

4 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT TITLE	OBJECTIONS: PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – CORPORATION ROAD/ BUCCLEUCH STREET, BIRKENHEAD
REPORT OF	INTERIM DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS & STREETSCENE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report considers objections submitted against the proposal to introduce a scheme of parking restrictions at the junction of Corporation Road with Buccleuch Street, Birkenhead.

This matter affects Bidston & St James Ward.

The report recommends that the Cabinet Member notes the objections and that the proposal as shown on drawing no. TD0748b0 (Appendix 1) is approved and implemented.

This matter is not a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Cabinet Member for Community Services is requested to:

- (i) Note the report and the objections received; and
- (ii) Approve the proposed scheme to introduce parking restrictions at the junction of Corporation Road with Buccleuch Street, Birkenhead as shown on drawing no. TD0748b0 for implementation.

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Whilst the objections are noted, and their concerns considered, the introduction of parking restrictions at the junction of Corporation Road with Buccleuch Street are required to remove parked vehicles from the junction and improve visibility for drivers approaching the junction along Corporation Road and also drivers emerging from Buccleuch Street.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The other options available at this location are as follows:
- a. Take no further action and withdraw the proposal: This is not the recommended option because drivers will continue to park inconsiderately, obstruct the junction and result in the occurrence of road safety issues.
 - b. Implement a proposal of a lesser restriction: This is not the recommended option because allowing the additional parking would compromise the visibility of the junction.
 - c. Implement the proposal as advertised: This is the recommended option because it will improve road safety, visibility, sight lines and overall operation of the junction.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Following concerns raised by local residents, officers investigated whether this location would benefit from the introduction of waiting restrictions taking into consideration issues such as the need to prevent/reduce personal injury accidents. Following a review of accident casualty records in liaison with Merseyside Police it was recommended that this particular location should be put forward for consideration.
- 3.2 Indiscriminate and obstructive parking causes difficulty and reduces visibility for pedestrians and vehicular traffic attempting to negotiate congested streets and in particular at junctions.
- 3.3 The junction of Corporation Road with Buccleuch Street and Miriam Place is particularly congested by parked vehicles due to a high volume of visitors to both the Wirral Coast Ceramics Tile Shop and St James Centre. The parking of these vehicles is already a cause of frustration to local residents as they regularly find it difficult to park close to their properties.

4.0 OBJECTIONS

- 4.1 The statutory advertising process for the proposal to introduce parking restrictions at the Corporation Road / Buccleuch Street junction included publication of notices on the roads and in the press on the 22 August 2018, with an objection period from 22 August 2018 to the 14 September 2018. All party Spokespersons and Ward Members were informed.

- 4.2 Letters were hand delivered to 15 properties on Corporation Road and Buccleuch Street. During the consultation a total of 2 unresolved objections were received. The content of the objectors' concerns are as follows:
- 4.3 Objector one had a number of concerns. She felt that it was unfair that if the waiting restrictions were implemented she would not be able to park outside her home. She reported that not being able to park outside her home would inconvenience her when transporting her two young children. She was also concerned about the security of her vehicle as it had been subject to theft in the past and suggested the installation of a CCTV camera to tackle what she felt was a high level of crime in the area. She also felt that the problems on Corporation Road related more to excessive vehicle speed than parking at the junction and suggested that traffic calming or closing the road to through traffic would be a more effective solution to the accident problem. She also suggested the introduction of a residents parking scheme.

In response:

Wirral Council has made significant improvements in road safety, reducing the number of road accidents by more than 62% over the last 13 years, largely by prioritising our activities and targeting measures at those places where a reduction in accidents can reasonably be achieved. The accident record on Corporation Road shows that a high proportion occurred at the junction with Buccleuch Street. Corporation Road is not currently a priority for speed reduction measures under any existing programme of work and it is considered that waiting restrictions would be more appropriate at this location.

