

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND CORPORATE ASSETS

DOVER JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 26 FEBRUARY 2015

PROPOSED RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME - ATHOL TERRACE, DOVER

Recommendation

The Board is asked to decide which of the options for a residents' parking scheme covering Athol Terrace and listed in Paragraph 2 of this report, should be progressed. If it is decided to advertise an amended or new scheme, then any objections received will be referred back to a future meeting of the Board for further consideration before making any final recommendations.

Contact Officers: Christopher Allen Ext 2054
 Gordon Measey Ext 2422

Reasons why a decision is required

1. The Parking Services Unit at Dover District Council is responsible for the operation and enforcement of on-street parking regulations on behalf of Kent County Council. It is necessary for the Board to consider whether the recommendation made in this report should be progressed.

Evaluation of options available to the Council

2.
 - (i) To recommend that the proposal as advertised for an exclusive residents' scheme jointly covering Athol Terrace, East Cliff and Marine Parade be sealed.
 - (ii) To re-advertise the proposal covering all 3 roads with a change that the scheme operates daily from 8.30am – 5.30pm and includes a 1-hour limited waiting period for non-permit holders, as is the standard arrangement for all other residents' parking schemes across the district.
 - (iii) To advertise a residents' parking scheme in Athol Terrace only, permitting only daytime parking for those Athol Terrace residents with permits.
 - (iv) To advertise an alternative scheme, not listed above.
 - (v) To withdraw the proposals and leave the parking arrangement in Athol Terrace as it is.

Information to be considered in taking the decision

3. At the Joint Transportation Board meeting on 11 September 2014, the Board resolved that a combined residents' parking scheme covering Athol Terrace, East Cliff and Marine Parade, as detailed on Appendix A1, should be advertised. This is the scheme listed as option (i) in paragraph 2, above
4. The consultation on the proposal closed on 8 December 2014. Of the responses received 25 objected to the scheme ,19 supported it and 1 commented neither for or against:

- 11 of the 12 respondents from Athol Terrace objected to the proposal stating that the parking in Athol Terrace should be exclusively for Athol Terrace residents and not wanting to share a scheme with the neighbouring roads.
- 18 of the 36 respondents from East Cliff and one from Athol Terrace supported the proposal.
 - Of the 14 of the 36 respondents from East Cliff who objected to the scheme, the majority were concerned that with the loss of the limited waiting, visitors would now have to pay (use visitors' permits) to park. This was particularly of concern to; the elderly relying on friends and carers visiting them; residents with 2 cars and/or non-permit holders wanting an opportunity to park in the evening before the 10pm restriction ended.

5. The objections are summarised in the table below:

| OBJECTOR | COMMENTS | NOTE |
|------------------------|--|------|
| Athol Terrace resident | Would prefer Athol Terrace for Athol Residents and East Cliff for East Cliff residents. Why change? | |
| Athol Terrace resident | System will not work for us. We are at dangerous levels now. We want residents Athol Terrace <u>only</u> . Average of 30 cars parked per night. Passage for emergency vehicles impossible. Safety of residents at risk. Hours covered not enough to stop DHB shift workers parking. | |
| Athol Terrace resident | To many cars parking in Athol Terrace from East Cliff | |
| Athol Terrace resident | DDC created the parking problem when they allowed Gordon House to be made into flats, 12 flats without providing parking or refuge storage Athol Terrace has enough parking for its residents, not enough for East Cliff. If proposal goes ahead Athol Terrace will become overspill for East Cliff. Gordon House residents double park in Athol Terrace. There's barely enough parking for us. | |
| Athol Terrace resident | I wish the parking in Athol Terrace to be residents only for Athol Terrace. The road is a equal to a cul-de-sac and has previously been Athol Terrace Residents only | |
| Athol Terrace resident | Athol Terrace cannot cope with its current allocation of vehicles. Opening parking to East Cliff is madness and dangerous. I have already had an accident in Athol Terrace due to overcrowding. This will only make matters worse. | |
| Athol Terrace resident | Proposal will basically still cause the ongoing problems. Needs to be just us. My mother comes to help also with her own car. Needs to be just Athol residents and guests in Athol Terrace. The parking could be simply arranged to produce much more parking. Would rather no change than limited parking. | |

