

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	DATE 10.11.2021	ITEM NO 5
TITLE Response to a Petition regarding request for designated resident parking to Edge Hill, Woolwich Common	WARD(S) Woolwich Common	
CHIEF OFFICER Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills	CABINET MEMBER Environment, Sustainability & Transport	
DECISION CLASSIFICATION Non-Key Non-Exempt	IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING? No. Recommendations endorsed by Highways Committee will be reported to the next available meeting of Full Council for approval.	

1. **Decision required**

The Highways Committee is requested to:

- 1.1 Note the petition calling for the introduction of resident parking to Edge Hill and for the parking on street to be designated to individual properties.
- 1.2 Note the response to the petition as set out in this report which will be reported to Full Council on 15th December 2021.

2. **Links to the Royal Greenwich high level objectives**

- 2.1 This report relates to the Council's agreed high-level objectives as follows:
 - A Healthier Greenwich
 - A Safer Greenwich
 - A Great Place to Grow Up
 - A Great Place to Be

3. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 3.1 A petition containing 8 signatures was presented to the meeting of Council on 30 September 2021 by Councillor Ivis Williams.
- 3.2 The petitioners have requested that action is taken to reduce the amount of on street parking in Edge Hill, with the introduction of parking controls which would include the designation of parking and/or permit bays on the highway for the residents of Edge Hill. Further action has been requested to address residents owning multiple vehicles and those associated with businesses.
- 3.3 The substance of the petition reads:

“It is with concerted frustration and hopelessness that we the undersigned residents of EDGEHILL SE18 3SQ, bring the above issue to your attention , with the hope that it will see a better light of day, than decades of attempt to work with the council on a viable way forward.

This very narrow road, EDGEHILL like it states is a hill where parking on both sides is not feasible but a limited single parking in front of the residencies a car per household sort of thin. You should know Edgehill it's as you drive up or down Plumstead Road, the drapery landscape is synonymous with lorries littered and packed almost the entire length of it.

This is owned by a single resident/family who have chosen to park their business trucks of all sizes on this road to the detriment and deprivation of other residents and their loved ones from the full right of enjoying their property including parking in front of it. It is a common phenomenon for us to go park in nearby inner streets in all season just because of a single resident's self-indulgence.

As stated above, this has been a long standing issue and has caused several altercations of varied scale between varying residents and the fellow/family in question. 40 years of this antisocial behavior and getting away with it takes its toll on residents and indeed some have moved out and selling their property as a result, so have prospective tenants, turned down renting properties here because of the sight of these vans and taking up parking space of prospective properties.

But worse of all is that we have had to sacrifice so much: like the regular hoist bin collection van from coming up this road as over time it has become worse to navigate and as a result bin men have to manually pick up bins to the truck. Furthermore, is the risk hazard these vans are and cause on this road as they block

the security lights and leave the sideways a blind spot for pedestrians and residents alike, not to talk of the fact that they are also parked partially taking up the kerb.

So also is the fact that these vans parked on this road, leaves cabs and delivery vans, repairs companies, and others, unable to pull up to the front of the house they are attending to. They have to stop on the main road while other cars coming behind have to wait or keep circling the block several times to complete a single trip/ mission to the property they are visiting.

Lastly and perhaps the most important of all, is the fact that we have a local resident with disability living there, whom the landlord has had to erect railings on both sides to enable the resident climb the stairs to and from the apartment. The person also uses cabs in moving around. It has been painful to watch the resident in addition to their limited mobility, painstakingly circumvent these vans parked right in front of the property to get to the waiting cabs and several times, cab drivers have driven off because other oncoming vehicles are hooting behind them and they have had to drive on and go round the block which for them is a waste of their time, but more of a further distress to an already disabled person.

It is therefore as a result of this and much more that we the undersigned residents of Edge hill SE18 3SQ, have approached the highway committee that you are members of, to seek justice, fairness in upholding our rights to enjoy our properties to the maximum including parking in front.

We therefore request the road, it's parking become designated parking allocated to each property.”

3.4 The proposed approach to responding to the petition is set out in this report and in summary includes:

a) A review and investigation to determine various measures to address concerns raised by the residents.

4. Introduction and Background

4.1 The petition was referred to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise & Skills as the relevant Chief Officer, for investigation and response. This report sets out the outcome of that investigation and the available options for response.

4.2 Edge Hill is a one-way road from its junction with Herbert Road, with a standard 30mph speed limit. The road is residential in nature, although some local business units are located in close proximity to Herbert Road. The carriageway is extremely narrow, with a footway located on the southern

side only, which fronts the existing properties. Opposite the properties on Edge Hill the land banks down sharply towards Plumstead Common Road. 'At Any' time waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) are present at the northern side to prevent parking occurring on both sides of the road. However, in reality, parking can only occur to one side due to the limited width. The southern side remains unrestricted with on street parking occurring – mostly consisting of local residents of Edge Hill. Depending on the size of the vehicle parked on street adjacent to the kerb, it can still be difficult for larger vehicles to pass. The footway is also narrow and therefore is not exempt from the footway parking ban. If a driver parks partially on the footway, a PCN (parking ticket) can be issued by a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO).

