

Leicester
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED
WESTCOTES**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

6th NOVEMBER 2008

PETITIONS TO WESTCOTES COMMUNITY MEETING 11th SEPTEMBER 2008

Report of the Service Director Regeneration, Highways & Transportation

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To deal with three petitions submitted to the Westcotes Community Meeting on 11th September 2008 by members of the public. Petition 1 with 117 signatures from Leicester Elim Pentecostal Church "*PETITION Against the PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL PARKING SCHEME*". Petition 2 with 42 signatures from Ms. Jenni Robson "*A Petition Rejecting the proposal to charge for parking (residential) in the west end area of Leicester (LE3)*". Petition 3 with 313 signatures from Snutch Newsagents of 192 Fosse Road South "*PETITION TO OBJECT TO PARKING CHARGES*"

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In March 2006 The Council distributed more than 12,000 questionnaires to all properties in the West End area of the City to determine if there was popular support for the introduction of a residents parking scheme. The results indicated that in an area on either side of Narborough Road north of Upperton Road there was a "yes" vote of 53% with 12% undecided and 35% against. The yes vote area falls entirely within Westcotes Ward. A plan is attached as appendix 1 that shows the consultation and "yes" vote areas.
- 2.2 Following discussions at the Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields, Westcotes and Western Park Area committee on 7th November 2007 it was decided to appoint external consultants to carry out further consultations in the "yes" vote area to identify contentious issues and seek indications on the type of scheme that would best suit the needs of the area. Following a competitive tendering exercise MAC Associates were awarded the contract to undertake the consultation. During July to September 2008 MAC associates have conducted door to door surveys and held a series of public consultation events to gauge public opinion.
- 2.3 The petitions have arisen as a result of that consultation exercise which is ongoing. As yet the Council has no formal proposal to introduce a residents parking scheme in Westcotes Ward.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the decision of the Service Director to respond to these petitions by the letter sent to each of the chief petitioners be supported.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 Three petitions were submitted to the Westcotes Community Meeting on 16th September 2008 by members of the public. Petition 1 with 117 signatures from Leicester Elm Pentecostal Church "*PETITION Against the PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL PARKING SCHEME*". Petition 2 with 42 signatures from Ms. Jenni Robson "*A Petition Rejecting the proposal to charge for parking (residential) in the west end area of Leicester (LE3)*". Petition 3 with 313 signatures from Snutch Newsagents of 192 Fosse Road South "*PETITION TO OBJECT TO PARKING CHARGES*". The petitions were referred to the Director of Regeneration and Culture.
- 4.2 The Council is considering the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme to deal with on street parking problems that have a significant adverse effect on local residents. The Council first identified the need for schemes in seven areas of the City in the 1990's.
- 4.3 The extensive consultation exercise carried out in 2006 indicates majority support for such a scheme by residents in that area. The present consultation exercise that has triggered the petitions is designed to determine the parking needs of the whole of the Westcotes Ward Community including residents, businesses and other Organisations. No design work has yet been undertaken to introduce a residents parking scheme.
- 4.4 Petition 1 with 117 signatures was received from the Eilm Pentecostal Church. The Church is located on the Corner of Narborough Road and Harrow Road in the centre of the consultation area. The Church have indicated that they draw worshippers from as far afield as Groby, Markfield & Queninborough as it is the only Elim church in the City. Only 2 of the 117 signatories are believed to live in the proposed residents parking area. The Church have indicated that Sunday Gospel Services and many prayer meetings might have to be abandoned if a scheme was implemented.
- 4.5. Design work on the scheme has not yet started, consultation is ongoing. The need for parking facilities for shoppers, visitors, worshippers, businesses as well as residents is recognised and any scheme that is proposed will provide an assortment of parking places subject to a wide variety of different restrictions designed to cater for the needs of the whole community whilst adjusting the balance back in favour of local residents. Officers have sent a letter to the church indicating that this is the case and inviting church representatives to attend the further consultation events that are planned and to engage with the council in identifying their parking requirements to ensure the best chance of accommodating their needs. Should a formal scheme be proposed then the legal process allows for objections to be made and considered before a final decision is made. A copy of the letter is attached as appendix 2.
- 4.6 Petition 2's source is unknown and contains no further information other than the opening statement "*A Petition Rejecting the proposal to charge for parking (residential) in the west end area of Leicester (LE3)*". The chief petitioner has been assumed to be Jenni Robson of 8, Church Lane Clipston as that is the first signature on the petition. Three of the 42 signatories are believed to be residents from within the proposed residents parking zone. There is no indication as to why the signatories oppose the scheme or the effect that it would have on them. A letter has been sent to Miss Robson

explaining the consultation and objection process a copy of which is attached as appendix 3.

