

WARDS: Halesowen South

AGENDA ITEM NO 14

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE – 2ND FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

BLACKBERRY LANE, HALESOWEN: OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS.

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Area Committee's support for the introduction of weekday daytime waiting restrictions in short sections of Blackberry Lane and Fairfield Road, Halesowen.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Blackberry Lane is a residential street near to Halesowen Town Centre.
- 2.2 Blackberry Lane runs parallel to the B4183 Hagley Road, and becomes Dogkennel Lane further east, where it joins the A459 Grange Road.
- 2.3 There are medical products companies on a severe road bend in Blackberry Lane, at its junction with Fairfield Road. Vehicles associated with these businesses regularly park around this bend and into the junction, obstructing the public highway, and severely reducing visibility.
- 2.4 Vehicle service and repair garages are also in Blackberry Lane, on the section between Fairfield Road and Hagley Road. These commercial premises generate significant numbers of on – street car parking
- 2.5 It is considered that weekday daytime car parking should be displaced slightly away from Blackberry Lane's major bend and its junction with Fairfield Road.
- 2.6 Accordingly, it was proposed that 'no waiting 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday' be introduced in Blackberry Lane and Fairfield Road around their junctions.
- 2.7 It is felt that these measures would assist deliveries to the medical aids companies' premises.

2.8 CONSULTATION.

2.8.1 Letters describing the proposals to introduce 'no waiting 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday' were sent to the three Ward Members on 2nd July 2004.

2.8.2 Ward Members indicated that they support the proposals.

2.8.3 The Police were also consulted on 2nd July 2004.

2.8.4 On 20th July, the Police replied that they support the proposals.

2.8.5 The same proposals were advertised in the 'Express and Star' newspaper on 20th October 2004 and also on-street between 20th October and 15th November 2004.

2.8.6 OBJECTIONS & COMMENTS

2.8.6.1 Three objections to the proposal for 'no waiting 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday' were received.

2.8.6.2 The points made by the objectors, and the Council's responses, are shown in Appendix A.

2.8.6.3 A resident of Blackberry Lane has written to indicate her support for the proposals, but expresses her doubt as to whether these measures are enough to alleviate traffic problems in the area.

2.9 Sustainable Transport

2.9.1 Measures to improve pedestrians', cyclists' and taxi drivers' visibility around bends and reduce obstructive parking assist sustainable methods of travel.

3.0 **PROPOSALS**

3.1 That, having considered the objections and other correspondence received, and noting the moderate nature of the proposals, Area Committee supports the introduction of these proposals for The Borough of Dudley (Blackberry Lane, Halesowen) (Restriction of Waiting) Order 2005, as shown the attached drawing no: TMD/CP/416 and described in the attached Schedule.

3.2 That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended to introduce the scheme.

4.0 **FINANCE**

4.1 Funds to introduce a Restriction of Waiting Order, estimated at £1000, 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 by assisting travel movements of persons with disabilities, Ring and Ride vehicles and pedestrians who do not have the benefit of car use.

7.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members support the proposal shown in Paragraph 3 of this report.



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J. B. MILLAR – DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

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Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

- 22/03/04 – Letter to a Ward Councillor
- 02/07/04 – Letters to 3 Ward Councillors
- 02/07/04 – Letter to Police
- 20/07/04 – Letter from Police
- 04/11/04 – Letter from resident of Blackberry Lane.
- 08/11/04 – Letter from business in Blackberry Lane
- 08/11/04 – Letter from resident of Blackberry Lane
- 10/11/04 – Letter from resident of Fairfield Road

SCHEDULE

THE BOROUGH OF DUDLEY (BLACKBERRY LANE, HALESOWEN)

(RESTRICTION OF WAITING) ORDER 2005

(No waiting 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday)

Blackberry Lane - North side - between points 28 metres west and 17, metres east of Fairfield Road.

Blackberry Lane - South side - between points 17 metres east and 7 metres west of Fairfield Road

Fairfield Road - North side - between the junction with Blackberry Lane and a point 25 metres south east thereof.

APPENDIX A

**OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED 'NO WAITING 8AM TO 6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY'
WAITING RESTRICTIONS.**

OBJECTOR	POINTS MADE BY OBJECTOR	COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
Proprietor of a medical aids company	There have been no office hours accidents in this section of Blackberry Lane.	The proposal is made to reduce obstruction and improve visibility. It is not aimed at accident records.
	Waiting restrictions would displace parking into other areas.	Few vehicles would be displaced.
	If the bend is free of traffic, vehicles would travel more quickly.	The proposals are for a short section of highway, along which vehicle speeds would be unlikely to increase.
Residents of Fairfield Road	Parking problem has increased substantially in Fairfield Road over past few years.	Few vehicles would be displaced.
	Vehicles would be parked further into Fairfield Road, causing more congestion for residents.	Few vehicles would be displaced.
	Potential safety hazards for pedestrians.	Few vehicles would be displaced, but the potential benefits by improving pedestrian/driver visibility would be marked.
A resident of Blackberry Lane	It is unfair to penalise residents, to appease motorists.	The proposals would neither encourage nor discourage traffic flow.