Regarding requests for residents parking, this would be beyond the scope of this Traffic Regulation Order. The Council has no budget set aside for the introduction of new resident parking schemes; therefore residents must meet the cost of introduction and ongoing administration. However, residents parking would not formalise parking near junctions by providing residents parking bays and any scheme would have to incorporate waiting restrictions in the form of yellow lines to protect junctions.

- 4.4 Objector two had similar concerns to objector one. She also feels that the road safety problem would be better resolved by installing traffic calming or a one way arrangement on Corporation Road and she suggests the use of a speed camera. She also feels that it is unfair that she will be unable to park on the road in front of her property, this is a particular problem for her as she is a carer to disabled people some of which are wheelchair users. Objector two is concerned about the existing absence of parking enforcement in the area and feels that the newly proposed restrictions will be ignored by drivers who feel there is no risk of prosecution. She feels that an increase in the frequency of enforcement would deter indiscriminate parking and that alone would improve road safety. Objector two also suggested the introduction of a residents parking scheme and has queried why parking restrictions are not proposed for Avon Street and Lincoln Street.

In response:

As in the response to objector one Corporation Road is not currently a priority for speed reduction measures under any existing programme of work as it is considered that waiting restrictions would be more appropriate at this location. The proposal to introduce waiting restrictions on Corporation Road at Buccleuch Street does not extend to other side roads off Corporation Road as the current accident problem focuses around Buccleuch Street.

The use of a one way system on Corporation Road cannot be considered as experience has shown us that when one way systems are introduced, drivers become used to the lack of opposing traffic and this results in increased vehicle speeds, particularly due to the good forward visibility along Corporation Road.

In reference to the request for the installation of a speed camera, Corporation Road does not meet the strict criteria for introducing speed cameras on the highway. In the absence of other speed reducing measures the responsibility for the enforcement of speed limits is a matter for the police, however both the police and Council recognise that our resources are increasingly limited. As a result the Community Speedwatch initiative has been set up which encourages residents to become volunteers working with the police to raise awareness of inappropriate speed to inconsiderate drivers not only as visual deterrent and roadside presence, but also by sending a warning letter from the police to inconsiderate drivers. Residents can apply to join this initiative via the police website.

As in response to objector one, a residents parking scheme would be beyond the scope of this Traffic Regulation Order. The Council has no budget set aside for the introduction of new resident parking schemes; therefore residents must meet the cost of introduction and ongoing administration.

The objectors concerns about the lack of parking enforcement is justified as due to competing demands Wirral Council parking enforcement officers have attended the area just 4 times in the past 16 months. Therefore, I have requested that more attention is made to the area by the enforcement team.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of implementing the recommended waiting restrictions is approximately £1,500 which will be funded from the 2019/2020 revenue budget for traffic signs and lines. Existing staff will be used to undertake the work.**

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific implications under this heading arising from the recommendation of this report other than the TRO process referred to in paragraph 4.1.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

7.1 Existing staff resources would be utilised to deliver this scheme.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

8.1 The risks arising if this issue cannot be satisfactorily resolved may include:

- a. Impact on parking within the road, obstructing the movement of vehicles along the road.
- b. Impact on road safety in the area due to restricted visibility at the junction of Corporation Road with Buccleuch Street.
- c. Impact on residents of Buccleuch Street who consider some action should be taken to control parking at the junction.

8.2 The risks arising if the parking scheme is introduced include:

- a. There could be an impact on relations between residents and visitors as parking will be displaced further along the road

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

9.1 As part of the consultation exercise for this scheme letters were delivered to local residents and businesses in the vicinity of the scheme, informing them of the proposals. In addition, consultation was undertaken with Party Spokespersons and Ward Councillors and also key partners including the emergency services and local transport providers.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

- (a) Yes and impact review is attached – <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/delivery>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: As advertised Corporation Road/Buccluch Street, Birkenhead
Proposed Parking Restrictions (Yellow Lines)
Plan Ref No. TD0748b0

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	