- 4.7 Petition 3 with 313 signatures is from Snutch Newsagents located at 192 Fosse Road South which is on the western boundary of the proposed scheme. The covering note states “*Say No to Parking Charges * Yet Another Tax* The City Council Wishes To Introduce Parking Charges In The Area. Residents £25 Businesses £100 Fines £100 Visitors £1 per visit Please Sign Petition To object*”. The 313 signatories include 88 people who live within the proposed residents parking zone together with other residents from nearby, local businesses and visitors to the area. A letter has been sent to the Newsagents inviting them to attend the further consultation events that are planned and to engage with the Council in identifying their parking requirements and concerns regarding the fees. Should a formal scheme be proposed then the legal process allows for objections to be made and considered before a final decision is made. A copy of the letter is attached as appendix 4.

5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph references within the report
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- 7.1 Report “Residents Parking Scheme Consultation Results” approved by Highways & Transportation Scrutiny Committee on 8th March 2007.

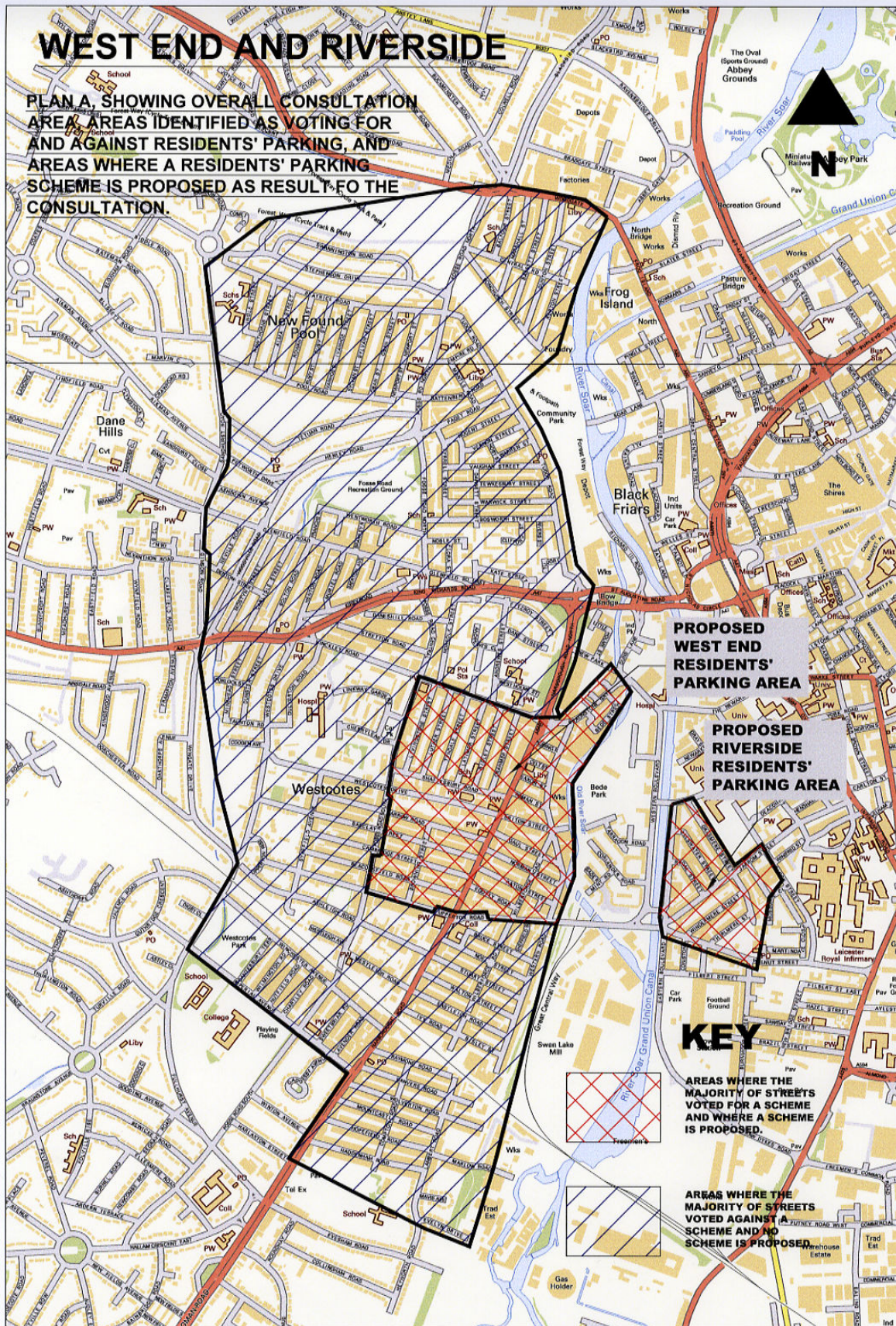
8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Westcotes Ward Councillors were consulted in compiling this report.

