

**REPORT TO:** Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Environment

**SUBJECT:** Receipt of Petition – Parking Problems at Southway, Widnes

**WARDS:** Ditton

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

**1.1 To report the receipt of a petition from residents of Southway and Ash Grove, Widnes and actions taken to date.**

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) The petition be received, and
- (2) The Board note that an initial design sketch has been submitted to Halton Housing Trust for its views on whether a parking scheme could be progressed
- (3) A further report is brought to the Board when the views of Halton Housing Trust on the feasibility of a parking scheme have been received, unless these are received before the meeting of the Board in which case a verbal briefing will be given and a proposed course of action will be recommended.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**3.1** A petition signed by 19 residents of Southway, and Ash Grove, Widnes covering 11 properties was received on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009. This represents around 39% of households within the area of circulation of the petition. The petition outlined problems associated with a lack of car parking. These include neighbourly disputes, possible damage to footways and vehicles and potential road safety issues. It requests that the Council to consider the provision of additional parking spaces on the grassed verge areas in Southway.

**3.2** There has been a history of parking problems in Southway and Ash Grove. The majority of houses in these streets are laid out generally perpendicular to the carriageway, with the fronts of properties accessed by a footpath only (see attached plan). There is limited carriageway space available for parking. In the past, car parking bays have been provided within grassed amenity areas in the Borough by the previous Housing Department, however, in common with many housing estates of this age and layout, there is insufficient parking space to cope with current demand.

**3.3** A written 'holding' reply was sent to the organiser of the petition on 19<sup>th</sup> June. This response referred to previous involvement by the Council in similar parking issues at Southway. It explained that grassed verges were owned by Halton Housing Trust and that their views on the proposal would be sought. The response was copied to Councillor Morley, who has been involved with parking issues in the past, for information.

**3.4** Given the responsibilities of Halton Council for carriageway, footway and road safety in Southway and Halton Housing Trust's responsibilities for both the grassed amenity areas and for estate management, any scheme to provide parking spaces on the grassed verges would need to be developed in partnership. Also, any scheme to provide parking spaces would need planning permission and the issue of who should fund such a scheme also needs to be considered.

**3.5** With these issues in mind, a preliminary design sketch has been prepared which shows how parking spaces could be provided, and HHT have been asked for its initial views, which at the time of writing this report are still awaited.

**3.6** A verbal update may be given at the meeting subject to any response from HHT. If no response is received then it is proposed that a further report be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** There are no policy implications at the present time.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The development of scheme proposals and estimates in conjunction with HHT and any future consultation on proposals with residents would have financial implications in terms of staff costs. Other implications would be detailed if and when scheme proposals are brought to the Board in a further report.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

There are no specific implications for children and young people in Halton

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

There are no specific implications for employment, learning and skills in Halton

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

There are no specific implications for a healthy Halton

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton:**

The development of a scheme to provide additional parking in Southway has the potential to:

- improve road safety through the removal of parked cars on the highway
- achieve a reduction in neighbour disputes and anti-social behaviour
- Improve the quality of community life through enhancing the visual amenity of the area

#### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The development of a scheme to provide additional parking in Southway has the potential to bring about an improvement to the appearance of open space and the immediate environment.

### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

**7.1** The proposals are not so significant that a full risk assessment is required. However, funding sources for the provision of parking in Southway have yet to be explored. The costs involved in developing scheme proposals and estimates may not be recovered if funding is not made available for the provision of additional parking.

**7.2** The petition has been signed by only 39% of households in the area of circulation and therefore, the views of the remainder of residents on the provision of additional parking and removal of grassed amenity areas are not known. There is a risk that if a scheme proposal is developed and consulted upon in partnership with HHT, this will not be acceptable to the majority of residents and that scheme development costs are wasted.

### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

**8.1** Generally, parking schemes are required to provide at least 10% of the number of parking spaces for use by people with disabilities. If a scheme were to be developed, it is envisaged that it would impact positively on this group of people.

### **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Petition from residents of Southway and Ash Grove	Highways Division, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn	Dave Cunliffe
Letter dated 19.06.09 to Miss K Fox (petition Organiser)	Ditto	Ditto

**Name of Board:** Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**Date of Meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**Report Title:** Receipt of Petition – Parking Problems at Southway, Widnes

