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| Report to: | Licensing and Regulatory Committee | Date of Meeting: | Mon, 1 November 2021 |
| Subject: | Receipt of Petition - Crosby seafront parking | | |
| Report of: | Head of Highways and Public Protection | Wards Affected: | Church; |
| Portfolio: | | | |
| Is this a Key Decision: | No | Included in Forward Plan: | No |
| Exempt / Confidential Report: | No | | |

Summary:

To report the receipt of a petition from residents of Marine Terrace, Marine Crescent and Bath Street, Waterloo, in which they request the implementation of a Residents' Privileged Parking scheme.

Recommendation(s):

That Licensing & Regulatory Committee note the receipt of the petition and request the Coast Member Reference Group to consider the request as part of a wider strategy for coastal parking.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Licensing and Regulatory Committee have powers to consider the details of petitions and refer requests and recommendations to relevant Committees or Cabinet Members.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue costs associated with this report

(B) Capital Costs

There are no Capital cost associated with this report

Implications of the Proposals:

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|---|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|---|---|
| Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): There are no resource implications associated with this report. | | | | | | | | |
| Legal Implications: There are no legal implications associated with this report. | | | | | | | | |
| Equality Implications: There are no equality implications. | | | | | | | | |
| Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will <table border="1"><tr><td>Have a positive impact</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>Have a neutral impact</td><td>Y</td></tr><tr><td>Have a negative impact</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td><td>Y</td></tr></table> This report seeks to inform Members of the receipt of a petition. It does not include any Climate Change implications, positive or negative. | Have a positive impact | N | Have a neutral impact | Y | Have a negative impact | N | The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors | Y |
| Have a positive impact | N | | | | | | | |
| Have a neutral impact | Y | | | | | | | |
| Have a negative impact | N | | | | | | | |
| The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors | Y | | | | | | | |

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

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|--|
| Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable |
| Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable |
| Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable |
| Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable |
| Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable |
| Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable |
| Greater income for social investment: Not applicable |
| Cleaner Greener: Not applicable |

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6573/21.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4775/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

None

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|
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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A petition has been submitted to officers from residents in the 'Seafront Roads' of Waterloo regarding parking in the area.
- 1.2 The petition was initially presented to one of the Church Ward Members and includes a covering letter describing the petitioners' concerns, a spreadsheet showing properties surveyed with residents' contact details and comments, and a sample of the returned questionnaire.
- 1.3 A copy of the covering letter, with the lead petitions details redacted, and a copy of the questionnaire are attached as Annexes A & B. The spreadsheet containing residents' details are not included for confidentiality reasons.

2.0 Details of petition

- 2.1 As can be seen from Annex B, the organiser of the petition sought support for the following statement and answers to two questions :-

As residents of Marine Terrace or Marine Crescent we are seriously affected by the significant parking difficulties from a substantially increased volume of visitor traffic (making it often impossible to park outside or even close to our homes in daylight hours), with associated problems relating to traffic movement, littering, increased pedestrian footfall and anti-social behaviour.

I/we would support the introduction of a limited residents' parking scheme on the property side of the seafront roads of Marine Terrace/Marine Crescent

I/we have no objection to pay a charge in line with other local parking schemes/ would only support a free residents parking scheme.

- 2.2 A total of 58 properties on Marine Terrace, Bath Street and Marine Crescent were surveyed, with 40 responses being noted.
- 2.3 Out of the 40 responses, 38 residents supported the introduction of a residents' privileged parking scheme (RPP), of which 31 residents were willing to pay for the permits.

3.0 Discussion

- 3.1 Members will be aware that in 2011, as a consequence of significantly reduced resources, the then, Cabinet Member, Transportation resolved that no new Residents Privileged Parking schemes would be introduced in the Borough unless they were funded from 'other resources', for example, paid for by new developments. This is outlined in the extract below from the minutes of the 8 July 2011 meeting, where it was approved that:

'In view of the continued reduction in budgets and consequent reduction in staff resources it will not be possible to progress with the consideration of the outstanding requests for RPP schemes.

The only exception to the above principle would be where a new development or significant change to an existing development will result in a change in demand for on-street parking in a residential area or where funds are available from sources other than the traffic management revenue budget to pay for the introduction of such a scheme'.

- 3.2 In October 2019, this resolution was further ratified when Cabinet Member – Locality Services approved a policy in relation to the introduction of new Traffic Regulation Orders relating to waiting restrictions in the Borough. The policy outlines specific criteria which must be met regarding the introduction of waiting restrictions at a location and include the following taken from the policy:

'Waiting restrictions will not be progressed :- To remove or displace parking by non-residents outside residential properties unless carried out as part of a Planning Condition and funded by a developer, or promoted by Ward Members' and funded by Ward budgets. All new schemes promoted by Ward Members will be progressed in strict chronological order, as quickly as remaining staff resources allow'.

