

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Councillor Ken Ellcome, at his meeting held on Thursday, 24 July 2014 at 10.00 am in The Executive Meeting Room, 3rd Floor of The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Present

Councillor Ken Ellcome

Councillor Lynne Stagg
Councillor Ken Ferrett

Also in attendance

Councillors Hugh Mason, Michael Andrewes, Luke Stubbs, Lee Hunt, Linda Symes, Robert New and Matthew Winnington and approximately 70 local residents

14. Apologies (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from the UKIP spokesperson, Councillor Stuart Potter.

15. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

16. Central Southsea Residents' Parking Schemes: MB Zone and MC Zone (AI 3)

Over 215 written representations and emails had been received, including a petition from the lower part of Telephone Road containing 28 signatures, which had been circulated to Councillor Ellcome and the opposition spokespersons, prior to the meeting. On the morning of the meeting, copies of a further 17 emails were circulated.

Nikki Musson, the Operational Transport Officer introduced the report. She explained that the introduction of the MB Orchard Road Area residents' parking zone in November 2011 had had a significant impact on the adjacent roads with displacement parking, whilst over 300 parking spaces were left unused each day. This prompted more than 200 emails and representations from residents affected by the MB zone. As a consequence, a survey was undertaken in 2012 but the results were inconclusive. No action was taken but a small majority continued to campaign for a parking scheme or for the MB zone to be revoked. A paper was taken to the Cabinet in November 2013 which highlighted concerns from officers regarding displacement issues it could create. In January 2014 the Cabinet agreed for a new residents' parking

scheme to be introduced for the area south of the existing MB zone, to be called the MC zone, operating as Permit Holders Only for a 2-hour period per day. This was introduced in April 2014.

Deputations were heard from the following residents, Mr Matt Smart (Jessie Road), Mr Derek Mottershead, Mr Gary Hall (Esslemont Road), Mr Brian McCreesh (Havelock Road), Mr Christian Milne (Ventor Road), Jean Urry (Talbot Road), Mr Philip Wright, Mr James Massiah (Manners Road), Jon Sumpter (Livingstone Road), Mr Anthony Hadley (Delamere Road), Barbara Jones, Mr Hammond, Mr Alan Ellcome and Mr Whiteside who all spoke against and included some of the points listed below in their representations:

- There is more displacement from the Fratton residents parking zone and over 60% empty spaces in other residents parking zones so why target the MB zone?
- Residents' survey in 2014 had 25% return rate with 2/3s of the streets wanting residents parking.
- Cheap shot for political gain with poor arguments put forward to change or revoke the residents parking.
- The 2-hour residents parking zone goes some way to good working for all so why change?
- Residents can park near to their homes when they come home from work.
- Removal of MB and MC makes no sense.
- Complete disregard to residents views.
- MB zone caters for all, residents and non-residents.
- Why do you want parking for residents in the MB zone to go back to being a nightmare?
- MC zone were promised a full consultation after 12months, not 4.
- Your concern should be home owners and residents not students and van drivers.
- Spirit of temporary traffic orders is public consultation so what is so urgent about this matter and why has there been no public consultation?
- Council claim that it is the number of empty spaces in the zone which needs addressing but other zones have a much higher number of empty spaces and they are not being addressed.
- Roads in MC zone are predominantly full and should be hailed a success, not revoked.
- Now far less student vehicles in MC zone.
- Unjust and unfair to change this.
- Both zones were made at residents' requests.
- GA and LB zones both have empty spaces and yet are not being revoked.
- Residents have expressed their views so many times.
- MC zone is the only zone in Portsmouth with a 2-hour restriction.
- No regard for public opinion.
- How much money has been spent on this?
- Either revoke all residents parking zones in the city or none.
- Had no response to my email from Councillor Ellcome.