- 4.3 Concerns have been raised previously regarding Edge Hill and the concerns regarding access. Vehicles parking on street can at times reduce the carriageway width that can create on going issues for larger vehicles, especially refuse collection vehicles.
- 4.4 Whilst waiting restrictions (yellow lines) are present on street in certain locations to help improve the visibility and retain access, the remaining unrestricted lengths of Edge Hill, which is utilised by residents parking on street, can still interfere with the free flow of traffic and on occasions create a highway obstruction.
- 4.5 Residents have previously also raised concerns regarding some residents of Edge Hill owning and subsequently parking multiple vehicles on street which is also linked to a local business use. However, often the vehicles are parked legally and therefore little civil enforcement action can be taken by the Council.
- 4.6 If the vehicle is not parked on a waiting restriction (yellow line) or in a parking bay, is taxed, insured and roadworthy (subject to an appropriate MOT test) and it is parked safely then there is no action that can be taken by the Council. Although it can be very frustrating for residents, it is very difficult to prevent this from occurring. Whilst some vehicle types and sizes can be prevented from parking on street, smaller commercial vehicles owned by residents are very difficult to prevent. This issue has become much more common in recent years, with many residents bringing work vehicles home and/or using work vehicles for personal use.
- 4.7 Preventing one individual property or resident from parking on street is not possible nor practical.

- 4.8 Whilst engineers of the Royal Borough's Parking Design Team will explore possibilities to introduce additional waiting restrictions and parking controls, there is a balance that needs to be found. For example, introducing 'At Any time' waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) to both sides to ensure access is always maintained, the Council would also ultimately be removing residents from parking on street too. Whilst the Council must ensure larger vehicles (especially emergency vehicles) can obtain access, engineers are also aware of the impact this can have by displacing resident vehicles, often to even less desirable locations and creating further issues for residents, businesses and their visitors.
- 4.9 In terms of the request for resident parking, unfortunately the Council would not be able to designate spaces on the highway for individual residents or allocated to an individual property. The road forms part of the public highway and we are unable to designate a space to an individual to use. Car parking bays or spaces on the public highway cannot be designated for exclusive use and/or purchase. A resident and/or business has no special legal right to park directly outside their property. Whilst we can consider resident permit parking – this would result in a set of bays (or all the bays fronting all the properties) being able to be used by permit holders – [sentence needs completing]. This is the common design of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ's) and/or permit parking areas, and one that might not solve the issues raised in the petition.
- 4.10 Any parking scheme considered would require extensive consultation with the directly affected residents, as any permit parking scheme may not obtain support from the majority of residents, as such a scheme is unlikely to prevent all (or most) of the issues outlined in the petition that has been received.

5. Available Options

5.1 The available options are as follows:

- i) Highways Committee to note the receipt of the petition and endorse officers' recommendations to:
- consider the concerns raised in the petition regarding access and the level of on street parking in Edge Hill
 - investigate whether additional waiting restrictions or alternative parking controls could be introduced to Edge Hill

- consult residents on the parking issues and explore the possibility of resident permit parking controls
- ii) The receipt of the petition be noted by the Highways Committee, and retention of the current highway configuration.

6. Preferred Option

- 6.1 The preferred option is Option “i” the receipt of the petition be noted by the Highways Committee, and explore measures identified in paragraphs 4.6 to 4.10 of this report.

7. Reason for Recommendation

- 7.1 Any amendments to parking controls to Edge Hill will have an impact on all residents. A parking scheme may improve access but would reduce the amount of on street parking that can occur. This could have a negative impact on residents and their visitors.
- 7.2 Permit parking may help to reduce the number of vehicles parking on street, but it would not prevent residents from owning additional vehicles. As explained within this report, permit parking bays could not be allocated to an individual resident as requested and therefore residents would need to be consulted on any proposed scheme and/or changes on street.
- 7.3 The cost of the consultation and any minor changes on street would need to be funded by the Council’s revenue budget at a cost of circa £10,000. If agreed would be funded in the minor works programme in 22/22 financial year.

8. Consultation Results

- 8.1 Whilst residents would have been informed previously of any proposed waiting restrictions, residents have not been consulted on the wider parking issues of Edge Hill.
- 8.2 Consultation with all residents/ businesses would be required to establish the parking problems and options that may be supported. Consideration for permit parking is an option but will require consultation to gauge whether there is support for such changes on street and whether such a scheme would be beneficial and should be added to the parking work programme.

9. Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	<p>The Highways Committee is requested to note the petition presented by Councillor Ivis Williams to the Council meeting held on 30th September 2021 and to comment upon the proposed response to this petition, as outlined in this report.</p> <p>Article 3.01(a) in Part 2 of the Council's Constitution provides that residents of the Borough may bring concerns to the direct attention of the Council by asking a member to present a petition. Paragraph A1.19 in Part 4 of the Constitution requires that petitions are referred to the relevant Chief Officer, copied to the corresponding Cabinet Member, for investigation and response. The outcome of the investigation is to be reported back to full Council within two meetings.</p>	<p>Eleanor Penn, Assistant Head of Legal Services (Planning & Procurement)</p> <p>01/11/2021</p>
Finance and other resources	<p>The Highways Committee is requested to note the petition and the response to the petition as set out in this report which will be reported to Full Council on 15th December 2021.</p> <p>If agreed the estimated £10,000 cost of the consultation and any minor street changes would be funded from the Council's minor works programme revenue budget in 22/23 financial year.</p>	<p>Sue Rock Accountancy Business Change Manager</p> <p>28/10/2021</p>
Equalities	<p>Officers are aware of the requirement under the Public Sector Equality Duty (s149 of the Equality Act 2010). This report makes contribution to the Council's Equality and Equity Charter</p>	<p>Paul Nevard Senior Parking Projects Manager</p> <p>25/10/21</p>

	and the Council's Equality Objectives 2020-2024. Specifically HEMS, contributing to a healthy and safe environment as well as contributions to social care and health. Also providing safer public realm environment, making improvements to accessibility and walking.	
Climate change	This report proposes no decision or action at this time, so has no impact on climate change. The actions referred to in the report will include appropriate assessments of their impact on climate change in due course.	Paul Nevard Senior Parking Projects Manager 25/10/21

10. Report Appendices

- None

11. Background Papers

- None

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