

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PLACE

REPORT TO CABINET HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

8 JULY 2010

NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL PERMIT PARKING SCHEME DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH AREA-WIDE SCHEME AT THIS TIME BUT TO CONTINUE DETAILED CONSULTATION ON NAMED STREETS

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 As a result of public requests, a consultation process has been undertaken in the areas around the Northern General Hospital to gauge the amount of general support for a permit parking scheme to tackle the effects of hospital staff parking on residential streets. The majority of respondents are not in favour of such a scheme. Four petitions of objection have been received from the residents of Cannon Hall Road, Hampton Road, Goddard Hall Road, Fir Vale Road, Crabtree Road, Crabtree Close, Crabtree Crescent; Idsworth Road; Fairbank Road, Edensor Road; and Bishopsholme Road, Edensor Road, Fairbank Road, Norwood Avenue.
- 1.2 The North East Community Assembly, at its meeting of 21 April 2010, supported the recommendation to the Cabinet Highways Committee to not proceed with the area-wide permit parking scheme at this time.
- 1.3 The North East Community Assembly also supported the recommendation to the Cabinet Highways Committee that further consultation with the residents of Crabtree Close, Fairbank Road, Norwood Road and Blythe Road be undertaken on detailed designs for street-specific traffic management schemes, with a view to the possible future implementation of such measures by means of a Traffic Regulation Order. The North East Community Assembly also added that before any plans are introduced, further consultation is taken with the residents of the streets surrounding those specified.
- 1.4 The North East Community Assembly also requested that officers and the Resident Liaison Group continue to request the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to consider the problems caused by car parking in areas surrounding the Hospital more seriously, putting particular emphasis on the requirement for improved car parking within the hospital grounds.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE PEOPLE OF SHEFFIELD

- 2.1 Residents and businesses around the Northern General Hospital maintain the ability to park on-street without charge but the effects of hospital staff and visitor parking remain unchecked.
- 2.2 The process involved in consulting on the permit parking scheme supports the 'City of Opportunity' objectives of communities having a greater voice and more control over services which are focussed on the needs of individual customers. Our open, honest and transparent way of working with local residents has increased confidence in our consultation processes.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 The outcome of not proceeding with the proposed area-wide permit parking scheme at this time, is the loss of possible improvements in street environment and congestion from reducing some private car commuting by hospital staff and visitors.
- 3.2 The outcome of promoting measures on specific streets is the localised benefit of available parking spaces to some residents but the possible transfer of parking problems to nearby streets.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 From 2002 onwards, the City Council has been delivering a programme of Permit Parking Schemes (PPS) around the periphery of the city centre to help local residents to park outside their homes, help local businesses and improve the local environment by reducing the amount of commuter parking taking place.
- 4.2 Residents have made the Council aware of their concerns about localised parking problems caused by large numbers of vehicles parking in residential streets around major traffic generators such as football stadiums and hospitals. On 13th May 2009, Cabinet approved the 2009/10 Local Transport Plan Capital Allocations Report which included the expansion of the PPS programme and the allocation of £25,000 for the development of a permit parking scheme in the area around the Northern General Hospital.
- 4.3 Due to a resolution of the Culture, Economy and Sustainability Scrutiny and Policy Development Board of 4 Nov 2008 to raise the priority of the scheme, its consultation exercise was brought forward in the programme to begin in December 2009.
- 4.4 The residents and businesses in the streets surrounding the hospital (split into four areas) were consulted via an explanatory leaflet and postcard questionnaire between 18 December 2009 and 31 January 2010. A plan showing the area covered is included in Appendix A. A total of 2629 postcards were delivered and 465 (18%) returned.
- 4.5 Overall, the majority of people who replied said they had a parking problem (70%). These problems were almost entirely experienced during the period of the working day.
- 4.6 A similar overall majority thought a permit scheme was not the answer to the parking problem (60%). The main reasons given were that respondents were reluctant to pay the permit fee and felt it was the hospital's duty to sort out the problem.
- 4.7 However, a detailed analysis of results has indicated a wish from residents for action on a small number of individual streets. These streets are:

Crabtree Close
Fairbank Road
Norwood Road
Blyde Road

4.8 The nature of the solution for these streets is likely to be a mixture of pay and display parking, yellow line restrictions or a small area permit scheme.