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| Athol Terrace resident | This proposal is of no help whatsoever to Athol Terrace residents. We need 24 hour restricted parking for Athol residents as it was before, but overseen by the Council. It's only because we pushed for it that this whole issue has arisen. If all the properties are against the Council's proposal they should look at the majority and have what we want as an option. The council keeps ignoring that option. | |
| Athol Terrace resident | Whilst it's wonderful to have some residents only and no limited waiting recommendations, rather than the dreadful situation endured over the past few years, we feel it would be no more bureaucratic to have separate residents only status | |
| Athol Terrace resident | A parking zone exclusively for the use of Athol Terrace residents only is required by all residents. There are 2 infirm people in the street that need to park close to their houses. If the proposal is introduced then when Athol Terrace is full residents would have a 1-mile round trip back round into East Cliff. Residents in Athol Terrace know each other and can ask neighbours to move cars. We could no longer do this if East Cliff residents park in the road. Car Insurance goes up if you can't state that you can park in your own street. | |
| Athol Terrace resident | We don't have a problem with the proposed restriction, but do, like every Athol Terrace resident, with the merging of Athol Terrace, East Cliff and Marine Parade into one zone. Athol Terrace wants a separate zone but enforced by DDC. We feel that DDC Parking Services is not listening and pressing ahead with changes regardless of residents' wishes. | |
| East Cliff resident | We're renting and it's expensive | |
| East Cliff resident | How does changing the times from 10am-5.30pm to 6am – 10pm help? Because DHB workers park at night and some of their shifts start at 10pm. Secondly it will be essential for visitors to use visitors' permits. My husband and I work shifts and have 2 cars and due to one permit per household will be required to use a visitor's permit for the 2 nd car. | |
| East Cliff resident | As only one permit per household, most people have 2 cars and would have nowhere to park. Plus issuing visitor permits in the evening would be really costly/annoying for every visitor. Other residential areas do not have this issue. | |
| East Cliff Property Owner | I let my property and make regular maintenance visits before 10am and rarely have to inconvenience my tenants by acquiring a visitor's permit. The new arrangement will severely curtail this ability. I'm quite happy with the current arrangement and do not understand what Athol Terrace has to do with this. East Cliff and Marine Parade are satisfied with the system as it is. | |
| East Cliff resident | This is going to be really difficult for elderly people who rely on friends and casual helpers. A permit linked to an address rather a vehicle would help. £1 tickets should be 24-hour permits, not calendar day permits. You should have an unlimited number of 1-hour permits at 20p for residents. Unless the permit system is revised I can't | |

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| | support this. | |
| East Cliff resident | New restriction times would not work. Extending the restriction times from 6am –10pm will mean my daughter to park 10 minutes away and having to walk in the dark. I would need 352 visitor permits just for my daughter. This parking issue is down to one man in Athol Terrace who spends half the year living in France. When the hotel was changed to flats was parking not considered by the Council? Removing the yellow lines outside NO 61 and 62 could help. I don't see how the Wardens would monitor the new restrictions, as they don't patrol more than once every 24 hours now? A car with a blue badge was parked continuously for 2 weeks – how is that fair? | There are no restrictions on the use of a Blue Badge. |
| East Cliff resident | I am in my mid 70s and look forward to the occasional visit from friends. I am a diabetic and am visited every 5 - 6 weeks to have my feet checked. She stays ½ hour and you expect me to pay £1 a time for short visits? | |
| East Cliff resident | I protest strongly to residents of Athol Terrace and their visitors being allowed to park in East Cliff or Marine Parade. There's already many occasions when there's not enough parking in these roads when residents return from work. At least one person in Athol Terrace has the ability to command a police car and fine anyone using their private parking area. Friends and visitors of mine parking for just 5-10 minutes would get a ticket. I can see given how busy Athol Terrace is that they would want to park in our roads and add to our problems. The area of the docks where the old petrol station used to be could provide additional parking. Residents and visitor parking at all times may also improve the availability of spaces. | |
| East Cliff resident | I am very concerned about the proposals. I'm unable to get around without transport and help from my friend. He is elderly and is disabled and told that if this scheme goes ahead he could use his blue badge to park outside my house. A visitor's permit at £1/day would cost him £365 a year. Can you make a dispensation for him? | A Blue Badge holder is exempt from restrictions. |
| East Cliff resident | I don't see why I should pay to park outside my own property. Make it a free permit. | |
| East Cliff resident | It will not stop cars being parked outside my door on the double yellow lines | |

