

TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

22nd February 2021

**INTRODUCTION AND REMOVAL OF DISABLED PARKING BAYS – VARIOUS
ROADS IN BULLBROOK, CROWN WOOD, GREAT HOLLANDS NORTH &
SOUTH, HANWORTH, OLD BRACKNELL, PRIESTWOOD & GARTH AND WILDRIDINGS
& CENTRAL**

Director of Places, Planning & Regeneration

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1** To consider the introduction and removal of disabled parking bays in various residential roads in Bullbrook, Crown Wood, Great Hollands North & South, Hanworth, Old Bracknell, Priestwood & Garth and Wildridings & Central

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1** That the formal objections received during the statutory consultation process and the corresponding Officer comments are noted;
- 2.2** That the position with regard to local ward Members comments received during the informal consultation process is noted;
- 2.2** That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to bring the Disabled Parking Spaces Order into effect.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1** To continue the Councils policy of marking out disabled parking bays in residential streets that are heavily parked and where disabled people may have trouble in finding a parking space close enough to where they live without experiencing real difficulty in getting from their car to their home.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1** To not install the disabled bays would result in the applicants continuing to experience difficulty in getting to and from their vehicle. To not remove un-needed disabled parking bays would leave parking spaces unused that could relieve parking pressures in the area.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 5.1** Parking within some residential roads within the Borough can be difficult and, for those with a disability, parking near to their home can be a necessity as opposed to a convenience. For this reason, and where possible, the Council provides formal Disabled Persons Parking Bays for applicants that can demonstrate their eligibility

against a set criteria. Typically, applicants request bays within streets that are heavily parked and where disabled people have trouble in finding a parking space close enough to where they live without experiencing real difficulty in getting from their car to their home. Although provided as the result of individual applications, marked bays are available for use by any Blue Badge holder.

- 5.2 Following assessment against the Councils core criteria for the implementation of disabled persons parking bays 15 new bays were approved and the positions agreed with the applicants.
- 5.3 Proposals were also included to re-locate an existing disabled parking bay due to accessibility issues following a request from the resident currently using it.
- 5.4 The disabled bays to be installed are shown on attached plans in Annex A. Comments and/or objections received during the TRO consultation process, and the resultant Officer recommendation is detailed in Annex B.
- 5.5 The Traffic Regulation Order also included provision for the removal of 7 disabled parking bays that were no longer in use. The markings and signs for these bays had been removed on site previously.

Informal consultation

- 5.6 In accordance with the standard consultation process for transport schemes, informal comments are sought from local Ward Members at the early stage of scheme promotion. In this case, the disabled bay proposals involved consultation with eight Council Wards – Bullbrook, Crown Wood, Great Hollands North & South, Hanworth, Old Bracknell, Priestwood & Garth and Wildridings & Central. Of the nineteen Members consulted, twelve confirmed their support of the proposals and no response was received from seven.

Statutory consultation

- 5.6 The Statutory consultation process for Traffic Regulation Orders requires public advertisement through the placing of public notices within the local press and on-street. It is a requirement for the Council to consider any formal objections received within the statutory advertisement period of 21 days. Formal notification of the public advertisement is given to key stakeholders including local Ward Members, Town and Parish Councils, Thames Valley Police and other affected parties.
- 5.7 Eleven formal objections/comments were received, relating to eight of the proposed disabled bays, and are summarised on the attached 'Objections to Traffic Regulation Orders' tables with corresponding Officer comments (Annex B). The objections were passed to the Local Members for their comments and these too are included in the tables. All of the remaining advertised bays received no objections or comments.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 If objections are received to a Traffic Regulation Order, there is a discretion but not an obligation to hold a public inquiry into the proposed order". In these instances the objections and the officer response set out the issues clearly so it is not considered that a public inquiry would be appropriate. The regulations relating to the making of

Traffic Regulation Orders do permit an Order to be modified from that advertised, though if the modification is considered to be substantial further notification to permit further representations is required.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The costs associated with the introduction and removal of the disabled parking bays will be met from the Traffic Management revenue budgets.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 It is anticipated that the work resulting from this Order will have a positive impact on the users of new and relocated disabled bays. Although it is recognised that the installation of disabled parking bays may lead to an increase in competition for parking in certain areas for able bodied residents this is not deemed sufficient reason to not install a bay.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 None

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The disabled parking bays have been subject to an informal and statutory consultation process in accordance with the agreed process for transport schemes.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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