5.0 PETITIONS

5.1 Four petitions were received from:

- 1) Lead petitioner of Hampton Road.
The petition was received by the Council at its meeting on 3 February 2010 and was reported to the Cabinet Highways Committee of 11 March 2010. The petition, from 144 signatories, very strongly disagrees with the proposed permit parking scheme.
- 2) Lead petitioner of Idsworth Road.
The petition was reported to the Cabinet Highways Committee of 11 February 2010. The petition, from 26 signatories, objects to the proposed permit parking scheme.
- 3) Lead petitioner of Fairbank Road.
The petition, from 61 signatories, objects to the proposed permit parking scheme.
- 4) Lead petitioner of Norwood Avenue.
The petition, from 214 signatories, objects to Sheffield City Council making residents pay for parking on Norwood and surrounding areas. The petition also calls for a number of actions by the Northern General Hospital and a number of additional road maintenance actions by Sheffield City Council.

6.0 DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSION

6.1 The consultation has stressed from the very beginning that the proposed scheme came about due to public requests and would only be promoted with the support of the local population. The local population has made it clear, through the consultation process, that they do not support the scheme.

6.2 A small number of residents in the area have campaigned for a permit scheme for many years and will be disappointed at anything less.

6.3 On the basis of survey results that show little local support for the proposed area-wide parking scheme (including four petitions of objection), it is recommended to not proceed with the area-wide permit parking scheme around the Northern General Hospital at this time. This position is supported by the North East Community Assembly.

6.4 Residents of some streets still want action to be taken on parking problems. Therefore it is proposed that the residents of Crabtree Close, Fairbank Road, Norwood Road and Blyde Road are consulted on detailed designs for street-specific traffic management measures, with a view to eventual implementation by means of a traffic regulation order. Measures on the named streets are

likely to have an impact on neighbouring streets, so their residents will also be consulted at the same time. This position is also supported by the North East Community Assembly.

- 6.5 At the North East Community Assembly's request, officers and the Resident Liaison Group will continue to ask the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to consider the problems caused by car parking in areas surrounding the Hospital more seriously, putting particular emphasis on the requirement for improved car parking within the Northern General Hospital's grounds.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Northern General Hospital was awarded planning consent for a multi-storey staff/ visitor car park in November 2008. Consent was given with a provisional Section 106 condition that the NHS Trust would contribute £150,000 to the capital set-up costs of traffic management measures in the surrounding area. This condition was under discussion when officers from the NHS Trust advised the Northern General Hospital Resident Liaison Group Meeting on 3 June 2010 that the Trust had abandoned this proposal for financial reasons and withdrawn its planning application. The Trust is now pursuing more modest on-site parking improvements.

- 7.2 The proposed permit parking scheme has an allocation of £135,000 in 2010/11 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme. If the scheme does not proceed at this time, these funds will be redirected into other city wide schemes in the programme. Recognising the possibility that some permit parking schemes would fall at consultation stage, other schemes have been identified to make use of these funds.

8.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted and concludes that the policy is equality neutral.

9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Noise, emissions and congestion from hospital staff and visitor private car commuting remains unchecked.

10.0 PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Not to proceed with an area-wide permit parking scheme around the Northern General Hospital at this time.

- 11.2 To consult the residents of Crabtree Close, Fairbank Road, Norwood Road, Blyde Road and surrounding streets on detailed designs for traffic management/ parking measures appropriate to those locations.

- 11.3 The Council uses all its efforts to ensure the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust improves on-site parking at the Northern General Hospital as soon as possible.
- 11.4 Council officers continue to work with the management of the Northern General Hospital to reduce the traffic impact of staff and visitors on local residents.

Simon Green
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29 June 2010