

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Regeneration and Development Services Matters
2.	Date:	17th September 2007
3.	Title:	Results of the consultation on the proposed residents' parking schemes at Eastwood North and South
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To inform Cabinet Member of the outcome of the public consultations carried out in the Eastwood North and Eastwood South areas about the proposed introduction of Residents' parking schemes. The report also considers an amendment to charges in the existing residents' parking scheme in Wellgate

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member resolve that:

- i) The introduction of the Eastwood North Residents' parking zone be abandoned and residents be informed accordingly**
- ii) The residents' parking zone in Eastwood South be introduced and residents be informed accordingly**
- iii) Cost of the first annual parking permit to be £17.50 and a second annual permit to be £35.00. The permits valid for 6 months be made available at a cost of £12.50 and £25.00 respectively**
- iv) That the cost of the residents and visitor parking permits in the existing Wellgate residents parking zone are reviewed to ensure that the scheme is cost effective and that a report be presented to a future Cabinet Member meeting.**

7. Proposals and Details

Council minute Nos 166 of January 2006 and 157 of November 2006 refer to proposals to introduce Resident's Parking Schemes in Eastwood North and Eastwood South.

In April 2007 leaflets outlining the proposals and containing a questionnaire, were sent out to 754 households in the Eastwood North Area and 525 households in the Eastwood South Area. The survey was also made available on-line. Residents were also given an opportunity to put forward their opinions to officers at public exhibitions held at the Eastwood Village Community Centre and The Unity Centre.

Eastwood North

A total of 122 responses were received to the Eastwood North Consultation giving an overall response rate of 16 per cent.

From the responses received 72 respondents (59 percent) said they had problems parking on their street, but only 60 respondents (49 percent) said they would support the introduction of a designated residents parking area in Eastwood North. 44 respondents (36 per cent) said they were against the idea, meaning that although the overall response was that Eastwood North residents are in favour of the residents only parking scheme, the differential between those who were in favour and against the proposal is very small, and equates to just 16 responses or 2% of the households consulted.

In addition a 218 signature petition was received objecting to the imposition of resident's parking in Eastwood North. The petitioners did not give any reason for objecting to the introduction of such a scheme. An analysis was undertaken looking at the addresses of the signatories. This was combined with the addresses of the respondents to the questionnaire. On a street by street basis it was found that with the exception of St Anns Road, a clear majority of residents on each street were against the introduction of residents parking in Eastwood North. A copy of the petition together with drawing No 1126/16/TT414(i) showing an analysis of all responses is attached in Appendix A

It was also noticeable by members of staff who attended the public exhibition at Eastwood Village Community Centre, that the majority of those who visited from Eastwood North did not support the proposal.

The Eastwood Business Partnership also raised their objections to the Eastwood North Scheme, expressing concerns that making kerb space next to businesses residents only parking, would adversely affect local businesses.

Whilst a small majority of residents who replied to our questionnaire were in favour of the proposal, in view of the low response rate, in conjunction with the 218 signature petition rejecting the proposal it is felt that there is insufficient public support to justify pursuing a residents' parking scheme in Eastwood North.

Eastwood South

A total of 156 responses were received to the Eastwood South survey, giving an overall response rate of 30 per cent.

81 percent of respondents from Eastwood South said they had problems parking on their street. 97 respondents (63 per cent) said they would support the introduction of a designated residents' parking area in the Eastwood South area. 31 respondents (20 percent) said they would not support residents only parking.

A 5 signature petition opposing the scheme was received during the consultation period. The scheme is opposed on the grounds that it is "neither practical nor necessary" and "the purchase of a parking permit is another form of tax". Eastwood South is the area where most complaints about non-residential parking have been received in the past. The consultation confirms this with 81 percent of respondents saying they have difficulty parking on their street. The proposed permit fees represent the cost of administration and enforcement of the scheme and are not a tax. Leaving one residential street out of the zone would not be an option as this would further exacerbate parking stress, leaving residents that are ineligible for permits with no where to park. In view of this it is recommended that the petition should not be acceded to.

A further 93 signature petition was received outside the consultation period. The objection was on the grounds that the signatories should not have to pay to park outside their homes when their cars are taxed, insured and they pay their Council tax, on streets that are not congested with non residential parking. Again our consultation confirms there are in fact parking problems in the Eastwood South area. Analysis of the petition this showed that only 11 signatories lived within Eastwood South area. The primary basis for introducing resident only parking is to prevent commuters and shoppers from outside the area from parking in those streets. Therefore only the opinions of residents who live within the proposed zone should be considered. 82 Signatures from outside the proposed zone should therefore be disregarded. Even If the 11 signatures that live within Eastwood South are considered with along the 31 respondents who replied to our questionnaire and objected to the proposal, there is still a majority of support in favour of the introduction of residents' parking in Eastwood South. Therefore it is recommended that the petition should not be acceded to and that we proceed with the scheme. A copy of both petitions is attached in Appendix B.