**Author:** Dave Cunliffe – Divisional Manager Highways

<b>STANDARD SECTIONS – CHECKLIST</b>		
All reports must be submitted together with the following checklist fully completed		
	Yes	No
<b>Resource Implications</b>		
The financial, manpower and land (buying or selling) considerations should be clearly detailed including any corporate implications of following the recommended course of action.	✓	
<b>Social Inclusion Implications</b>		
Any implications relating to social inclusion/anti poverty should be highlighted		✓
<b>Sustainability Checklist</b>		
Any implications that affect the sustainability themes of economy society and the community and the environment should be included,		✓
<b>Best Value</b>		
Any Best Value implications should be included.		✓
<b>Legal Implications</b>		
Any Legal implications should be included.		✓
<b>Crime and Disorder Issues</b>		
Any crime and disorder implications should be included.		✓
<i>Please review these potential effects, within the context set out overleaf, to compose your summary assessment</i>		
<p><b>Summary assessment of Implications:</b>  <i>The development of scheme proposals and estimates in conjunction with HHT and any future consultation on proposals with residents would have financial implications in terms of staff costs. Other implications would be detailed if and when scheme proposals are brought to the Board in a further report.</i></p>		



Miss K Fox  
48 Southway  
Widnes WA8 8SH

Our Ref DC / M / I / 001  
If you telephone please ask for Dave Cunliffe  
Your ref  
Date 19 June 2009  
E-mail address dave.cunliffe@halton.gov.uk

Dear Miss Fox

**PETITION – PARKING IN SOUTHWAY, WIDNES**

I acknowledge receipt of the petition on behalf of 19 residents of Southway and Ash Grove, Widnes, which was received on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009. In accordance with the Council's procedures, the petition will be reported to the next meeting of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

The problems of parking in Southway have been raised with the Council in the past, most recently to my knowledge in September 2005, when your local ward Councillor, Keith Morley was involved in assisting in finding a resolution to the problems then. I have copied this letter to Councillor Morley for information.

The grassed areas in Southway do not form part of the Highway but are owned by Halton Housing Trust. I will ask my Section Leader for Highway Capital Works, John Gill, to contact HHT and explore the feasibility of providing additional parking bays. I will contact you again when we have more information.

Yours faithfully



D.A. Cunliffe  
Divisional Manager - Highways

Cc Councillor K. Morley 2 Grange Drive, Widnes, WA8 8SG

It's all happening **IN HALTON**

**Environment**

Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GW

Tel: 0151 424 2061

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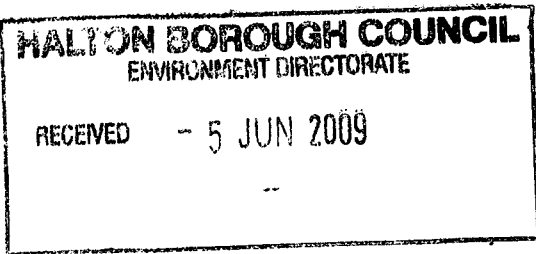
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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Date 11/6/2009

Scale 1/500



Mich Moore

Miss K.Fox  
48 Southway  
Widnes.  
WA8 8SH

Dear Sir/Madam

We the residents of Southway are increasingly having difficulty finding a parking spot for our cars particularly the occupants at the bottom of southway. This has led to a lot of trouble with one particular resident who insists on phoning the police if anybody parks anywhere near his driveway which at times is difficult to avoid. We would like you the council to give consideration to the possibility of removing some of the grassed verges at the side of the pavement and replace it with more parking bays which once done would vastly improve the overall problem caused by more & more cars trying to vie for limited parking bays. This problem is no doubt causing damage to pavements as cars are parking half on half off the kerbs each side of the road. This is also causing cars to be bumped due to the restricted access down the road and it is also dangerous for the younger children in the road running out between these cars. After having the police knock at my grandparents house for the third time in the recent past I have decided to take action to try and get something positive done about the growing problem of lack of parking. During the last visit by the police on the evening of 06.04.09 I asked the police officer about the possibility of getting the council to supply further parking bays he said to advise you that you could call-up the incidents of police call outs due to the parking problems currently 32-34 call outs !!!! All the residents below are in favour of doing away with some sections of grassed areas to the bottom of southway in favour of more improved parking for our cars. We eagerly await your hopefully speedy response to this problem.

NAME..

HOUSE NUMBER..

Ray	Carla Haversbery	21
Chris	Chris Gaskell	44
Hogan	CAROL HOGAN	42
M Nash	MARIA NASH	7 Ash
Keith	KEITH A NASH	7, ASH
Keith	Keith J Nash	
J Nash	JAMES NASH	7 ASH
J. Lines	Jocelyn Lines	4 Ash
G. Hedges	GARY HEDGES	4, ASH
T Argent	THOMAS ARGENT	9 Ash
Ann-Maree	Ann-Maree Connor	15 Southway
Cecile	Cecile Connor	15 Southway



NAME...

HOUSE NUMBER.....

J. Blackburn	J. Blackburn	22 Southway
M. Blackburn	M. Blackburn	22 Southway
J. Evans	J. Evans	26 Southway
D. Harris	D. Harris	26 Southway
J. Jones	J. Jones	26 Southway
E. McDermott	E. McDermott	28 Southway
C. McDermott	C. McDermott	28 Southway

Frank P. ... with support  
this. It is with much cordiality  
him.

Carl (42)