

Proposed Extension of Zone HB Permit Parking in Clifton Road, Tunbridge Wells

For Joint Transportation Board on 2nd October 2023

Summary

Lead Director: Lee Colyer – Director of Finance, Policy and Development

Head of Service: Jane Fineman – Head of Finance and Procurement

Report Author: Nick Baldwin – Senior Engineer

Classification: Public document

Wards Affected: Sherwood

Recommendation

That the Board notes the response to a public consultation exercise and recommends against implementing any changes to permit parking restrictions in Clifton Road subject to a verbal update at the meeting.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At the April 2023 meeting of this Board a report was considered which outlined the responses to an informal consultation in permit parking Zone HB, which covers parts of Clifton Road, Brook Road and Oak Road.
- 1.2 All residents of the zone were contacted and their views sought on the principle of controlling more roadside space with permit parking restrictions. These currently restrict parking to 2 hours between 9am and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays with an exemption for permit holders.
- 1.3 42 responds to that consultation favoured more roadside space being controlled whilst 27 were against the idea. Although not an overwhelmingly favourable response it was deemed sufficient to progress to a formal consultation with the agreed proposal being

to promote a restriction which would make all of Clifton Road subject to the same permit parking restriction.

2. Formal Consultation

- 2.1 A formal consultation was commenced on 31st August and closed on 21st September 2023. At the time of writing, 13 responses had been received but that will be verbally updated at the meeting.
- 2.2 Of those received 6 supported the proposals and 7 objected. The level of response has been disappointing, especially bearing in mind that letters were sent to all addresses in the zone asking that comments be made whether in support of or against change.
- 2.3 It should be noted that some respondents, both for and against, commented that the main issues arose after 5pm and/or at weekends, when no current or proposed restrictions apply.

3. Comment on Responses

- 3.1 In the original consultation only 42 respondents favoured an increase in the amount of space subject to permit parking out of a total of 238 properties. That is less than 18%. 6 positive responses to the formal consultation equates to 2.5%.
- 3.2 Whilst some weight has to be given to the initial response, it has to be remembered that it was not a response to a specific proposal, just the principle of change. Even so, 18% support is a very low figure and does not demonstrate significant interest in the idea of imposing more restrictions.
- 3.3 To justify making changes requires a much higher level of engagement and differential between support and objection. Neither consultation has shown that many residents actively want change.
- 3.4 This report was written whilst the consultation was still live in order that deadlines for submission of reports could be met and it may be that more responses are submitted in the final couple of days, in which case these will be reported verbally at the meeting, possibly impacting on the recommendation.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Bearing in mind the foregoing comments, there is no justification for amending the permit parking restrictions in Zone HB, but that is provisional on any responses submitted in the final two days of the consultation.
- 4.2 Members are therefore recommended not to endorse the making of advertised changes to Clifton Road (Zone HB) permit parking restrictions.