Over three quarters of Eastwood South residents who said they experienced parking problems in their street said that they would support the introduction of residents-only parking. 61 percent of residents agree with the proposed hours of operation.

Some 33 percent of respondents expressed concerns about the costs of annual parking permits. In the original proposal this was £25.00 for the first permit and £50.00 for a second.

This was also one of the main concerns expressed at the public consultation event at the Unity Centre in Eastwood South. In view of this, the cost of permits has been reviewed in conjunction with our colleagues in Streetpride's Parking

Services. Initially the cost of permits could be restricted to £17.50 for the first permit and £35.00 for the second but this would have to be reviewed in 12 months time to ensure that the scheme is self financing and covers its costs. These charges should cover the cost of enforcement, stationary costs and all administration including sending out annual reminder letters when permits need to be renewed.

Some residents were concerned at having to purchase a 12 month permit when they may be leaving before the expiry of the permit. Some residents also felt the permit costs were a financial burden. It is felt that lower cost parking permits valid for a period of 6 months be made available at a cost of £12.50 for the first permit and £25.00 for the second permit.

Concerns were also raised about the lack of provision of permits for additional visitors. To address this, daily permits at a cost of £1.00 each could be made available as in the existing Wellgate scheme.

In the existing residents parking scheme in Wellgate, permits are renewed annually at the same date for all residents regardless of when the permit was applied for, meaning that if someone moves into a property say 3 months before the renewal date, they have to pay the full permit price for a permit that will only last 3 months. It is proposed that this is changed so that in all residents parking schemes, permits will be valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

Due to security issues it is recommended that we continue with the principle of putting registration numbers on resident permits.

Representations were made by the Ridge Road Mosque concerning the effects of resident only parking on visitors to the Mosque. In view of the majority of dwellings at the north east end of Ridge Road having off street parking available, the proposed residents only parking spaces in this part of Ridge Road should be made time limited waiting with a maximum stay 2 hours no return in 3 hours, with an exemption for residents as shown on drawing No 126\18\TT442 marked as Appendix C.

As a result of the consultations it is felt that there is sufficient support within Eastwood South for the introduction of residents parking, and it is recommended that we proceed.

Existing Wellgate Residents' Parking Scheme

A further issue raised by a number of visitors to the public exhibitions concerns the proposed charges when compared to the existing Wellgate scheme in which all permits cost £5.00 each.

When this residents parking scheme was introduced around 10 years ago enforcement was undertaken by the Police Traffic Wardens so this element had no effect on Council resources. Cost of permits and administration was adequately covered by the £5.00 fee in order to ensure that the scheme was self-financing. However this fee has never been reviewed and following

decriminalisation of parking offences, and enforcement is now carried out by Council parking attendants.

The £5.00 permit fee no longer reflects the true cost of enforcement and administration of the scheme, which as mentioned previously is estimated to be £17.50 for the first permit. It is therefore recommended that colleagues in Streetpride's Parking Services review the costs associated with running the existing Wellgate residents parking zone and a report, is presented to a future Cabinet Member meeting.

8. Finance

The cost of introducing residents' parking controls in Eastwood South is estimated at £25000. Funding is available from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2007/08. Ongoing revenue costs of administration and enforcement of the scheme would be self financing through the permit system.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Some residents may still object to paying for permits to park on street, A traffic regulation order will have to be advertised which may result in further objections. Residents in the exiting Wellgate scheme may object to the permit charges being increased.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposals are in line with objectives set out in the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, and support the themes in the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

A quantitative paper-based questionnaire was distributed to 754 households in the Eastwood North Area, and 525 households in the Eastwood South Area at the end of April 2007. The survey was also made available on-line. The survey was also made available on-line. Residents were also given an opportunity to put forward their opinions in person at events held at the Eastwood Village Community Centre and The Unity Centre.

Statutory Consultations including the Police have also been undertaken and no objections were received.

Council minute Nos 166 of January 2006 and 157 of November 2006 refer to the original proposals to introduce Resident's Parking Schemes in Eastwood North and Eastwood South.

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