6. All the returned questionnaires and letters will be available to Members at the Board meeting on 26 February 2015 and can be viewed in advance by prior arrangement with the Highways and Parking Team Leader, Gordon Measey (ext 2422).
7. In light of the overall majority of respondents rejecting the advertised residents' parking scheme, as detailed in Appendix A1, it seems unreasonable to progress as it stands. Consequently the officers do not recommend option (i) as listed in paragraph 2.
8. One solution to the objections raised by those in East Cliff that would allow visitors an opportunity to park free for an hour during the day and non-permit holders an opportunity to park overnight, is to introduce a 1-hour waiting restriction during the daytime (8.30am – 5.30pm) whilst allowing unrestricted stay periods for permit holders. This is the standard arrangement adopted for all other residents' parking schemes

across the district. This is the option (ii) as listed in paragraph 2. In considering this option Members will need to be mindful that, if the majority of Athol Terrace residents have already rejected the existing proposal that tried to maximise the parking provision for permit holders with its extended hours (6am – 10pm) and with no limited waiting during the day, then it's likely they will do so for this revised scheme. Officers would prefer not to promote a scheme which the majority of respondents in a road had objected to, or would likely do so.

9. Dover District Council can introduce an exclusive scheme just for Athol Terrace, but it has to be mindful to be seen to be fair sharing the available parking within a neighbourhood, particularly one so closely tied, as are East Cliff, Marine Parade and Athol Terrace. Whilst Athol Terrace can argue that it has had a vehicle access prohibition uniquely applied to it, this doesn't mean it should expect to have special parking provisions over those of its neighbours. For these reason the officers do not recommend option (iii) as listed in paragraph 2.
10. Officers have tried to find a scheme that is both fair and acceptable. Whilst Athol Terrace residents are keen for DDC to take over parking enforcement in their road, they have made it clear that this is only on the proviso that Athol Terrace is provided with exclusive parking. This has an obvious advantage to Athol Terrace which has an abundance of parking and which it is not prepared to share with its neighbours. This goes against the sharing principle in which all other resident parking schemes have been introduced and operate.
11. If none of the aforementioned options seem suitable and no alternative restriction is proposed, then Members are advised to withdraw any proposals to introduce parking restrictions in Athol Terrace.

Consultation Statement

The Portfolio Holder for Access and Property Management has been consulted on the proposal outlined in this report.

Impact on Corporate Objectives

The proposal outlined in this report will foster improved opportunity and access.

Attachments

Appendix A1: Proposed extension and restriction changes to Residents' Parking Zone C

Background Papers

Parking Services Files.

