



Highways Committee
17 July 2014

**Report from the Head of
Transportation**

For Action

Wards Affected:
Sudbury

Petition requesting the Council not to carry out a review of the controlled parking zone (CPZ) SH recommended by the October 2013 Highways Committee

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report informs the Committee of a petition requesting the Council not to carry out the review of the controlled parking zone SH in Fernbank, Maybank and Rosebank Avenues, Sudbury.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the petition and the issues raised.

2.2 That the Committee instructs the Head of Transportation to proceed with consultation on a review of the controlled parking zone SH in 2014/15 as previously approved by the Highways Committee at the meeting on 10th October 2013.

2.3 That the Head of Transportation reports the results of the consultation to a future Highways Committee with recommendations on whether or not to proceed with any amendments to existing restrictions.

2.4 That if the results of the consultation do not support changes, that no further review is considered within 2 years of the date of decision by the Highways Committee.

2.5 That the main petitioner be informed of the outcome of the Highways Committee decision in regard to this matter.

3.0 Details of Petition

3.1 At the meeting of the Highways Committee on 10 October 2013, members considered a petition from local residents and businesses in Fernbank, Mabank and Rosebank Avenues which was verified as having 109 signatures.

3.2 The full wording of the petition was:

‘ In view of the recent increases in Residents Parking Permit Charges and reductions in number and increased charges for visitors permits we call on Brent Council to undertake an early review of the controlled parking zone operating in Fernbank, Maybank and Rosebank Avenues, Sudbury.’

3.3 At the meeting of the Highways Committee on 10th October 2013, members resolved to include the review of CPZ SH in the 2014/15 Financial year.

3.4 In January 2014 the Council received a petition in the form of survey of the opinions of local residents and businesses of Fernbank, Maybank and Rosebank Avenues. The petition has been verified in accordance with the Council’s procedures and has more than 200 signatures.

3.5 This petition was undertaken after the decision made by the Highways Committee instructing officers to carry out a review of the SH zone.

3.6 The latest petition / survey was organised and submitted by the main petitioner Mr Yasir Hai. The objective of this petition/survey was then to find out whether the views of the local residents expressed in the October 2013 petition were representative of the majority of residents. In order to verify his claim the main petitioner produced a questionnaire and delivered it by hand to all the households within the zone.

3.7 The questionnaire asked residents whether to retain, shorten or increase the parking restriction times. It also asked residents whether to remove or retain the visitors scratch permits and whether they are satisfied with the online permit purchase system.

3.8 A copy of the survey report, questionnaire, survey results and signatures are available for inspection by Members of the Highways Committee. In summary, the main petitioner claims that 125 households from Fernbank, Rosebank and Maybank yielded 237 signatures.

3.9 The main petitioner also claims that those who responded to the questionnaires demonstrated;

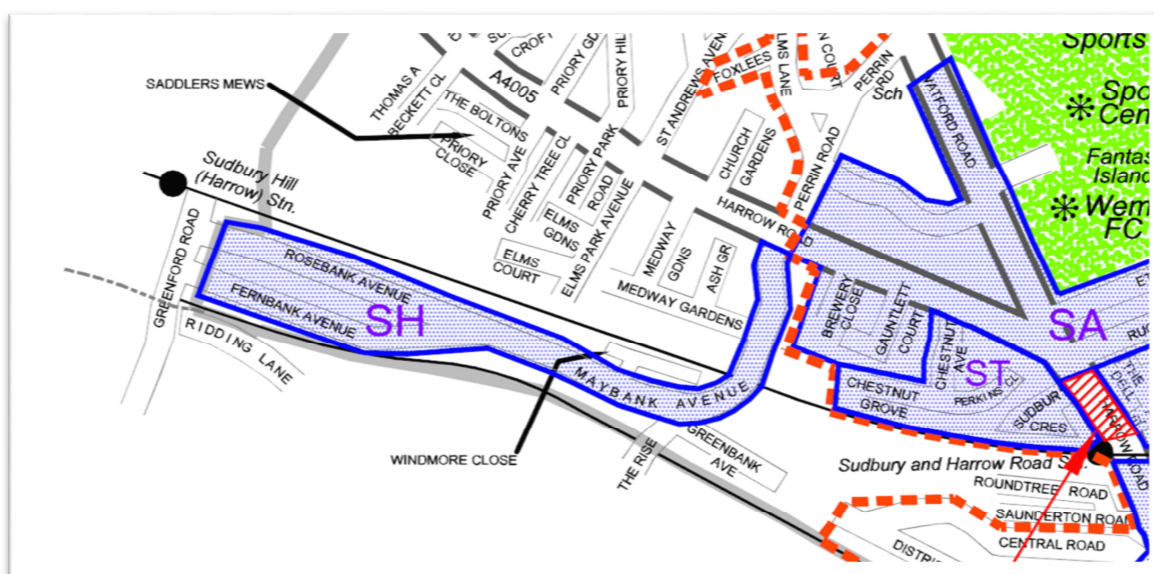
- 63% of residents would like the SH CPZ to remain unchanged.
- 95% of residents want to retain the scratch card system.
- 90% of residents believe the online system is NOT user friendly

3.10 In light of the above results, the main petitioner believes that there is no need for the Council to review the CPZ SH and asks members to withdraw their decision made in October 2013 committee.

