

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Hungerford High Street – Parent Parking Permits		
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Sally Hannon	on:	9 December 2004
Forward Plan Ref:	ID0896		

Purpose of Report:

To inform the Executive Member for Highways and Transportation of a proposal to introduce a parking permit unique to Hungerford High Street to enable parents to park while taking their children to and collecting them from Hungerford Primary School.

Recommended Action:

That the Portfolio Member for Highways and Transportation resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in section 3 of this report.

Reason for decision to be taken:

To encourage parents to park away from the school access and therefore promote road safety.

List of other options considered:

Not applicable.

Key background documentation:

- Report to Downlands Area Forum dated 28 September 2004 in response to a petition concerning parking in Hungerford High Street.
- Consultation letters to and replies from:
 - (i) Hungerford Town Council;
 - (ii) Ward Members;
 - (iii) Headteacher of Hungerford Primary School.

Portfolio Member:	Councillor Sally Hannon
Tel. No.:	01635 846855
E-mail Address:	sallyhannon@hotmail.com

Contact Officer Details

Name:	Martyn Baker
Job Title:	Car Parks Manager
Tel. No.:	01635 519211
E-mail Address:	mebaker@westberks.gov.uk

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 On 24 May 2004 new parking charges in the car parks outside Newbury came into effect. In Hungerford there was a dual effect because the new charges coincided with an increase in the hours of paid parking. Hitherto, the parking hours in Hungerford had operated from 9.00am to 5.00pm, which was anomalous to the rest of West Berkshire where the paid parking hours spanned 8.00 am to 6.00pm. The result of the review saw the introduction of uniform paid parking hours across West Berkshire. When the parking charges operated from 9.00am the parents arrived for an 8.45 am school start and parked free in Hungerford High Street as they had left the area by 9.00am, when parking charges used to commence. The change in the charging hours for parking in Hungerford High Street now has parking charges operating from 8.00am and parents have to pay to avoid incurring a parking ticket.
- 1.2 On 13 July 2004 a petition with 79 signatures from parents whose children attend the Hungerford Primary School in Fairview Road was submitted to the Downlands Area Forum The petitioners asked:
- “We, the undersigned, formally request West Berkshire Council to reconsider their revised charging times in the High Street, Hungerford to encourage a walk to school policy using a safe route. Please revise the parking times back to 9am to 5pm”.*
- 1.3 To promote road safety, Hungerford Primary School actively discourages parents from parking in the residential roads. Therefore, those parents who arrive by car before taking their children to the school use the pay and display bays, parking in Hungerford High Street. This is the closest designated parking area without going nearer to the school and congesting the neighbouring residential roads.
- 1.4 In response to the petition, and to promote the safety of children, parents of children attending Hungerford primary School were invited to apply for a permit enabling them to park in Hungerford High Street while dropping-off and collecting their children. To date some 20 Parent Parking Permits have been issued. Hungerford Primary School has assisted by endorsing the permit application form to confirm that the child is a pupil at the school. They have been temporarily issued on the basis that they are valid until the end of the current school year in July 2005 by which time the Traffic Regulation Order that covers parking at this location will be modified to provide the legal backing for this arrangement to become permanent.
- 1.5 The permits have been issued to alleviate an identified problem, but without any qualifying criteria to restrict the total number issued. To discourage the number of vehicles making school runs it is proposed that from September 2005, Parent Parking Permits for Hungerford High Street will only be issued to those parents who live beyond a one-mile radius of the school.
- 1.6 This scheme will operate solely in Hungerford High Street in order to alleviate a unique problem that has been identified. It is confined to the only section of highway the Council currently enforces and it will not be extended to any other areas of the district or to any of the car parks in Hungerford.
- 1.7 This proposal has the support of the Council’s Road Safety Team. They have indicated that if such a scheme was introduced they would endeavour to organise a “walking bus” to see the children safely to school.

2. Conclusions

- 2.1 The revised and recently introduced parking charges and paid parking hours operating in Hungerford High Street has adversely impacted upon parents who drive their children to school.
- 2.2 Parents have submitted a petition seeking the withdrawal of the new parking times in Hungerford, calling for them to revert to a 9.00am start time.
- 2.3 Having so recently introduced uniform paid parking hours across West Berkshire officers do not advise amending them again. However, in response, the Council has introduced a Parent Parking Permit to operate in the Hungerford High Street pay and display bays. The permits give sufficient time for parents to take their children to school and return to the vehicle. Consultation on the permit has been undertaken with Hungerford Town Council; Hungerford Ward Members; and the Headteacher of Hungerford Primary School.
- 2.4 The school has co-operated with the Council to introduce the permits.
- 2.5 The Parking Order for Hungerford High Street must now be advertised to propose an amendment to authorise the use of the permits.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Traffic Regulation Order for Hungerford High Street be revised to incorporate the issue of Parent Parking Permits;
- 3.2 That the revised Traffic Regulation Order be advertised;
- 3.3 That the Order be signed and sealed if there are no objections;
- 3.4 That if there are objections, these will be considered by the Portfolio Member for Highways and Transportation.

Appendices

None.

Implications

Policy:	None arising from this report.
Financial:	The cost of advertising the amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order is estimated to be some £1,000 and will be met from the Downlands Area Forum budget.
Personnel:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	The amendments to and the sealing of the Traffic Regulation Order will be undertaken by Legal Services.
Environmental:	The proposals within this report aim to reduce traffic levels and promote road safety in a sensitive area of Hungerford around the primary school.
Partnering:	None arising from this report.

Property:	None arising from this report.
Risk Management:	None arising from this report.
Community Safety:	None arising from this report.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Councillor Owen Jeffery is happy with the recommended action provided that the Ward Members support the proposals and the Portfolio Member for Highways and Transportation approves them.

Select Committee Chairmen: Councillor Brian Bedwell, Chairman of the Environment and Public Protection Select Committee, is happy with the recommended action provided that the Ward Members support the proposals and the Portfolio Member for Highways and Transportation approves them.

P&L Committee Chairman Not applicable.

Ward Members: Councillor Denise Gaines and Councillor James Mole support the proposals.

Opposition Spokesperson: Councillor Brian Bedwell is happy with the recommended action provided that the Ward Members support the proposals and the Portfolio Member for Highways and Transportation approves them.

Advisory Members: Not applicable.

Local Stakeholders: Hungerford Town Council supports the proposal.

The parents whose children attend Hungerford Primary School have asked for a parking provision to enable them to drop-off and collect their children.

The Headteacher of Hungerford Primary School supports the proposal.

All stakeholders will be further consulted as part of the statutory advertisement and consultation process for the revision of the Traffic Regulation Order.

Officers Consulted: John Ashworth, Mark Edwards, Mark Cole

Trade Union: Not applicable to this report.