

Agenda Item IMD28

NOTICE OF INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

ITEM NO.	IMD 2015-28
TITLE	Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Councillor John Kaiser, Executive Member for Planning and Highways
DATE AND TIME OF DECISION	Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 10.00 am
VENUE	WSP Room, 2nd floor, Council Offices, Shute End
REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED ON	Friday 28 August 2015

**INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION
REFERENCE IMD: 2015/28**

TITLE	Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Cllr. John Kaiser, Executive Member for Highways and Planning
ON	Tuesday 8 September 2015
TIME	10.00 am
WARD	All Wards
DIRECTOR	Heather Thwaites

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The document will provide the public with a clearer understanding of what they can expect should they contact the council regarding Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths and Council officers will have a clear process for dealing with such issues.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Highways and Strategic Planning:

1. approve the amendments to the consultation draft of the Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths document as set out in the change log (see Appendix B);
2. adopt the attached document on Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report introduces a revised version of a document that relates to Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths following a period of consultation. Appendix A provides details of all the comments received with associated responses from officers and Appendix B provides a log of changes to the document following the consultation.

Background

The Council receives complaints each year from residents regarding parking on footways and grass verges. These parked vehicles cause or could cause a number of issues:

- If the parking interferes with driver sight lines a major safety issue can arise
- Utility services are buried beneath verges and these are not designed to carry the load of vehicles and therefore there is a danger of damage to these which could lead to a safety issue
- Nuisance to pedestrians, particularly those with mobility difficulties or visual impairments,
- Damage to the structures of the footway or grass verge, and
- Unsightly environmental damage.

There are many reasons associated with the practice of verge parking, however the most common reason relates to the lack of appropriate off street parking facilities resulting from the increased and rising trend of car ownership.

To deal with these issues a document has been prepared that will give officers a clear process to help assess any complaints received. It also proposes to introduce a process as part of any future planned highways/footway maintenance that will in time remove the majority of issues relating to parking on verges altogether. The document will also provide the public with a clearer understanding of what they can expect should they contact the council regarding these issues.

Analysis of Issues

The draft Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths document was the subject of a 2 week consultation between 29 May 2014 and 11th June 2014. 15 representations were received and are included in Appendix A along with officer responses.

As a result of comments received a number of amendments have been identified to the document. The changes made to the document are recorded section by section in Appendix B attached.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this document; however there would be a potential increase in scheme costs when Highway Refurbishment works identify a need to address footway/verge parking issues. Funding for this will come from existing capital budgets. Additional works identified through community engagement would only be delivered once appropriate funding has been identified. Possible source of funding could be from S106 contributions.

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?)

It is the statutory duty of Wokingham Borough Council and Thames Valley Police to keep all highways clear and free from obstructions and to ensure safe and expeditious movement of traffic, including pedestrians. This document will assist the council to exercise this duty.

Indiscriminate vehicle parking can cause a number of safety issues and have a detrimental impact on highway capacity and can cause localised congestion issues. This document has a direct relationship with the councils priority on tackling traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Strategic Director - Resources	No response
Monitoring Officer	No response
Leader of the Council	<p>Apart from the importance of highway safety issues which I believe are adequately covered within the document I would like to see the issue of local community concern given a little more prominence. Page six of the report first paragraph "Should the assessment of the issue not meet any of the three criteria above then it will be assumed that the issue is a local community concern as opposed to a road safety issue" could add onto this sentence, "...a road safety issue such as continued damage to grass verges by inappropriate parking"</p> <p>I would also suggest under page six section "Highway Structural Maintenance" first bullet needs adding to end of sentence "...into the footway should this be the community preferred solution" reason being that in many areas residents maintain and respect the grass verge and would not wish to see it "automatically" (as stated) simply removed</p>
Thames Valley Police	We have no objection to this proposal.
Town and Parish Councils	See Appendix A
Local Ward Members	See Appendix A

List of Background Papers

'Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths' (attached) Appendix A - Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths Consultation Responses (attached) Appendix B - Parking on Verges, Footways and Footpaths Change Log (attached)
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Date 10 th July 2014	Version No. 1
Date 28 th July 2015	Version No. 2

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