

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

Decision Made: 18 December 2009

Objections to Traffic Orders

Issue for Decision

To consider the objections received in relation to the advertising of:-

- The Kent County Council (Borough of Maidstone) Waiting Restrictions Order (variation No 3) Order 2009.
- The Kent County Council (Borough of Maidstone) Designated Parking Places Order (variation No 4) Order 2009.

Decision Made

1. That, following consideration of the views of the public and the Joint Transportation Board, the recommendations identified in the appendices to the report of the Assistant Director of Environmental Services, be agreed and the objectors informed of the outcome.
2. That Kent Highway Services be advised that the orders are made and signed as outlined in Appendix A and B to the report of the Assistant Director of Environmental Services.

Reasons for Decision

A number of requests have been received by Parking Services for the introduction of parking restrictions at specific locations throughout Maidstone.

A Public Notice formally advertising the orders was published in Local Press during the week ending Friday July 24th 2009.

Full details were contained in the draft orders which, together with a copy of the Public Notices, site plans and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the orders, were placed on deposit at the Highway Information Centre, County Hall and at the Council's Gateway reception desk, Maidstone House.

Letters were sent to statutory and non-statutory consultees and residents and street notices were posted in the affected roads.

All comments received during the formal consultation period were reviewed and considered.

The results of the public consultation were formally presented to the Joint Transportation Board on 21 October 2009.

The recommendation of the Parking Services Manager for Queen Elizabeth Square was not to proceed with the order due to the lack of support to the proposal. Following the publication of the report to the Joint Transportation Board one objector has withdrawn his objection.

The Board reconsidered the traffic order for Queen Elizabeth Square and recommends to the Cabinet Member that it is implemented. It was stated that the residents have suffered from parking problems for the past twenty years and that action needs to be taken to install restrictions to improve the parking situation.

Board members were informed that following the implementation of the traffic order in Hampton Road, the parking situation will be closely monitored and, if necessary, further proposals can be made at a later date.

The recommendation of the Parking Services Manager for Shaftesbury Drive and Langham Grove was not to proceed with the order due to the lack of support to the proposal.

However Joint Transportation Board members raised concern about the recommendation not to implement the traffic orders in Shaftesbury Drive and Langham Grove. They felt it was important that these orders were implemented in order to alleviate the problems residents had suffered for many years. They also mentioned that Shaftesbury Drive was a bus route, but this had been withdrawn because the bus could not get round the streets due to poor parking. The bus company has agreed to reinstate the route once the parking problems have been resolved.

The Joint Transportation Board resolved;

“That the Cabinet Member for Environment be recommended to agree the recommendations made subject to the following amendment:-

- a) That the Cabinet Member for Environment be recommended to proceed with the proposals for Kingsgate Close, Shaftesbury Drive and Langham Grove and make the Orders.
- b) That officers re-consider the recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Environment regarding Queen Elizabeth Square.

- c) That Kent Highway Services be recommended to implement the Orders subject to the amendments.”

Appendix A to the report of the Assistant Director of Environmental Services provides a schedule of all proposals not receiving objections and it is recommended to proceed with each of these proposals and make the Order.

Appendix B to the report of the Assistant Director of Environmental Services provides a schedule of the proposals receiving objection, together with a summary of the objections and the relevant recommendations which were considered by the Joint Transportation Board.

Alternatives considered and why rejected

To not proceed with the recommendations would result in much needed orders not being implemented, which are intended to regulate parking to reduce current difficulties.

To make the orders as advertised would not take account of comments received by objectors during formal consultation.

Background Papers

None

Should you be concerned about this decision and wish to call it in, please submit a call in form signed by any two Non-Executive Members to the Scrutiny Manager by: 30 December 2009.
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