement was not overwhelmingly in favour, which might cast some doubt on the merits of the proposal.
14. Taking into account the repeated comments, weighed against the absent views of some of the residents in response to the formal consultation, it would be reasonable to conclude that the responses were not clearly in favour or opposed.
15. In view of these concerns, it was thought appropriate to carry out a letter drop to ascertain the view of all local residents. This was carried out in November 2013 and the responses to the letter drop are shown at Appendix C.
16. Officer responses have been made as part of Appendices B and C. To summarise the comments made to the letter drop and the formal advertisement, eight were opposed to the changes, although four of these were copies of other comments. Seventeen comments were received in support.
17. With due consideration to the arguments opposing the scheme, the proposed changes do not lead to any major additional inconvenience for users of the cricket ground and the recreational area.

Conclusion

18. It is therefore recommended that the existing waiting restrictions are revised as advertised and detailed at Appendix A.