

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE 20TH MARCH 2006

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

OBJECTION TO DISABLED PARKING PLACE PROGRAMME J

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to inform committee of the objection received to an application in their area for a disabled parking place in programme J of the on-street disabled parking places scheme.

Background

2. Traffic Regulation Orders for the establishment of parking places near the homes of registered disabled persons are introduced approximately twice every year.
3. These reserved spaces are provided for named individuals who do not have off street parking facilities and whose level of disablement qualifies them for registration as Blue Badge holders. One permit is issued for each parking place, which is marked out on the carriageway as a 'white box'.
4. In the six month period up to July 2005 41 applications in total were received, 7 of which are in your committees area.
5. In order to speed up the process for applications, in June 2003, the Cabinet Member for Transportation agreed that sites which were not objected to, could be implemented without reporting to area committee, subject to prior consultation with Ward Members. Consultation was duly carried out as detailed in paragraph 12 and no objections from members were received.
6. Applications which are not objected to are now implemented as a separate 'Order in part via decision memo, negating the need to pass through the Committee process and thereby speeding up the implementation of unopposed applications by several months. Only applications which receive objections therefore, are reported to area committees.

7. Of the 7 applications in your committee's area, 1 objection has been received to the application for 97 Hagley Road, the space will actually be situated in Ibstock drive, as there is a prohibition of waiting Order on Hagley Road. The applicants currently park their vehicle at the rear of the objector's property in Ibstock drive. They have been parking there (when possible) for the last 2 years, but due to the general parking difficulties in Ibstock Drive, it is becoming increasingly difficult to park there. They park (when they can get in) behind a fence panel adjacent to the rear access of the objector's property, so their vehicle cannot be seen from the house, and does not obstruct the access.
8. The objector has stated that he has no objection to them parking there, or indeed their continuing to park there. However, he is objecting to the disabled bay as he claims it would prejudice any future development of the rear of his property. He has applied for planning permission in the past, but this has expired without any development taking place. The objector suggests that the bay is sited instead outside no. 25, which is nearer to the rear of 97, but on the opposite side of the road. No. 25 has no dropped kerb, but there are driveways opposite. The applicants are concerned that the only place outside no. 25, which would not interfere with access to driveways opposite, would be directly against the wall. This concerns them because local youths have been known to scale this wall, and if a vehicle is parked against it, they drop down onto the car.
9. Although the objector's concern about any future development of his property is noted and understood, it is felt that it would be unfair on the applicant to refuse their application on the basis of something which is not certain and may never happen. If planning permission had been applied for then the objector's position would be clear. It is therefore recommended that the application should succeed.
10. Letters regarding the applications were sent to the Police on 8th November 2005 and a reply was received on the 17th November 2005. No objections were received.
11. The proposals were published in the "Express and Star" newspaper on 22nd December 2005 and also on street between 22nd December 2005 and 16th January 2006. The single objection received in your committee's area is reported in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9.
12. Members were consulted by letter on 2nd November 2005 and no objections were received.
13. The introduction of on street disabled parking assists registered disabled persons to park near their homes and to live in the community.

Finance

14. Implementation of on street disabled parking places orders is estimated at £500 each and, subject to funding being made available, would be funded from the highways capital budget.

Law

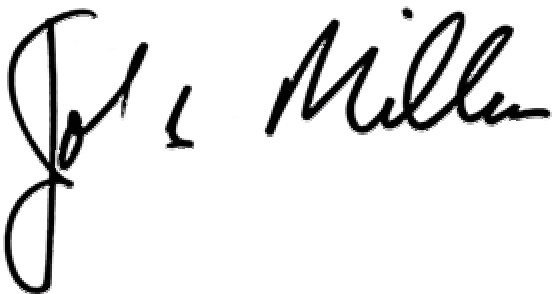
15. On street parking places reserved for permit holders are made under Section 45 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.
16. Orders in part are made under the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

Equality Impact

17. The proposals contained in this report are intended to benefit registered disabled people, including disabled children and young people. They comply with the Councils Equal Opportunities Policy.

Recommendation

18. It is proposed that the Cabinet Member for Transportation be advised that the objection to 97 Hagley Road be overruled, and the application is introduced as advertised.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Millar'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

J Millar
Director of The Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers

8/11/2005 Letters to Police
22/12/2005 Notices of advertised proposals
2/11/2005 Letters to Members



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DIRECTORATE OF THE
 URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Project: ON STREET DISABLED PARKING

Title: 97 HAGLEY ROAD STOURBRIDGE

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