

WARDS: Wollaston and Stourbridge Town

AGENDA ITEM NO.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE – 12TH JULY, 2004

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

BELFRY DRIVE, WOLLASTON, STOURBRIDGE:
PROPOSED WAITING PROHIBITIONS

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Area Committee's support for the introduction of prohibited waiting in sections of Belfry Drive, Wollaston.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Residents of Belfry Drive and Vestry Court, Wollaston, sent a petition to your Area Committee informing Members that parking by shoppers, shop workers and office workers obstructs the public highway and could prevent the passage of emergency service vehicles in the event of an emergency arising. Stourbridge's Member of Parliament has also requested that waiting restrictions be introduced in Belfry Drive, so that residents can drive to and from their homes.
- 2.2 Site observations indicate that daytime, evening and weekend parking in Belfry Drive can obstruct the public highway.

- 2.3 Accordingly, it is now proposed that waiting prohibitions (double yellow lines) be introduced in sections of Belfry Drive and Vestry Court.
- 2.4 Consultation
- 2.4.1 The advertised proposals were for long lengths of waiting prohibitions and sections of 2 hours limited waiting, 10am to 4pm. Monday to Friday.
- 2.4.2 The original proposals were published in the “Express and Star” newspaper on 4th February 2004, and advertised on-street between 4th February and 1st March 2004.
- 2.4.3 Details of the original proposals were sent to the Police on 31st December 2003. On both 13th January and 9th February 2004, the Police stated their support for the proposals.
- 2.4.4 Letters and plans detailing the original proposals were sent to the 3 Ward Members on 9th February. The Ward Councillors indicated their general support, and then consulted their constituents.
- 2.4.5 However, during the consultation period, the view of the majority of residents was that, if both the longer length of double yellow lines and the limited waiting were introduced, then non-residents might choose to park obstructively further along, in the more vulnerable cul-de-sac extremities of Belfry Drive and Vestry Court.
- 2.4.6 Following that consultation exercise, an evening public meeting was held on 30th March 2004 in St James’s Church Hall, Belfry Drive.

2.4.7 Because of residents' concerns regarding displacement of parking, the conclusion of the public meeting was that:

- (1) Double yellow lines should not extend into the cul-de-sac section of Belfry Drive and Vestry Court.
- (2) The scheme should not include sections of limited waiting, so that car parking by non-residents would not be encouraged to extend into the cul-de-sac extremities of these streets.

2.5 Correspondence and Objections

2.5.1 The original petition containing 57 signatures, requested the advertised scheme of prohibited waiting and limited waiting.

2.5.2 During the advertisement period, the following correspondence was received:-

- (1) One letter of support for the advertised proposals.
- (2) Two letters and a petition supporting the proposal for prohibited waiting, but objecting to the proposal for limited waiting.
- (3) One letter from correspondents who suggest that the limited waiting should not be introduced, and the proposed double yellow lines should only run between Bridgnorth Road and Liddiard Court.
- (4) One letter supporting waiting prohibitions on both sides of Belfry Drive for a distance of 15 metres from Bridgnorth Road. Other correspondence was also received outside the advertisement period.

2.5.3 As can be seen, there are a number of opposing viewpoints. Opinions, both spoken and in writing, were also presented at the 30th March public meeting. Again, there was both support for, and opposition to, the advertised proposals.

2.6 Conclusion

2.6.1 In view of the variety of opinion expressed, and the agreement which was reached at the evening meeting attended by Ward Members and residents, it is recommended that:

- (1) No limited waiting be introduced in Belfry Drive.
- (2) The proposals for waiting prohibitions be shortened, so that they do not extend so far into the cul-de-sac section of Belfry Drive.

2.7 Sustainable Transport

The introduction of the proposals could encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport.

3.0 PROPOSAL

3.1 That, having considered the comments made by objectors and correspondents, Area Committee supports the introduction of the prohibited waiting scheme shown in the attached drawing and detailed in Appendix A.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1 Funds to implement the introduction of waiting prohibitions in Belfry Drive and Vestry Court, estimated at £400, are available in the current Highways Capital Budget.

5.0 LAW

- 5.1 Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 The proposals contained within this report comply with the Council's Policy regarding Equal Opportunities.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That Members support the proposals in Paragraph 3.0 of this report.

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J. B. MILLAR – DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Contact Officer: PETER VAN GEERSDAELE EXT: 5437

Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

08/12/03 Letter from MP
31/12/03 Letter to Police

13/12/03 Letter from Police
16/01/04 Letter from member of public
21/01/04 Letter from member of public
30/01/04 Letter from member of public
31/01/04 Letter from member of public
04/02/04 Letter from member of public
09/02/04 Letter to 3 Ward Councillors
09/02/04 Letter from Police
09/02/04 Letter from member of public

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE

THE BOROUGH OF DUDLEY (BELFRY DRIVE, WOLLASTON, STOURBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING) ORDER 2004

NO WAITING AT ANY TIME

Belfry Drive - west side - from the junction with
Bridgnorth Road to a
point 10 metres north of
Vestry Court

Belfry Drive - east side - between points 10 metres
North and 13 metres
south of Vestry Court.

Belfry Drive - east side - between a point 31
metres south of Vestry
Court and a point 70
metres north of
Bridgnorth Road.

Belfry Drive - east side - between the junction with
Bridgnorth Road and a
point 20 metres north
thereof

Vestry Court - both sides - from the junction with
Belfry Drive for a distance
of 15 metres in an
easterly direction