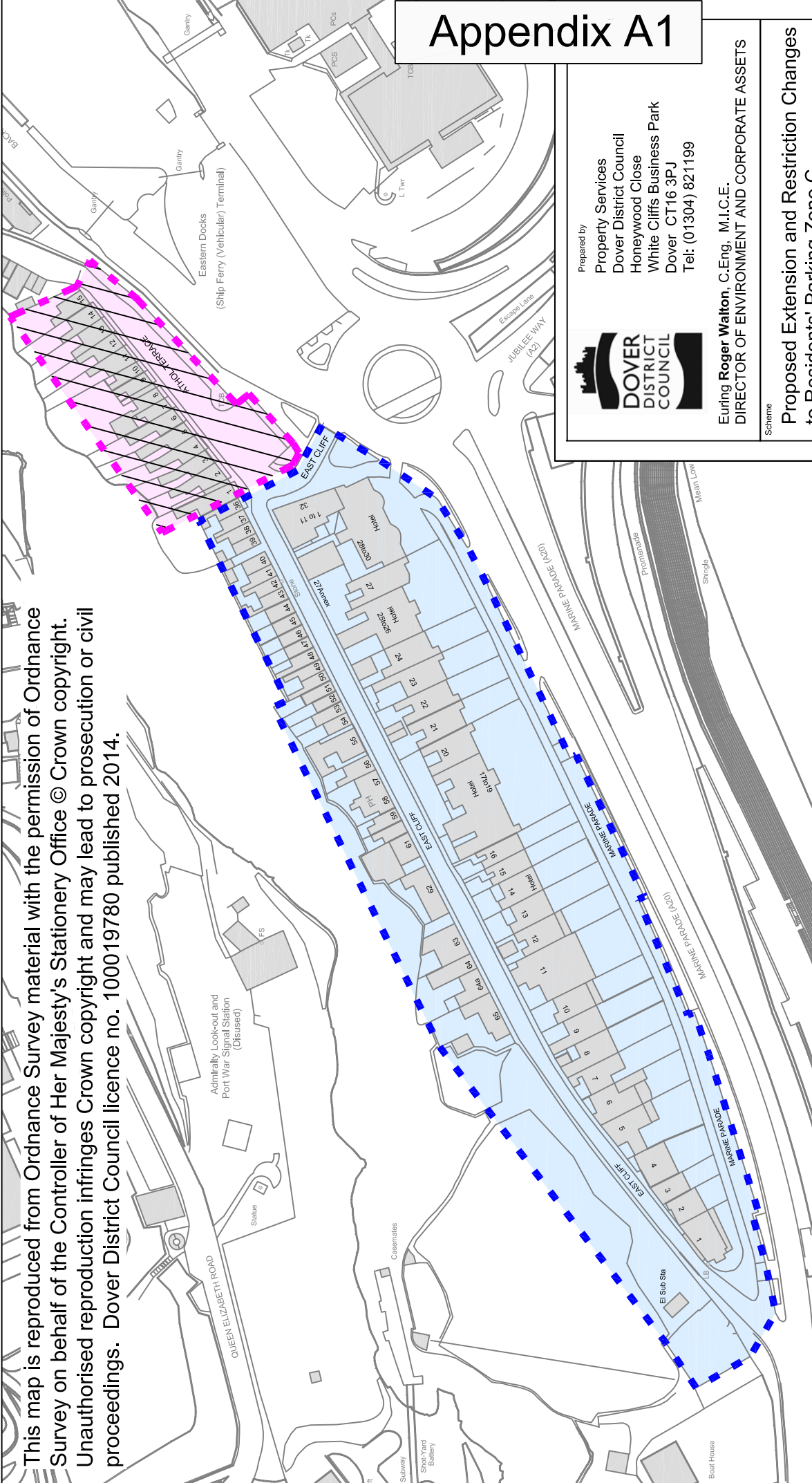
ROGER WALTON

Director of Environment and Corporate Assets

The officer to whom reference should be made concerning inspection of the background papers is the Head of Community Safety, CCTV and Parking, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ. Telephone: (01304) 821199, Extension 2054

Appendix A1

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 DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND CORPORATE ASSETS

Scheme
Proposed Extension and Restriction Changes to Residents' Parking Zone C

| | | | |
|--|------------|--------------------|-----|
| Location | | North | |
| Marine Parade, East Cliff and Athol Terrace, Dover | | | |
| Designed: CPA | Drawn: GEM | Date: 1st Oct 2014 | Rev |
| Scale | | Drawing Number | |
| 1 in 1500 (A4 size) | | TRAN/2014/0004 | |

Proposed new restriction for extended Zone C:

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | | |
| <p>Resident permit holders only 6 am - 10 pm</p> | <p>Zone C signs showing proposed restriction details</p> | <p>Permit parking area ENDS</p> |

Key to Map

| | |
|--|--|
| | Current Extent of Zone C Residents' Parking Scheme |
| | Proposed Extension to Zone C (combining East Cliff, Marine Parade and Athol Terrace) |