

Regulatory and Other Committee

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy

Report to:	Planning and Regulations Committee
Date:	5 December 2016
Subject:	Duke Street, Eastgate and Kingston Terrace, Sleaford Proposed introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme

Summary: The purpose of this report is to consider objections and comments received during the formal consultation and advertisement to introduce a Residents Parking Scheme on Duke Street, Eastgate (part) and Kingston Terrace, Sleaford.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended that the Committee agrees that the objections and comments be overruled and that the order be confirmed as proposed at both consultation and advertisement stage.

1. Background

- 1.1 Following several complaints made to North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) regarding obstructive and inappropriate day time parking by non-residents including parents dropping their children off at the adjacent school and all day parking of workers in the town, proposals were considered by both Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and NKDC in an attempt to try and locally address this. NKDC had already considered the merits of Residents Parking Schemes for the town so allocated their resources into consulting on a town wide basis to see if there was any interest from residents, not only from the Duke Street area but also across the town as a whole.
- 1.2 Consultation showed very little interest in the scheme town wide from the small number of responses received but residents in the Duke Street area did respond more positively than others, and in greater than average numbers, and there was actually more than 50% of responses in favour. In line with NKDC's own policy, it was agreed that they would consult further which, again, received a higher than 50% positive response in favour of the scheme. This gave rise to this proposal being formally consulted on and advertised by LCC, with the scheme being managed by NKDC if the Committee does agree to confirm the proposal.
- 1.3 The area in question is in a location to the East of the town centre (Appendix A) where off-street parking is very limited. Eastgate and Kingston Terrace form part of what used to be the main road through Sleaford, travelling East to West and vice versa, prior to the A15 and A17 bypasses being built and improvement works being carried out many years ago, which in reality made

this area a larger than usual cul-de-sac services a school and private residential properties and has existing parking restrictions on some parts of the street. It is one way to the East when entering off the main road. Duke Street is a cul-de-sac off this part of Eastgate currently servicing private housing, a funeral directors and local authority premises including a car park (Appendix B).

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The proposal is to introduce a Residents Parking Scheme and adjust the existing traffic regulation orders as per the Plan of Proposals (Appendix B).

3. Consultations

- 3.1 Formal consultations with statutory consultees including Sleaford Town Council, the local County Council Members and residents took place between 13 April 2016 and 31 May 2016 (Appendix C). A formal advertisement was then posted between 24 August 2016 and 21 September 2016 (Appendix D).

4. Objections

- 4.1 Two comments were received from residents as part of the formal consultation. These comments both related to the fact that parking on the streets in question was not guaranteed and, because of this, support for the scheme was being withdrawn by both residents.
- 4.2 Three letters were received as part of the formal advertisement. Objections and comments were as follows:
- It is suggested that the proposal includes a shortening of the yellow line systems outside numbers 45 and 63 Eastgate/Kingston Terrace.
 - The current restrictions on the 'green side' of Eastgate/Kingston Terrace should be relaxed to allow for more long stay free on-street parking.
 - All Council staff should be given parking permits for their own car park which would free up space on these streets.
 - Ashfield Road (the next adjacent street) will suffer as people will naturally move to the next street along to find their free space. Ashfield Road is narrow in places and already has access issues as both sides of the street get parked up all day on a regular basis. This proposal will only make things worse. Why can't Ashfield Road also have a scheme like this?

5. Comments on Objections

- 5.1 Duke Street is quite a narrow street, certainly not as wide as others in the area including Eastgate and Kingston Terrace. The area as a whole however does suffer from long stay parking of non-residents which, in itself, is a regular sight across the town. However the short stay parking, particularly of parents dropping off and picking up their children from the local school, does create many issues.

- 5.2 It is admitted that some of the all-day parking is by local authority officers who do not receive parking permits for the car park opposite these roads but these are not the only users. This long stay free parking is essential for some in terms of affordability and any changes to the restrictions will create issues for some of these people. However, the District Council do want to continue with this proposal and have a policy that states that where over 50% of those consulted are in favour then they will bring forward a scheme. The residents also have to be considered as there are safety issues in terms of available widths for emergency vehicles for example (Appendix E). Some of these residents also need 24 hour access, which is currently restricted because of the obstructive and inappropriate parking. This needs to be formalised in some way and a parking scheme of this nature will do this.
- 5.3 Addressing the issues and objections raised above, the following respective comments are made.

- i. In answer to the comments made as part of the consultation stage, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) will be managing the scheme if the proposals are implemented. This matter has been discussed with NKDC and they have agreed that they will speak to residents regarding their support, explaining the rules once implemented and how this affects anyone who does not wish to purchase a permit. The removal of support from the two residents does not stop the scheme going ahead as more than 50% still support the proposal. Therefore this is not a matter for Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) to address.
- ii. In answer to the comments raised at the advertisement stage;
 - The existing lines have been adjusted in several places including at the locations quoted, something that was shown on the proposal plan at both consultation and advertisement stage (Appendix B). This is as much as is appropriate to ensure as much residents parking is available as possible without putting the safety of road users at risk.
 - There will be no changes to the current restrictions on the 'green' side of the road. These areas can still be used by parents, shoppers and workers attending meetings and the like and will remain as they are now, short stay bays.
 - As already mentioned, it is true that some local authority staff do use these streets for all day parking but they will not be given passes to the car park opposite as there are no spare spaces. As space is vacated, when staff leave the authorities for example, then passes will be given to others to lessen the burden on the local streets but no new passes will be authorised. If they cannot park on these streets then it is up to the non-residents to find alternatives.
 - It is natural, for those using a street to park for free and then find this ability is removed, to use other nearby streets to park. NKDC and LCC are already in the process of putting together proposals for Ashfield Road, liaising with residents via a small working group and also by posting proposals through all

resident's doors. These proposals will no doubt be presented to this Committee at some point in the future.

6. Support

6.1 Support was given to these proposals by the Town Council as well as local Members.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Taking account of the original issues raised, the current road layout and the current usage, the reasons for introducing this scheme do outweigh the comments and objections. Officers therefore recommend that the comments and objections be overruled and the scheme is implemented as consulted on and advertised.

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

Appendices:

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Location Plan
Appendix B	Plan of Proposals
Appendix C	Consultation Letter
Appendix D	Advertisement Details
Appendix E	Photographs

Background Papers

This report was written by Rowan Smith, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or LCCHighwaysWest@lincolnshire.gov.uk.