

Petitions Panel

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	Wednesday 29 November 2017
Officer	Andrew Martin – Head of Highways.
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions – Petition requesting Dorset County Council to urgently include Meadowlands Estate, West Bay in plans to restrict car parking in the area, as this problem is now out of control and prevents emergency vehicles accessing our roads.
Executive Summary	A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council’s published petitions scheme) in relation to requesting parking restrictions in The Meadowlands Estate, West Bay to stop the unsafe, dangerous parking as a matter of urgency.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: Not applicable
	Use of Evidence: Latest available five years’ worth of road traffic collision data (June 2012 to May 2017)
	Budget: The cost of introducing a Traffic Regulation Order covering parking restrictions would likely to be between £2500 and £3500 – costs are for context only and do not represent actual costs, they include officer time and costs of any signing & lining as well as costs associated with the legal process.
	Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council’s approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:

Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled Parking in Meadowlands Estate, West Bay

	Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW
Other Implications:	None
Recommendation	The Panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.
Reason for Recommendation	In order to comply with the County Council's published scheme for responding to petitions and so as to enable local people to connect with local elected decision makers.
Appendices	Appendix A - Copy of Petition Appendix B - Plan of Meadowlands Estate Appendix C – Various photos from the Petitioner
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme
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1. Background to the Petition Scheme

1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010. The Scheme was subsequently updated by the County Council on 21 July 2016.

1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be dealt with by a small customer focussed panel. If a petition is supported by 1,000 or more signatories it will be scheduled for a debate at the next meeting of the full County Council.

2. Petition – Parking in Meadowlands Estate, West Bay

2.1 The County Council received a petition organised by Ann-Marie Knox. This reads as follows:

“We wish to petition Dorset County Council to urgently include the Meadowlands Estate, West Bay, in its plans to restrict car parking in the area. The problem has become out of control to the point that emergency vehicles cannot access if needed due to the number of visitors parked cars along Meadowlands, Buttercup Way and Bramble Drive. We ask that Dorset County Council restricts parking on these roads to residents and provide visitor permits”.

2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Panel are invited to note and discuss this.

2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include one or more of the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's audit and governance committee
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition.

2.4 Alternatively, the Panel may determine a combination of the options above, or decide on another course of action as appropriate.

3. Context

3.1 The Meadowlands Estate is a relatively new residential estate built in 2004 just off the main road to West Bay. There are no parking restrictions within the estate other than at the entrance. There is a public footpath that runs through the estate that leads all the way to

West Bay which is a popular walk. Vehicles park within the estate to make use of the decent walk into Bridport or West Bay (see appendix C photos). Bridport Town Council have been asked to support the introduction of parking restrictions in the estate – they are concerned that if yellow lines were introduced the parking issues would just move further into the estate. They also have to prioritise the list of proposed restrictions within their remit and feel that restrictions introduced in other areas would have the most impact for improvements for the town. Parking in Meadowlands is likely due in part, to a shortage of parking around the bay particularly in the summer, this is being investigated by West Dorset District Council and Bridport Town Council who are looking to increase parking areas.

It is important to consider that this parking restriction request is one of close to 120 other requests for a new Traffic Regulation Order across the whole of Dorset and it does not rank highly against other requests.

3.2 Collision data available to the County Council is provided and validated by Dorset Police. It includes collisions that occurred on the public highway reported to the police that resulted in personal injury to any person(s) involved.

It is accepted that this data is not the complete picture of collisions that have occurred however, it is the most robust and reliable data available to the County Council. It is standard practice to assess the most recent five year period of collisions when considering/identifying safety schemes.

Between June 2012 and May 2017 there have been zero injury collisions recorded in the Meadowlands Estate.

4 Next Steps

4.1 The panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it, possible options are available in paragraph 2.3.

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November 2017