3.11 The lead petitioner also provided a report on the history of the SH CPZ and comments on parking concerns in the area.

4.0 Background

4.1 The Controlled parking zone SH (CPZ SH) is located in Sudbury (see map below) and was introduced in two phases. The original scheme included Rosebank and Fernbank Avenues and was introduced in December 2003 and then extended in November 2005 to include Maybank Avenue.



4.2 The scheme was implemented to:

- Remove commuter and long-term non-residential parking from the area;
- Improve road safety by removing obstructive parking from junctions;
- Reduce the level of traffic in the area by regulating parking on-street; and
- To attract more customers to local businesses by allowing greater turnover in parking spaces.

4.3 The scheme's operational times were agreed with residents and businesses at the time of the original scheme consultation and it currently operates from 8.00am to 6.30pm, Monday to Saturday excluding bank holidays.

4.4 The zone is located between two railway lines with Sudbury Hill station to the west and Sudbury and Harrow Road to the east. Many of the properties in the

zone are residential terraced houses and the vast majority do not have the option of off-street parking spaces.

- 4.5 In February / March 2007, officers carried out a review of the zone by consulting with residents and businesses on how the CPZ was operating and on how the scheme could be improved.
- 4.6 The consultation showed that the majority of respondents were fairly satisfied with the CPZ overall. They stated that the hours of operation 8.00am - 6.30pm should remain unchanged, but they were very dissatisfied with the days of operation from Monday to Saturday and preferred to change it to Monday to Friday.
- 4.7 The results of the consultation were reported to the March 2008 Highways Committee. Members noted the results of the consultation. However the Committee felt that the results did not show decisive support to amend or retain the operational times of the zone and members decided to keep the operational times of 8.00am to 6.30pm, Monday to Saturday unchanged.
- 4.8 Members were also asked at this time to note that residents from Rosebank and Fernbank Avenue had expressed concerns about the level of parking within the SH Zone, particularly from residents of Maybank Avenue. It was noted that it would be difficult to create a separate zone for Rosebank Avenue and Fernbank Avenue exclusively (as requested by residents to prevent parking by Maybank residents), but that the Council would continue monitoring the situation in the new financial year.

5.0 Response to the petition

- 5.1 Members are reminded that Transportation has no revenue funding for a formal CPZ review programme. However, the report to the Highways Committee on 12 March 2013 titled; Parking and Waiting Restrictions Review Programme was approved and this explained the approach that each request to review a scheme would be considered on its own merit and is subject to an assessment process. That process was applied to the CPZ SH and the proposal to review the zone met the criteria.
- 5.2 Officers have noted the results of the survey carried out and included in the latest petition. However, officers doubt the impartiality and reliability of the information as it was not carried out in accordance with the Councils normal consultation process which would include a questionnaire for equalities analysis and give residents the option to request the information in a larger font or have it translated.
- 5.3 Residents that have a particularly strong view against a review may not have collected the information dispassionately and therefore the results may not be representative of the views of the local community.
- 5.4 It is therefore recommended that Members instruct officers to proceed in carrying out a consultation on the review of the zone SH as previously agreed

so that the Council will be able to validate the data and recommend proposals based on the returned questionnaires and comments received.

- 5.5 It is also recommended that the Head of Transportation reports the results of this consultation back to a future Highways Committee for a decision on whether to consider allocating funding for implementing operational changes.
- 5.6 A further recommendation is that if the results of the consultation do not support changes, that no further review is considered within 2 years of the date of decision by the Highways Committee.
- 5.7 Officers note that the results of this survey purport to show that 95% of residents want to retain the scratch card system. The Council's Executive agreed on 19th September 2012 to replace Visitor Scratch Cards with daily virtual permits to tackle abuse of the scratch card scheme and reduce the cost of enforcement. Scratch cards are easily transferred or sold to people who are not entitled to use them and no monitoring is possible of the circumstances of their use.
- 5.8 The results of this survey also purport to show that 90% of residents believe the online system is not user friendly. Officers acknowledge that the removal of scratch cards and introduction of virtual visitor permits has not been popular with many residents. Whilst the change has increased the number of ways customers can access this service, including online, over the telephone, through SMS messaging or at various pay points across the borough instead of just at two parking shops, some residents report finding the service difficult to use. The volume of daily visitor permits purchased is increasing and during the fiscal year of 2013/14 was 168,000 credits. This would suggest that virtual permits are becoming more widely accepted. The online service will be reviewed taking into consideration user feedback. The feedback from this survey that the system is not user friendly will be considered at the next review

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 As approved at the Highways Committee in October 2013, officers have allocated £10,000 for the review of the SH zone and minor amendments.
- 6.2 This allocation is from the 2014/15 Local Implementation Plan budget of £80,000 for waiting and loading restriction amendments.
- 6.3 Members should note that this allocation is only sufficient to fund the consultation and low cost amendments, and any significant changes would be subject to the availability and allocation of additional funding.
- 6.4 There are no cost implications on the Councils revenue budgets as a result of this report.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 There is no legal duty on the Council to review controlled parking zones

7.2 Any changes identified in the review and approved for implementation will require the amending of the existing traffic regulation order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

8.0 Diversity Implications

8.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

Report to the Highways Committee on 10th October 2013 titled;
Petition Requesting a review of Parking Zone SH in Fernbank, Maybank
and Rosebank Avenues, Sudbury.

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