9. REPORT AUTHOR

Paul Commons,
TRO Team Leader,
City Development. paul.common@leicester.gov.uk.
Ext 392134

APPENDIX 1



APPENDIX 2

Please ask for: Mr. P. Commons
Telephone: (0116) 2232134
Fax no: (0116) 2558864
E Mail paul.common@leicester.gov.uk
Website: www.leicester.gov.uk
Our ref. HT/TF/PC/261432/688
Your Ref:
Date: 20th October 2008

Leicester Elim Pentecostal Church
Narborough Road
Leicester
LE3 0LF

Dear Sir / Madam

PETITION AGAINST THE PROPOSED RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME

I refer to your petition submitted to the Westcotes Community meeting on 11th September 2008. I understand that the Church are against the introduction of such a scheme as they consider that it would prevent many of the churchgoers attending services because they travel from far afield by car.

The Scheme is presently only at the concept stage and consultation with all interested parties is ongoing to establish the diverse needs of all concerned prior to devising a formal scheme. Further consultation events and workshops to identify potential problems and identify solutions are presently being planned. Leaflets will be distributed widely throughout the area to notify interested parties of these events and I sincerely hope that representatives from the Church will take part.

No residents parking scheme can reserve all available on street parking places solely for the use of residents. Any scheme that might be introduced will contain a variety of parking restrictions designed to cater for the needs of the whole community whilst adjusting the balance back in favour of local residents.

At the present time the Council simply wishes to acknowledge your expression of concern regarding the potential impact of a residents parking scheme on the operation of your Church. The Council also wishes to assure you that your views will be taken into account if the scheme proceeds to the design stage and every attempt will be made to provide some on street parking places suitable for your needs.

Should a formal scheme be proposed then the legal process allows for formal objections to be made and considered before a final decision is made. Notification of a formal scheme is by a notice placed in the Leicester Mercury and by notices placed on lamp columns on the streets concerned. At that time plans showing the nature and extent of all parking restrictions would be available for inspection.

The Service Director for Regeneration, Highways & Transportation has decided to deal with your petition by the sending of this letter. This decision will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting at the Town Hall at 5.30pm on 6th November. The meeting is open to the Public and you are free to attend. Members of the public are not permitted to speak at the meeting.

I look forward to your input in developing a scheme that best meets the needs of the whole community. Please contact me on direct line 2232134 if you require further information or have any questions arising from the contents of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Paul Commons,
Team Leader,
Traffic Regulation Team

APPENDIX 3

Please ask for: Mr. P. Commons
Telephone: (0116) 2232134
Fax no: (0116) 2558864
E Mail paul.common@leicester.gov.uk
Website: www.leicester.gov.uk
Our ref. HT/TF/PC/261432/689
Your Ref:
Date: 20th October 2008

Ms. Jenni Robson
8 Church Lane
Clipston
Leicestershire

Dear Ms. Robson

PETITION AGAINST THE PROPOSED RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME, WESTCOTES WARD, LEICESTER

I refer to a petition submitted to the Westcotes Community meeting on 11th September 2008. Your name appears as the first signatory and there is no further indication as to who submitted the petition or your reason for opposing the scheme. The petition states "*A Petition Rejecting the proposal to charge for parking (residential) in the west end area of Leicester (LE3)*". In the circumstances I have to assume that you are the lead petitioner and would ask you to contact me to discuss your concerns and indicate how the proposed scheme would impact on you.

