

COMMITTEE: PETITIONS & REPRESENTATION BOARD

DATE: 10 JULY 2019

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

REPORT BY: SERVICE DIRECTOR – PUBLIC REALM

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL

COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL

CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING

OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: SAINTS

PURPOSE

1. To report to the Petitions and Representation Board the receipt of a petition from Erin Close to suspend the residents parking scheme.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Committee 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 submitted to the Council in late 2017 requesting the Council to:
 - a. Permit residents to have residents only parking in Erin Close due to commuters and local garages parking their vehicles dangerously.
 - b. Introduce no waiting at any time restrictions at the junction of Erin Close and Douglas Road.
 - c. Concern about non-residents using the bin store for Erin Court

This was reported to the Petitions and Representations Board on 21 February 2018 and 18 April 2018.

4. The Petitions and Representations Board resolved that funds had been allocated from the Central Area New Homes for Luton Fund and agreed by Ward Councillors for the introduction of a residents parking scheme in Erin Close during 2018-19 financial year and 'no waiting at any time' restrictions at the junction of Erin Close and Douglas Crescent to be introduced at the same time.
5. A petition signed by 34 residents from 21 properties in Erin Close and Erin Court has now been received requesting the residents parking scheme to be suspended due to the negative financial impact on the people who the scheme was designed to help.

REPORT

6. The residents parking scheme and no waiting at any time restriction were advertised in January 2019. Letters were hand delivered to all residents. This gave them an opportunity to object to the scheme. The letters detailed the cost of permits.
7. The cost of the permits is to contribute to the setting up of the scheme and ongoing administration of the scheme. The current cost of a residents permit is £50 equating to less than £1 a week. Visitors permits are also available at a cost of £22 per book of 10.
8. One objection was received. Although, the objector felt that the residents parking scheme was required he felt that the charge was unjust. As per procedure this was reported to the Portfolio holder and Director of Public Realm and it was decided to over-rule the objection. The scheme was introduced in April 2019. The scheme cost approximately £3000 to advertise and implement.

9. The Residents Parking Scheme, as with all residents parking schemes, regulates parking within the street. Each resident who owns a vehicle not exceeding the 5.3m in length, 2.25m in height and 3 tonnes in weight is able to purchase one parking permit. This entitles them to park on the highway between the hours of 8am and 6pm Monday to Saturday. Outside these times any driver including residents do not need a permit to park.
- 10.25 Residents Permits have been purchased and 5 applications had been received pending review/approval*.
11. Since the start of the scheme Civil Enforcement Officers have visited Erin Close 18 times and issued 39 penalty charge notices to vehicles without a permit and 1 penalty charge notice to a vehicle parked on the no waiting at any time restrictions*.

(*As of the 3 June 2019)

PROPOSAL/OPTION

12. 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

A - Petition

B – Location Plan

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

- 1. Report entitled Petition – Residents Parking – Erin Close dated 21 April 2018
- 2. Report entitled Petition – Residents Parking On Erin Close – Update dated 18 April 2018