

Brierley Hill Area Committee – 28th September 2006

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Pensnett and Russells Hall Areas, Dudley : Proposals for Waiting Restrictions

Purpose of Report

1. To seek the support of your Area Committees for the introduction of a limited traffic management scheme along major highway sections of residential parts of Pensnett and Dudley in the environs of Russells Hall Hospital.

Background

2. Over some years, Russells Hall Hospital has expanded as it has offered its customers a greater range of medical services.
3. Currently, four NHS Trusts provide health services at Russells Hall Hospital. The buildings and infrastructure of the hospital is controlled by a Private Finances Initiative project.
4. There are excellent bus services between Russells Hall Hospital and other areas of the Black Country.
5. As the hospital has grown in size, so have the quantity of journeys between it and patients' homes. Car-owning hospital staff have also increased in numbers.
6. Despite there being car parking within the hospital grounds, both patients and hospital staff members choose to park on the carriageway and the footway in streets away from the hospital. This parking obstructs the movements of both motorists and pedestrians, and prevents vehicular access to some driveways.
7. The streets most seriously affected by this obstructive parking are: Bushey Fields Road, Kingswinford Road, Pensnett High Street, Pensnett Road and the Albert Street/Tennyson Street residential area.
8. Accordingly, proposals for large area-wide prohibited waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) were drafted and publicly advertised.

Consultation

9. Letters and plans showing the original proposals were sent to both Ward Members, and to the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services on 12th September 2005. The emergency services support the proposals.

10. Dr Ian Pearson, MP, had requested to be kept informed of developments. A letter and plan showing the original proposals were sent to Dr Pearson on 23rd February 2006.
11. A public meeting took place on 29th June 2006.
12. The result of the public meeting and of correspondence received both during and afterwards, indicated that only residents of Pensnett High Street and on the North side of Pensnett Road are fully in support of double yellow lines in their street.
13. The residents of all other streets in which waiting restrictions and prohibitions were proposed either:-
 - a. are generally opposed to any form of new traffic regulation
 - b. are not of one mind concerning which waiting restriction should be introduced or on what lengths of highway.
 - c. Request the introduction of Residents Only Parking schemes.
14. Residents parking could not be introduced until after the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement (“decriminalisation”), which is a concept whereby a Highway Authority takes over enforcement of on-street parking from the Police.

Amendments to Proposals to Comply with Objectors’ wishes

15. Representatives of St Luke’s Church in Vicarage Lane, have requested that waiting restriction times be designed to permit parking during their evening and weekend activities. Accordingly, following meetings and further investigations, it is now proposed that “no waiting 7am to 9am Monday to Friday” be supported for the south-west side of Vicarage Lane, and “no waiting at any time” for the north-east side, where parking does not take place.
16. As the objections to proposals for prohibited waiting and one-way traffic flow in the residential section of Kingswinford Road outweigh the support, it is now recommended not to pursue these proposals.
17. Again, there has been opposition from both shopkeepers and residents to proposed waiting prohibitions in Pensnett High Street beyond Bell Street. It is recommended that the proposals for the terraced housing and business sections of Pensnett High Street be discontinued.
18. The majority of residents of Elgar Crescent, a cul-de-sac near to Russells Hall Hospital, are opposed to the introduction of waiting prohibitions in their street. Accordingly, this matter will not be pursued.
19. In Pensnett Road, residents require the on-street parking, which they currently enjoy. Therefore, it is proposed that unrestricted waiting be permitted to remain on most of the south side of Pensnett Road.
20. As Members will know, Russells Hall Hospital is extremely large. Nearby streets cannot cater for hospital parking. Objections have been received from patients groups, staff and users of Russells Hall Hospital who wish to continue to park on-

street. As the scheme which is now proposed is much smaller than that advertised, some on-street parking should remain.

21. Russells Hall Hospital has both staff and visitors parking within its grounds. This may increase in the future.
22. Whilst there is a general willingness for waiting prohibitions in the Russells Hall housing estate, the proposals for this area are not supported by all residents who fear that hospital parking would be pushed further into their housing estate.
23. Many supporters of waiting prohibitions request that Residents-Only Parking permit schemes be introduced. Should Civil Parking Enforcement be introduced in Dudley at some future time, a policy can then be designed for Residents Only Parking.

Review and Conclusions

24. Although there is universal concern at the amount of on-street parking generated by Russells Hall Hospital, it is considered that removing this parking could create local difficulties for some residents, especially those without the benefit of off-street parking facilities.
25. Therefore, it is recommended that your Area Committee support waiting restriction proposals in areas where new waiting restrictions would be welcomed.
26. It should be noted that sections of the scheme are being pursued in areas from which small numbers of objections were received. The original scheme has been reduced and is now more likely to be generally acceptable. Copies of written representations should be available for inspection at your meeting. It is recommended that all objections be formally overruled, but that the waiting restriction proposals which have been objected to be not pursued.
27. The much smaller scheme would still improve traffic flows on the main highway network and reduce incidents of parking nuisance along those classified roads.
28. The reduced scheme would assist desirable parking, especially in Vicarage Lane, by tourists and other visitors to Barrow Hill Local Nature Reserve (“Dudley’s extinct volcano”).
29. Members will be pleased to note that a dialogue is established between your Council and representatives of Russells Hall Hospital, regarding the hospital’s parking policies and car park resources.

Sustainable Transport

30. The proposals would support movements by pedestrians, buses, taxis and two-wheeled forms of transport.
31. In side streets, where the free flow of traffic is not impeded, disabled “blue badge” holders may make personal decisions to park on double yellow lines, should there be insufficient disabled parking capacity at Russells Hall hospital.

32. Measures to improve road safety, prevent obstructive parking and encourage alternative forms of transport to and from Russells Hall Hospital support the aims of sustainability.
33. There is a cycle path in High Street in front of Russells Hall Hospital. Double yellow lines would prevent obstructive parking from taking place on this cycle path.

Finance

34. The costs associated with the making and introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders will be met from the 2006-07 financial years' Minor Works Capital Allocation.

Law

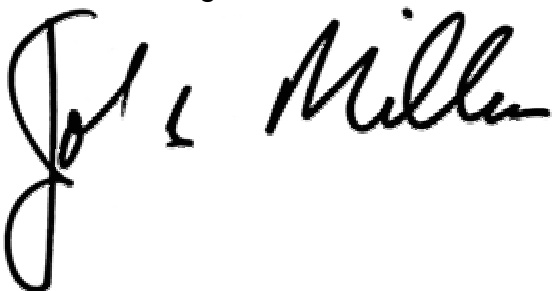
35. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Equality Impact

36. The proposals contained within this report comply with the Council's equality and diversity policy.
37. The proposals would assist visually-impaired pedestrian movements and journeys by bus and taxi users, and could improve visibility for mobility-impaired motorists.

Recommendation

38. That Members support the smaller scale scheme for prohibited waiting as shown on Drawings No. TM 2452-A and TM 2452-B.
39. That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended to introduce the reduced scheme.
40. That, should Civil Parking Enforcement be introduced in the future, Residents Only Parking schemes be considered for streets surrounding Russells Hall Hospital.



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List of Background Papers

1. Letter to Ward Members, 12.09.05
2. Letter to Police and other emergency services, 12.09.05
3. Public Notice of proposals, 10.04.06