The Scheme is presently only at the concept stage and consultation with all interested parties is ongoing to establish the diverse needs of all concerned prior to devising a formal scheme. Further consultation events and workshops to identify potential problems and identify solutions are presently being planned. Leaflets will be distributed widely throughout the area to notify interested parties of these events and I sincerely hope that if you are the lead petitioner and are either a local resident or operate a business in the area that you will take part.

Residents parking schemes in Leicester cost just £25 per annum for a residents parking permit, £100 per annum for business Permits and residents visitor permits (48 hour) are £1 each with each household receiving 5 free permits. These charges are the absolute minimum required to make the issuing of permits and operation of the scheme self financing. The scheme is only being proposed because of requests from local residents who suffer significant problems due to "outsider" parking. The charges represent no profit element for the Council.

I note that only three of the 42 signatories reside in the proposed residents parking area and there is no indication as to how the scheme might affect the other signatories. Further information as to the reason for submitting the petition would be most welcome.

The Service Director for Regeneration, Highways & Transportation has decided to deal with your petition by the sending of this letter. This decision will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting at the Town Hall at 5.30pm on 6th November. The

meeting is open to the Public and you are free to attend. Members of the public are not permitted to speak at the meeting.

Should a formal scheme be proposed then the legal process allows for formal objections to be made and considered before a final decision is made. Notification of a formal scheme is by a notice placed in the Leicester Mercury and by notices placed on lamp columns on the streets concerned. At that time plans showing the nature and extent of all parking restrictions would be available for inspection.

I look forward to receiving more information from you to assist the Council in designing a scheme that best meets the needs of all interested parties. Please contact me on direct line 2232134 if you require further information or have any questions arising from the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Paul Commons,
Team Leader,
Traffic Regulation Team

APPENDIX 4

Please ask for: Mr. P. Commons
Telephone: (0116) 2232134
Fax no: (0116) 2558864
E Mail paul.common@leicester.gov.uk
Website: www.leicester.gov.uk
Our ref. HT/TF/PC/261432/690
Your Ref:
Date: 20th October 2008

Snutch Newsagents
192 Fosse Road South
Leicester

Dear Sir / Madam

PETITION AGAINST THE PROPOSED RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME, WESTCOTES WARD, LEICESTER

I refer to your petition submitted to the Westcotes Community meeting on 11th September 2008. Your petition indicates opposition to the proposed scheme on the grounds that it is a further "TAX" and you oppose parking charges.

The Scheme is presently only at the concept stage and consultation with all interested parties is ongoing to establish the diverse needs of all concerned prior to devising a formal scheme. Further consultation events and workshops to identify potential problems and identify solutions are presently being planned. Leaflets will be distributed widely throughout the area to notify interested parties of these events and I sincerely hope that you will take part.

Residents parking schemes in Leicester cost just £25 per annum for a residents parking permit, £100 per annum for business Permits and residents visitor permits (48 hour) are £1 each with each household receiving 5 free permits. These charges are the absolute minimum required to make the issuing of permits and operation of the scheme self financing. The scheme is only being proposed because of requests from local residents who suffer significant problems due to "outsider" parking. The charges represent no profit element for the Council.

I note that only 88 of the 313 signatories reside in the proposed residents parking area and would be required to pay £25 per annum for the residents parking permits. The Council undertook an extensive survey in 2006 when 53% of local residents who responded were in favour of a residents parking scheme with an annual permit fee of £25, 12% of respondents were undecided and 35% were opposed to the scheme. The Council considers that this information gives a more reliable indication of the views of local residents than the petitions that have been received.

The Service Director for Regeneration, Highways & Transportation has decided to deal with your petition by the sending of this letter. This decision will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting at the Town Hall at 5.30pm on 6th November. The

meeting is open to the Public and you are free to attend. Members of the public are not permitted to speak at the meeting.

Should a formal scheme be proposed then the legal process allows for formal objections to be made and considered before a final decision is made. Notification of a formal scheme is by a notice placed in the Leicester Mercury and by notices placed on lamp columns on the streets concerned. At that time plans showing the nature and extent of all parking restrictions would be available for inspection. All fees applicable to the scheme would also be made public and would be subject to the same objection procedure.

Thank you for making your views known with regard to the charges that might be levied for permits for the proposed residents parking scheme. All views expressed will be taken into account if a formal scheme is designed. Please contact me on direct line 2232134 if you require further information or have any questions arising from the contents of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Paul Commons,
Team Leader,
Traffic Regulation Team