
REPORT TO:	Development Control Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 5
DATE OF MEETING:	16 June 2009	CATEGORY: OPEN DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Tony Sylvester (ext. 5743) (email: tony.sylvester@southderbys.gov.uk)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Coppice Side Parking Restrictions	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Swadlincote	TERMS OF REFERENCE: DC01

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee's instructions are requested.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To report back to the Committee following a response from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Highways.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Members will recall that at a previous meeting the Committee made a request to write to the Strategic Director of Environmental Services at DCC to seek co-operation and serious consideration by the County Council as Highway Authority to changing Coppice Side, Swadlincote by traffic order or other means at its disposal, to provide a "clearway" with no parking on either side of the road throughout its full length. Members considered the matter urgent in view of the development work taking place adjacent to Coppice Side, Swadlincote and the amount of time required by the authority to implement the necessary legislation in order to meet this request.
- 3.2 A response was received from the Assistant Director (Highways Area Management):

'... The general consensus is that there is no obvious reason why such orders should be promoted. Observations suggest that whilst there is some parking on Coppice Side this is not extensive and generally serves to reduce traffic speeds to the benefit of highway safety. Furthermore there are fronting houses which have no off street parking provision. Any such orders would have a serious detrimental effect on these properties.

I understand that the various developments are served with parking facilities to an extent that there is no reason to believe that additional on street parking will occur. The Transport Assessment associated with the development of both Morrisons and the cinema did not suggest that there would be on street impact which implies that the status quo will continue. In the circumstances it would not appear that restrictions to parking can be justified.

I do however accept that local residents and Members have a more detailed knowledge of local conditions. I shall therefore be interested to learn of the reasons behind your request so that this can be further considered if necessary. In any case the highway conditions will be monitored following the developments and action taken should this prove to be needed...

In response to a request that the comments be reconsidered the Senior Project Engineer (traffic and safety) wrote as follows:

'...The site has been visited on a number of occasions since receipt of your letter. At no time has there been any evidence of an excessive number of non-resident vehicles being observed parked on this road, and those that were parked caused no identifiable road safety or congestion problem...'

He has submitted a number of photographs (which will be presented at Committee) demonstrating that on a particular day (11 May 2009) his authority would not need to consider the imposition of traffic restrictions and future developments in the vicinity would be unlikely to significantly change on-street parking levels which are currently not an issue. He finishes by concluding that unless it can be demonstrated that the level of parking would result in severe congestion and an unequivocal road safety issue, there would be no prospect of parking restrictions.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 No specific implications relating to the Corporate Plan.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 'Safe Communities' and 'A Sustainable Environment' themes in the Community Strategy make specific reference to reducing traffic congestion.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 Letter to Derbyshire Highways, Response with photographs