

COMMITTEE: PETITIONS & REPRESENTATION BOARD

DATE: 27 JANUARY 2019

SUBJECT: PETITION – SUSPENSION OF RESIDENTS
PARKING SCHEME, ERIN CLOSE –
CONSULTATION RESULTS

REPORT BY: SERVICE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC REALM

CONTACT OFFICER: CHRISTINE DAVY 546962

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: SAINTS

PURPOSE

1. To report to the results of the meeting with Ward Councillors, Portfolio holder and the representatives of Erin Close to the Petitions and Representation Board.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **Petitions & Representations Board is recommended to:-**
 - (i) **Note receipt of the petition;**
 - (ii) **Continue the Residents Parking Scheme**
 - (iii) **Instruct the Service Director Public Realm to advise the petitioners.**

BACKGROUND

3. A petition from 20 residents of Erin Close and Erin Court was presented to the Petitions and Representation Board at their meeting on 10 July 2019.
4. The petitioners were concerned that the scheme failed to take account that residents drove to work during the working day and there was no space when they returned after 6pm due to the two local garages and business premises nearby. The only impact on the residents was a financial one. Elderly and vulnerable people were feeling more isolated, as many of their visitors, some on welfare benefits themselves, could not afford to pay for the expensive visitors permits or the fixed penalty notices for parking without permits. Residents felt victimised by the Council asked for fair treatment by having a review and suspension of the scheme.
5. The Board felt that the local ward councillors and Portfolio holder for Public Realm needed to be involved in the discussion and therefore, resolved that the Ward Councillors and Portfolio holder should meet with representatives of the Erin Close to reach a consensus.

REPORT

6. A meeting was held on 14th August.
7. After a frank discussion on views it was agreed that a consultation with all residents of Erin Close be undertaken with the option of the scheme to remain as Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm or the scheme to be changed to Monday to Saturday 8am to 8pm.
8. Removing the scheme altogether was not put forward as an option because residents had express concern about the amount of non-residents parking which had been substantiated through observation. Removing the scheme would result in an increase in non-residents parking again.

9. A letter with a questionnaire was hand delivered to all residents of Erin Close and Erin Court (46 properties) on 3 September 2019. Residents had until the 18 September 2019 to respond either by e-mail or to a free post address.
10. 10 responses (21.7%) were received. Appendix A shows the responses. The table below shows a summary of the responses.

		No. response	% of those responding
Prefer scheme to remain Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm		4	40%
Prefer the scheme to be changed to Monday to Saturday 8am to 8pm		1	10%
Other comments	Agree there is a problem	4	40%
	Strongly disagree with charges	2	20%
	Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm	1	10%
	Prefer scheme to be scrapped	5	50%

11. There are currently 20 residents permits issued in Erin Close and 5 other residents have purchased visitor permits.
12. The cost of removing the scheme would be approximately £2500. This costs includes advertising the removal of the Traffic Regulation Order and removal of the signs. It should be noted that no refund would be made for the cost of purchasing the residents permits should the scheme be removed.
13. Ward Councillors and the Portfolio Holder have reviewed the results and noted that the residents did not wish for the scheme times to be extended to prevent non-residential parking later into the evening to allow them to return from work and park. They therefore, agree with the recommendation.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

14. The Board has the following options:

- a. To continue with the scheme – Given that the costs of the scheme were clearly stated to resident at the time that the Traffic Regulation Order was advertised. Only one objection was received at this time. The scheme does regulate parking as requested in the original petition. **This is the recommended option.**
- b. To recommend to the Executive that the residents permit scheme is removed as a further cost to the Council of approximately £2500. This is not recommended as the issues highlighted in the original petition would not be solved.

APPENDIX

Appendix A - Responses to the scheme (personal data redacted)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

1. Report entitled Petition - Suspension of Residents Parking Scheme – Erin Close dated 10 July 2019
2. Report entitled Petition – Residents Parking On Erin Close – Update dated 18 April 2018
3. Report entitled Petition – Residents Parking – Erin Close dated 21 February 2018