- 3.3 The ability to fund small scale RPP schemes from Ward budgets has created a back-log within the Highway Safety Team, following the compulsory redundancy of two of its officers in December 2019, and currently the waiting list for the progression of schemes stretches to Summer 2023.
- 3.4 Contained on the list is an area of Waterloo, behind Marine Crescent, which includes Albert Road, Canning Street, East Street, Mason Street & Duke Street. This was added to the list in June 2021 at the request of Church Ward Members, due to parking associated with shoppers and the night-time economy of South Road.
- 3.5 A similar area behind Marine Terrace, has recently been requested by one of the Church Ward Members, but funding for this has yet to be agreed with the other two Church Ward Members. The area includes Dean Street, Deacon Close, Deacon Court, Wesley Street, Church Road, Prince Street, Queen Street, York Street and Bath Street. As with the area outlined in the previous paragraph, parking is associated with shoppers and the night-time economy of South Road. If Church Ward Members agree to funding, it is anticipated that consultation on this scheme would be progressed in Spring 2024.
- 3.6 Whilst the two areas discussed above suffers from parking associated with South Road shops and restaurants, the 'seafront area', as described by the petitioner, suffers mainly from parking associated with Crosby Marine Park and the Iron Men. This has been exacerbated quite dramatically during lockdowns associated with Covid-19 and has resulted in complaints from residents in all roads adjoining Crosby Marine Park, not just the two mentioned in the petition, as well as roads in Blundellsands, Formby and Ainsdale.
- 3.7 Members will appreciate that introducing restrictions on one or two roads will simply exacerbate problems on adjoining roads. Any scheme aimed at controlling

visitor parking must be looked at in an holistic manner, and should not be provided in isolation to the detriment of adjoining residents and Wards.

- 3.8 As a result of this influx of visitors, and associated parking on the entire length of Sefton's coast, the Coast Member Reference Group, comprising Cabinet Members, has been established and will be looking into ways of improving facilities for visitors in relation to the Iron Men, Formby Pinewoods and Ainsdale beach and this may include visitor hubs being developed at key locations along the coast. This could include extended car parks, improved signage, visitor centres and possible resident parking. This, however, is a medium to long term aspiration and would be dependent upon suitable grants from either the Liverpool City Region or Central Government being available.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Whilst it is accepted that residents in Marine Terrace and Marine Crescent are experiencing difficulties with visitor parking, the same can be said for Brunswick Parade, Adelaide Terrace, Beach Lawn and all other seafront roads in Waterloo, Bludellsands, Formby and Ainsdale. It is only fair that residents in all of these roads are treated in a fair and equitable manner through the progression of a Borough-wide package of mitigation measures.
- 4.2 As a result, it is recommended that the petition and the residents' comments are forwarded to the Coast Member Reference Group for their consideration.

Dear Councillor Cummins, Veidmann and Webster

Re Parking on Seafront Roads, Waterloo

We are writing on behalf of the residents of Marine Crescent and Marine Terrace, L22, two of the residential streets in the Waterloo seafront heritage and conservation area. Our concern arises from the car parking blight that is increasingly affecting the use of our homes, a position which has deteriorated in the past 18 months and does not appear to be getting any better as the country has moved out of lockdown.

The problem in simple terms arises from the fact that Sefton Council, quite rightly, has promoted the coastal park as one of its principal attractions, and the gateway to the series of paths, coastal walks, events, and of course the beach attractions including the Gormley statues lie within a stones' throw for many of us, at the bottom of South Road. This has had the effect of drawing in thousands of visitors from not just Liverpool but all over the North West on a weekly basis, most of whom choose to drive into the area, and with limited (paid for) parking available, which is poorly signposted in any event, visiting drivers park their vehicles in front of the residential properties on both sides of the road taking spaces whenever they appear. The problem begins at about 9.30 in the morning and continues most of the day into the evening often after 9pm because of the additional pull of the bars and restaurants on South Road, where parking is also limited.

As a consequence, as local residents, if we leave our homes (in circumstances where we have been able to obtain on street parking outside our houses) to take children to school, go to work, or shopping or hospital appointments etc. there is little or no prospect of recovering a local parking spot on return. This is not simply a case of having to walk a few metres further down the road, but for many it means having to find an on-street parking spot sometimes up to 200 metres or more from the front door, causing residents in Marine Crescent to park in Adelaide Terrace, or in Marine Terrace in Bath Street or even round the corner in Great Georges Road, which is now even more restricted because of cycle lanes. You can imagine the difficulty this causes parents of young children, or those with heavy shopping to carry. More elderly residents who might not otherwise qualify for mobility support have particular problems. The additional security of having a vehicle outside a home in case of emergency or if a car alarm were to go off is also lost.

For residents who are unlucky enough to have visitors parking outside who have chosen to make a day of it, it is a common experience to be disturbed by loud shouting and merriment late in the evening as revellers return from the bars in South Road and decide to have noisy and raucous conversations outside our private houses. Another frequently experienced problem is the group returning from the beach and depositing soiled nappies, baby wipes, picnic remnants or polystyrene takeaway cartons and the general detritus of the day in the gutter or on the kerb, rather than take it home in the car. We are fortunate enough to have good spirited neighbours and residents who will do the litter pick themselves, rather than depend upon the next local authority sweep up, but it is antisocial behaviour which should not be experienced outside our homes.

