

Individual Decision

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| Title of Report: | Parking Proposals, Stroud Green, Greenham | | |
| Report to be considered by: | Cllr. Keith Chopping | on: | 20 June 2005 |
| Forward Plan Ref: | ID0987 | | |

Purpose of Report:

To consider responses to the informal consultation and seek approval to progress the scheme.

Recommended Action:

That the portfolio member for Planning and Highways resolves that the scheme detailed on drawing no 81235/STROUD/02 be implemented subject to formal consultation with commoners and approval of the Secretary of State.

Reason for decision to be taken:

To progress with the scheme as detailed in the body of the report.

List of other options considered:

Not applicable.

Key background documentation:

- N/A

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| Portfolio Member: | Councillor Keith Chopping |
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Contact Officer Details

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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Stroud Green is an area of Common Land bounded by Greenham Road to the south and Racecourse Road to the north. Greenham Road is a residential distributor road that extends through the centre of Greenham linking Newbury town centre to Greenham Common.
- 1.2 The section of Greenham Road adjacent to Stroud Green is heavily parked throughout the day, mainly due to the presence of The Folly Public House, and the fact that a number of Greenham Road residential properties have no off street parking. The lack of parking also leads some residents and patrons of the pub to park on the Green.
- 1.3 A request was therefore received from Greenham Parish Council requesting the erection of bollards at the back of footway along the Greenham Road edge of Stroud Green to prevent parking.
- 1.4 Greenham Parish Council is concerned that the parking causes unsightly damage to the Green, and constitutes road safety hazard by driving along and over the footway onto the Green.
- 1.5 When considering the Parish's request Highways Officers expressed concern about the detrimental effect the loss of parking will have on residents with no off street parking, and that with no alternative some motorists may continue to park half on/half off the footway adjacent to the bollards, impeding pedestrians and further constricting the flow of traffic on the carriageway.
- 1.6 A proposal has therefore been devised as an integrated scheme to accommodate residents parking needs, and improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. The proposed scheme is illustrated on drawing no. 81235/stroud/2, and includes:
 - Providing a 15 car parking lay-by opposite properties with no off street parking,
 - Relocating the existing footway onto the Green removing any conflict between pedestrians and motorists,
 - Providing a 'buffer' for cyclists effectively creating a cycle lane on the carriageway along side the lay-by.
 - Double yellow lines at the allotment access to improve visibility and ease access/egress,
 - Removal of the existing footway (returning it to common land) and placing bollards at the back of kerb to prevent parking on the Green.
- 1.7 The proposed scheme has the approval of both the Parish Council and the Greenham Ward Members.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 Stakeholders and affected residents were consulted for a 4 week period during April 2005. In total 6 responses have been received to the consultation. The comments are generally supportive, and are detailed in annex 2, along with an Officers response.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Scheme Plan

Annex 2 – Consultation responses

Implications

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| Policy: | This scheme contributes to the corporate priorities of: (i) CP5 - Ensuring the street environment is clean, well maintained and safe (ii) CP8 - Improving transportation |
| Financial: | Cost - £60,000 This scheme has been identified in the Highways and Engineering Capital Programme for 2005/06 as part of the proposals resulting from the Greenham Transport study, and to be funded from developer contributions. |
| Personnel: | None arising from this report |
| Legal: | As the proposal involves construction on Common Land, the scheme will require consent from the Secretary of State under section 194 of the Law of Property Act, subject to the agreement of the commoners. An application will be made to the Secretary of State following consultation with the Commoners and approval of this report. |
| Environmental: | The proposal will constitute a significant environmental improvement for residents, pedestrians and cyclists in Greenham Road. |
| Equalities: | None arising from this report |
| Partnering: | None arising from this report |

Consultation Responses

Members:

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| Leader of Council: | Graham Jones has been consulted and has raised no objection to this report. |
| Select Committee Chairmen: | Quentin Webb has been consulted and has raised no objection to this report. |
| Ward Members: | Both West Berkshire Council Members representing the Greenham Ward have been consulted and are in favour of the scheme. |
| Opposition Spokesperson: | Owen Jeffrey has been consulted and has raised no objection to this report. |

Local Stakeholders:

The following have been consulted:

- Spokes – Response detailed in annex 2
- Greenham Parish Council – Favourable response
- Emergency Services – No response
- West Berkshire Disability Alliance – No response
- Local Residents of Greenham Road opposite Stroud Green.

A total of 4 responses have been received from residents of Greenham Road, 3 of which offered support for the scheme. All comments along with Officers response are detailed in annex 2.

Officers Consulted:

Bill Jennison – Head of Countryside & Environment
Mark Cole – Traffic Manager
Frances Fernandes – Team Leader Transport Policy

Trade Union:

N/A

Annex 2

Consultation Comments

| Stroud Green Parking Proposals, Greenham. | | |
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| Consultee | Comment | Officers Response |
| Spokes | Spokes support the principal of the scheme, however had some concern about constricting the available carriageway space for cyclists by providing parking on both sides of the road. | Following Spokes' suggestion a 'buffer' zone for cyclists has been included effectively creating a cycle lane, thus protecting cyclists from open car doors and manoeuvring vehicles. Further discussion will take place with cyclists at the design stage. |
| Parish Council | The parish council support the scheme. | |
| Local Resident | Support the scheme, however would like the lay-by to be reserved for residents only under the proposed residents parking scheme for the area. | It will not be possible to incorporate the proposed lay-by within the permit parking scheme, as the lay-by will be constructed on common land and will not form part of the Highway. (Parking restrictions cannot legally be enforced if they are not within the Highway boundary, and legislation does not exist to enable the Highway Authority to adopt common land). |
| Local Resident | Would like to see the proposed lay-by extended to the Folly Public house. | It is not the intention to provide parking for the pub, and residential properties in the area of the pub have off street parking. |
| Local Resident | Likes the idea of providing a lay-by for use by residents. | - |
| Local Resident | Supports the provision of bollards to prevent parking, however does not support the lay-by as they do not want their view of the Green spoilt by parked vehicles. | Presently vehicles park indiscriminately on the Green. The provision of bollards without a lay-by will disadvantage residents without off street parking and displace the parking to other sensitive areas. |