

Local Members Interest	

NEWCASTLE JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE

22 OCTOBER 2012

REPORTING OF PARKING SURVEY FOR PARKSTONE AVENUE, NEWCASTLE

Recommendations of the Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive

That the Newcastle Joint Parking Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report
2. Consider and support the recommendations of this report

Report of Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive

Reasons for Recommendations

3. To report to the Committee the details of a parking survey undertaken along Parkstone Avenue.

Background

4. Members of the Committee will recall that restrictions were implemented in January 2011 along The Avenue and adjacent streets as a response to deal with parking by visitors to and/or workers in the nearby hospital.
5. Subsequent to the scheme being implemented a petition was received signed by 69 residents of Parkstone Avenue on 13 April (covering letter dated 4 April) requesting that consideration is given to imposing parking restrictions on Parkstone Avenue due to the parking displacement the residents report occurred following the new restrictions being implemented.
6. Following receipt of this petition the parking within Parkstone Avenue, between the junctions of The Avenue and Stubbsfield Road, was monitored for a period of one week.
7. Members will recall that the verbal report to the Committee meeting of 6 June 2011 confirmed that no major concerns had been observed during this observation period.

8. In July and August further representations in writing have been made by four residents highlighting concerns they have regarding parked vehicles in Parkstone Avenue following which a further parking survey was carried out .
9. The survey was done on a daily (weekday) basis from the morning of Wednesday 5 September to the afternoon of Wednesday 12 September with observation times in the morning, generally between 7.30am and 9.00am and the afternoon between 3.30pm and 5.30pm.
10. Notes made regarding parking conditions during this monitoring period were as follows:
 - (a) All day parking was carried out by 4 regular vehicles identified not to be residents.
 - (b) Parking levels in the afternoon numbered between 4 and 8 and, whilst unable to verify the reason the additional afternoon drivers are present we believe they were most likely visiting the hospital (with afternoon visiting times generally of 3.00pm to 4.30pm). Observed leaving times of some vehicles were from 4.45pm to 5.40pm further suggesting these were visitors to the hospital.
 - (c) Two residents parked their own vehicles outside their property every morning of the survey but were not parked on the highway for the afternoon observation.
 - (d) Two vehicles driven by carers visiting one resident were observed every morning at around 8.15am but had no problem parking outside the property they were visiting.
 - (e) In general vehicles were not observed parking partially on the footway with only one occurrence during the survey period where a vehicle was noted in the afternoon of 10 September parked opposite the Stubbsfield Road junction partially on the footway.
 - (f) No parking observed caused obstruction to residents' driveways except one incident where a visitor to one resident parked across the drive of a neighbour.
 - (g) One resident placed a traffic cone every morning of the survey period outside their property. This cone was not observed on any afternoon of the survey period.
 - (h) Congestion during school drop off and pick up times is as would be expected near to a school with Sixth Form pupils with their own vehicles as well as parental vehicles. However as long as drivers were reasonable and gave way as necessary the congestion was not a cause for concern and was no different than that experienced in the vicinity of the majority of schools. The afternoon congestion was generally clear within 30 minutes of the school closing time. Due to the nature of the morning dropping off process (i.e. spread over a longer period) the congestion in the mornings was lower.
11. The conclusions at the completion of the survey are:
 - (a) That the number of vehicles parking on the section of Parkstone Avenue, between The Avenue and Stubbsfield Road junctions, is minimal and that

there is no justification for prioritising this location over others on the list currently.

- (b) That due to the limited parking observed there is no justification for parking restrictions to be implemented purely based on the number of parked vehicles.

12. The recommendation is therefore to leave the location on the list of locations to be prioritised for consideration for further investigation at a future opportunity, as considered appropriate by the Joint Parking Committee.

Equalities Implications

This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on Equal Opportunities.

Legal Implications

There are no significant legal implications arising out of this report.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

There are no implications arising out of this report

Risk Implications

There are no significant risks arising out of this report.

Climate Change Implications

There are no Climate Change implications arising from this report.