

Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Supplementary agenda no. 1

A meeting of the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on:

Date: 29 March 2016

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Meeting Room 2 - Level 3, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR

Items

5 Petitions

(Pages
3 - 6)

Paragraph 5 of the report concerns a petition – to remove double yellow lines in Roosevelt Avenue, Chatham and replace them with a single yellow line – that has been referred to the Committee. Attached is Appendix 1 to the report which contains additional information from the organiser of the petition for the Committee's consideration.

For further information please contact Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer on Telephone: 01634 332012 or Email: democratic.services@medway.gov.uk

Date: 22 March 2016



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বাংলা	331780	ગુજરાતી	331782	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	331784	كوردی	331841	ارو	331785	Русский	332374
中文	331781	हिंदी	331783	Polski	332373	এহুশফদ	331786	فارسی	331840	Lietuviškai	332372

Appendix 1

Roosevelt Ave – Petition Requesting Amendments to Parking Restrictions

Introduction

This petition has been signed by a large majority of the residents of Roosevelt Ave and we have summarised below the reasons behind their support.

History:

A consultation between residents and local councillors was initiated back in 2012 we believe to try to solve the problem of inconsiderate parking by footballers using the facilities on the Coney Banks on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Before this proposal councillors had already assisted with this same weekend parking issue by arranging for the installation of attractive bollards to protect grassed areas that were being destroyed. This second proposed scheme initially suggested the implementation of a single yellow line on the north side of the road in order to allow for enforcement on those parking inconsiderately on the pavements. Later this was amended somehow to include additional double yellow lines in areas on the north side previously used for parking. The scheme as a whole received good support. However the addition of the double yellow lines has led to reduced parking opportunity in this road and inconvenience all week for residents.

We hope to convince you that the introduction of these double yellow lines:

Was excessive in dealing with the issue affecting the area at only limited hours during the weekend.

Are not wanted by local residents.

Have been unfair in reducing parking opportunities.

Would have no effect on road safety whatsoever by their removal.

The petition

We canvassed the opinion of all our neighbours as to their attitude to the double yellow lines. It is hopefully clear from the overwhelming support that we had that these lines are considered excessive in dealing with a problem that occurs only during two relatively short weekend sessions during the autumn\winter months when visitors to the nearby recreation ground use the area for parking.

Obviously a petition itself may not be enough to change this situation if there are compelling reasons to keep it but we believe that there are no other road safety issues beyond that which have been taken care of by the single yellow line weekend restrictions.

Are they required

We have lived in Roosevelt Avenue for 15 years and until the yellow lines, residents parked in these bays with no damage and without causing any obstruction to passing traffic. We knew the previous

occupants of our home who also parked here with no problems and presumably this has been the case for all previous occupants of houses in the area. We are also led to understand that there have been no traffic incidents at all in the road on record.

We use Roosevelt Ave on a daily basis and we have never had a single occasion when there has been any difficulty in passing a car travelling in the opposite direction. This road is straight with a clear unimpeded view of oncoming traffic. This is also a very quiet access road with low density housing used almost exclusively by local residents in Roosevelt Ave, Ironside Close and Cunningham Crescent. There is an opportunity to wait at the ends of the section to allow cars to pass safely and there are also always gaps in parked cars to allow for passing. It is also just possible to pass without requiring any egress off the road. There is no land for building more houses in the areas and therefore traffic is never likely to increase in any significant way.

In an unscientific survey we counted the cars at what you might call rush hour one morning. There were 63 traffic movements. Seven of these required vehicles to pass each other and not a single one actually used the areas with the double yellow lines to do this.

Later the same day at 1pm we counted 23 cars passing in a set hour with actually not one incident of vehicles needing to pass each other at all.

We are not aware that any official survey of traffic flow here has been undertaken.

This is the kind of road that Roosevelt Avenue is. There is no difficulty in passing and absolutely no danger for road users. If this was a problem that local people felt was a safety concern then it would've been brought up as an issue during the original consultation or subsequent residents' meetings...this has not been the case. The issue was only with visitors to the recreation ground parking inconsiderately on pavements for a few hours on Saturdays and Sundays. The recent petition clearly shows a vast majority of those living here would like to see the lines replaced with a single yellow line which will allow the remit of the original consultation to be fulfilled without causing unnecessary difficulty the rest of the week.

There are many routes in the Medway Towns that are "constrained" either because of width or because of cars parked on both sides. These are often much busier than Roosevelt Ave and many do actually have some issues with cars passing each other. We presume that similar restrictions are not enforced in all these other areas because a lot of credit has to be given to drivers' common sense, because accident rates are actually low and also because residents would object to reduced parking opportunities. It can't be right to have these all week long restrictions placed on Roosevelt Avenue to deal with a traffic issue that only occurs for a few hours of that week.

Is it Fair

The houses fronting the bays with double yellow lines have no parking opposite unlike most other homes in the road and there are no opportunities for off road parking or garages due to the restricted length of our front gardens. Placing the restriction without providing replacement parking has seemed very unfair to those of us most immediately affected. Our opportunity to stop near our home on a road with housing only on one side which should be easy is now a competition with neighbours. If there was some compelling reason for this, accidents, complaints from drivers or residents then we might understand but without any of these the double yellow lines are just unnecessary "overkill".

Summary

1. The original scheme was to assist with inconsiderate parking at weekends by visiting footballers, the double yellow lines are considered excessive and go beyond the remit of resolving the original issue.
2. The petition we have produced show that a vast majority of residents support the removal of the double yellow lines.
3. No consideration appears to have been given as to the status and usage of this road. Roosevelt Ave is a very quiet back road with little traffic and with no reported accidents, incidents or complaints regarding vehicle movements. There is no empirical case for them and they are not supported by residents. Many other far busier roads in Medway that perhaps have a greater case for designated passing places do not. Even then, in the most part traffic flow is maintained due to the courtesy and common sense of drivers.
4. There has been the custom of parking in the bays going back decades without any inconvenience being caused.
5. The double yellow lines have caused significant and unnecessary difficulty by removing parking opportunities without replacing the lost places and do nothing to improve upon the success of the limited restriction single yellow line in dealing with a problem that only occurs for a few hours on weekends.

We hope these arguments all makes logical sense and will persuade you that a single yellow line in the bays instead of the double yellow lines will continue to provide clear traffic flow at weekends, remove the inconvenience for residents the rest of the week and not contribute to any difficulties or danger to motorists.

Thanks very much for your time

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