The problem is most acute on warm sunny days, and has been particularly intense recently with the Waterloo Festival and the funfair during the school holidays. Visitors are vying for spaces from about 11 o'clock in the morning.

We had discussed this issue with the local residents' action group (SRAG) and are aware that several years ago a survey was conducted of its membership which included not just Marine Crescent and Marine Terrace, but all the streets facing the coastal park, and many are adjoining the streets. The results of this survey indicated that not all residents were equally affected by the parking issues as many residents, such as those in the adjoining streets not directly on the seafront, had their own off-street parking including driveways, accessible garages et cetera.

Accordingly, the residents most affected (i.e. those on Marine Crescent and Marine Terrace) asked us to move forward with this, and we commissioned a specific local survey delivered to the households in Marine Crescent, Marine Terrace and Bath Street (behind Marine Terrace) only. You will see from the attached questionnaire which was delivered to households the specific issue which we asked them to address, namely whether or not there would be support for a local paid for parking scheme. The vast majority of residents returned the questionnaire, and it is clear from the results that all but two residents would support the introduction of a paid scheme for residents parking on one side of the road, which would allow them to have a reasonable expectation of on street parking close to their own homes. These schemes are in existence in many areas of Waterloo and Crosby and all within the gift of the council.

We strongly believe that such a scheme would be low-cost or self-funding, and would not require extensive street furniture or road markings. Anecdotally, we can report that many visitors on speaking to residents are surprised that there is not a residents parking scheme already in existence, and are delighted to be able to take advantage of parking near to the entrance to the coastal park without having to pay even the extremely modest cost of parking in a council car park. Those who arrive on our streets looking for parking often do so following satellite navigation directions, and there is no doubt that there is very poor signage for the pay-and-display car parks in any event.

In the circumstances, we are asking you to make representations on our behalf to pursue a localised residents parking scheme, or at the very least provide/assist us with a process whereby we can consult with officers of the council ourselves for the implementation of such a scheme, which we are willing to pay for. This problem has become so serious for many residents that some are considering moving away from the area. As you are aware this beautiful heritage seafront faces a number of challenges because of the exponential increase in footfall, one of which is greater antisocial behaviour which has led to the need for limited local enforcement orders. We believe that the matter has been compounded by the extensive access which has been afforded to vehicular traffic without any consideration being given to those who live in the area, and those most affected. We are required to preserve our heritage properties with significant planning limitations which prevent things such as the creation of hard standings for parking, and of course maintaining our properties in a style that is subject to strict conservation requirements in order to ensure that the seafront remains an attraction to visitors. However, it often feels we get very little in return.

Therefore, please find enclosed (1) a copy of the questionnaire sent out and (2) a tabular summary of the responses. We have retained the completed questionnaires, and can copy and forward these if necessary on request.

Yours sincerely

Dear Neighbour,

Several local concerned residents have been discussing the present parking issues for Marine Terrace and Marine Crescent, particular those closest to South Road. Whilst the volume of traffic and number of visitors is undoubtedly contributed to by pandemic lockdown restrictions and the fact that Crosby Coastal Park is an obvious attraction for locals and those outside the area alike, there is a growing consensus that the present situation is becoming intolerable. In addition to the fact that on a warm or sunny day, the sheer number of cars choosing on street parking, rather than Pay and display means that any resident who returns to his/her home from about midday onwards would most likely be unable to park within 200 metres of their home (there are accounts of parents with young children and shopping being unable to find any space in either the Crescent or the Terrace and having to park in one of the adjacent side streets) problems which are endemic include anti-social behaviour on people returning to vehicles, litter discarded at the kerbside, and poor driving (excessive speeds, double parking whilst waiting for a space being but two examples).

About two years the local resident action group (SRAG) carried out a survey of all its membership which covered not only Marine Terrace and Marine Crescent but also several surrounding areas including many with off street parking. There was insufficient support to move forward with representations to the council for a residents' parking schemes. The executive committee, having recently received representations on the problem has agreed that it would not step in the way of a smaller group of those interested and affected by the growing problem from conducting a further survey/petition, and if appropriate making its own representations for a limited residents' parking restricted area, hopefully with the support of local councillors.

Attached to this letter is a response form. If you feel that you are affected and would like to support residents' parking for Marine Crescent and Marine Terrace we would be grateful if you could sign and return the enclosed to:

(if Marine Crescent) by post/hand delivery to, post code L22
or scanned and emailed to

(if Marine Terrace) by post/hand delivery to no...Marine Terrace, post code L22
or scanned and emailed to

RESIDENTS PARKING PETITION

As residents of Marine Terrace or Marine Crescent we are seriously affected by the significant parking difficulties from a substantially increased volume of visitor traffic (making it often impossible to park outside or even close to our homes in daylight hours), with associated problems relating to traffic movement, littering, increased pedestrian footfall and anti-social behaviour.

Name:

Address:

E mail address:

Telephone number :

I /we would support the introduction of a limited residents' parking scheme on the property side of the seafront roads of Marine Terrace/Marine Crescent

I /we have no objection to pay a charge in line with other local parking schemes/ would only support a free residents parking scheme.*

Signed.....(1)

.....(2)

*Delete as appropriate