

COMMITTEE: EAST LUTON AREA COMMITTEE
DATE: 28th SEPTEMBER 2006
SUBJECT: ABBOTSWOOD PARADE PETITION
REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING (LANDLORD)

CONTACT OFFICER: MAUREEN BACKLER 745415

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ROUND GREEN

PURPOSE

1. To consider the petition received requesting the provision of additional parking facilities to the rear of Abbotswood Parade.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The Committee accept the alternative suggestion, to install a gate in the metal fencing allowing access to the existing parking area at the rear, and provide a contribution of £500 towards the installation costs.

BACKGROUND

3. Abbotswood Parade is a precinct of shops in Abbotswood Road with a total of 5 council owned maisonettes above. There is restricted parking available to residents and retailers outside the shops, due to the number

of visitors to the shops and the commercial vehicles using the rear of the block.

4. A petition has been received from 9 of the residents and retailers of Abbotswood Parade, to suggest that additional parking be provided at the rear of the shops on a piece of communal garden land. The piece of land is owned by housing.

REPORT

5. The Area Surveyor and the Area Housing Manager have inspected the site.
6. The garden land is currently accessible from the Abbotswood Parade site and bounded at the rear by metal fencing to prevent access from the open land behind. Beyond the fence is a hardstanding area which provides parking, but there is currently no access through to the site, therefore it would require residents to walk a substantial distance get to their homes.
7. It would be possible to provide additional parking on the land but would be cost prohibitive. It is estimated that the provision of a hard surface to the land would be in excess of £40,000.
8. The alternative suggestion would be to provide a lockable gate in the metal fence at the rear boundary of the site. This would allow residents to use the existing parking provision and gain easy access to their homes. The cost of the installation of the lockable gate would be approximately £1000.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

9. Members are asked to accept the recommendation or suggest an alternative approach.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed with the relevant solicitor in Legal Services on 14 September 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The Housing department are prepared to pay a contribution of £500 towards the cost of the gate installation. As the gate would also benefit the retailers at Abbotswood Parade, the Committee is requested to consider the provision of the remaining £500 required.

APPENDIX

12. Appendix A – Copy of Text of Petition

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

13. There are no background papers relating to this report other than documents which disclose confidential information within the meaning of Section 100D (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.