- If we hadn't heard about this decision from our ward councillors we would never have had the opportunity to express our views.
- The 2014 survey should supersede the 2012 one.
- Number of complaints should tell you how residents feel.
- Fought for years to get residents parking in MB.
- Football traffic/commuters/evening trippers/HMOs/endless stream of taxis/large vans/mobile homes - we had to put up with the lot and it was a nightmare.
- Councillor Ellcome wants us to go back to parking chaos.
- Displacement areas should be given their own residents parking.
- HMOs pay for additional vehicles or park outside of the zone.
- Do you really expect residents to drive around roads looking for a parking space?
- Should be encouraging businesses to flourish.
- Keep MC zone as an example for other zones.
- Councillor Ellcome doesn't live in our area and doesn't know the problems we experience.
- Will we get a refund if the residents' parking is revoked?
- Would like to thank the ward councillors for keeping us informed.
- Dispute the number of empty spaces quoted by the council.
- Completely undemocratic.
- Council just takes away all the time.
- The Leader believes in openness and transparency but not in this case.
- Extremely premature to cancel a temporary zone only 4 months into it and officers haven't had sufficient time to assess the zone.

A deputation was also heard from Mr Wareham, who spoke in favour and included the following points in his representations:

- Councillor Ellcome is having to deal with a previous decision.
- When Councillor Hunt was a conservative he didn't want residents parking.
- Now the LibDems wants residents parking zones.
- Don't like residents parking.
- Should do the same as the IOW where everyone pays for a permit and is then permitted to park in any road.

Councillors Hugh Mason, Michael Andrewes and Lee Hunt included the following points in their deputations:

- Parking in northern St Jude ward is now critical.
- Decision is not open and transparent.
- Not about setting residents against each other.
- Dispersal areas want their own residents parking zones.
- Had numerous surveys, all in favour of residents parking.
- If it is about dispersal then why aren't you revoking other adjacent zones?
- High level of students are distorting the results, who would normally have to pay for permits.

- Councillor Ellcome should apologise to residents who are being treated differently to other areas.
- Trying to sneak through a temporary order.
- Leave MB and MC zones alone.
- Many residents initially objected to the residents parking zones but are here today to say that the 'soft touch' approach works.
- These zones have been life changing for residents allowing them to park near to their homes and taking the nightmare of parking away.
- Listen to the residents here today and listen to the representations you have received.
- Councillor Ellcome needs to make a decision for the residents and not a political decision.

Councillors Luke Stubbs and Linda Symes included the following points in their deputations:

- No easy answer to the parking problems in a city with so many Victorian properties.
- If you walk around the MB zone you do see a lot of empty space, you don't see that in Fratton.
- Have great sympathy for the residents of the MB zone trying to seek a parking space.
- MB zone has hundreds of empty spaces.
- Need to think strategically and look at all parking areas.
- Would support the suspension of the MB and MC zones.

Councillor Lynne Stagg questioned why these particular zones had been picked out and why residents aren't being listened to. Should consult with the residents first and then make a decision. She also questioned why the MC zone wasn't being left for 12months as promised to the residents when it was introduced. All temporary orders are re-surveyed after 12months with a view to making any necessary changes needed.

Councillor Ken Ferrett felt that a proper strategy was needed for residents parking. The current resident parking zones have been piecemeal.

The City Solicitor advised all present that with regards to recommendation 2.2.1a), the cabinet member does not have the authority to revoke and can only suspend parking restrictions.

Councillor Ken Ellcome reported that he had received between 250 and 300 emails, both for and against the proposals. He apologised for not responding to them all and explained that he does have other council responsibilities too. However, he confirmed that he would answer all of the emails he had received. He also explained that he endeavours to work for all residents and not just the ones in his ward. This is not a political decision and he wants to address the issues raised by the original MB zone. He had asked officers to look at the parking around these zones some weeks ago. Now that there are so many schemes we need to look strategically across the city. He felt that it was a mistake at the time to introduce the MC and MB zones.

DECISION: Councillor Ellcome considered all comments made and in particular issues raised in the Cabinet report of November 2013. He agreed to implement an experimental traffic regulation order to suspend both the MC and MB zone parking restrictions with effect from 1 September 2014.