

**LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
4 OCTOBER 2007**

**STREET COLLECTION PERMITS
(Director of Environment & Leisure)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At present the Council restricts the number of Street Collection permits to be issued throughout the Borough and at specified locations.
- 1.2 A letter has been received from Mr Parnell on behalf of the Meadows Shopping Centre requesting an extension in the number of permits to be issued at the site. This letter is attached to this report as Annex A.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee

- i) **agree that the number of Street Collection permits available for issue at the Meadows Shopping Centre increase from 50 to 75 per calendar year.**

3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 The legal implications are contained within the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 3.2 There are no financial implications identified within this report.

Impact Assessment

- 3.3 Not applicable.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 3.4 There are no implications arising from this report.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 At present the Council has adopted the provisions of the Police, Factories etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916 to control the collection of money for charitable purposes on a street or in a public place. This allows the Council to issue permits together with conditions which control amongst other things the dates and times, the places, the actions and number of collectors, and provision of an audit trail for the money collected. In addition the Council has a policy which controls the number of collections carried out within the Borough which aims to limit annoyance to residents and provides for reduced competition to charities to allow for beneficial collections.

- 4.2 The outside areas at The Meadows in Sandhurst is a 'public place' for the purpose of the legislation. At present the Council policy permits up to 50 collections at the site per year with only one collection of any single day. The letter attached has been received from Hartnell Taylor Cook, the management agents for the Meadows Shopping Centre, and it requests the removal of the present 50 limit with a raise to 75 at a minimum.
- 4.3 Limits have been imposed by the Council in the past as there have been concerns that unlimited permits could be detrimental to both residents using the public area and to charities who are competing for finite resources. The area at the Meadows is a 'public area' for the purpose of the legislation but it is also private land under the control of Hartwell Taylor Cook the management company. Any person wishing to conduct a charitable collection at the site must also have the permission of the company.
- 4.4 It is in the best interests of the management company to properly manage collections to avoid complaints from both visitors, businesses on the site, and charities. I can confirm that I have no record of complaints from visitors to the site regarding the holding of collections. In a time of self regulation and light touch enforcement increasing the number of permits available would seem to be an appropriate response to the request given the lack of complaints regarding the site.

Background Papers

Licensing & Safety Committee – 9 July 2003

Contact for further information

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Secs1: ctes/licensing & safety/2007/oct/Street Collection Permits(2)