

## AREA PANEL 4 28 MARCH 2007

Report of the Cabinet Member, Planning and Transportation

## Stenson Road Parking Area, Sunny Hill

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.1 Receipt of a petition was reported to the Area Panel on 31 January 2007. The petition is endorsed by 25 signatories and states: "The customers of Sunnyhill Post Office do hereby petition to stop the parking of vehicles by the residents and customers in the car park adjacent to the Post Office premises for over 2 hour periods. We support the proposal for a parking time limit in the car park."

In the covering letter the lead petitioner goes on to say: "I propose the installation of a parking time limit sign from the hours of 6am to 7pm which are the shops opening times, with a maximum stay of 30 minutes. In addition there is also the need for the car park markings to be re-marked as the disabled markings have faded and the separation lines are also becoming hard to distinguish. This is making it harder for my older customers who have difficulties in parking their cars when there are spaces."

- 1.2 The area referred to is on Stenson Road, near to its junction with Wellesley Avenue. It contains a total of 7 parking spaces of which 2 are for disabled motorists. The land is a part of the public highway and also serves as a bus turnaround area and a recycling centre. The parking that takes place here is almost solely by the customers of the Post Office and the nearest residential household on Stenson Road. Surrounding residents and businesses all use their own parking spaces, and rarely make use of the parking here.
- 1.3 The Post Office first contacted the Council about their concerns in July 2006. Since then, a comprehensive survey has been carried out whereby a record of vehicles using the parking spaces has been made. This has been done throughout the week and at different times of the day to obtain a representative overview. Surveys were also carried out on Monday mornings as the Post Office said this was their busiest time.
- 1.4 Throughout the survey, it was observed that the residents from the property next door to the Post Office parked a couple of their vehicles in the parking spaces on a regular basis. Nevertheless, the remaining spaces were well used by Post Office customers for short stay parking and there appeared to be a high turnover of vehicles. Further, parking was also available on the Post Office forecourt which always seemed to have unoccupied spaces.

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- 1.5 Limited waiting restrictions are normally introduced in cases where parking is at a premium and where they would be absolutely necessary in order to regulate parking. An example of where such restrictions might be used is at a district shopping centre to ensure a turnover of parking for the local businesses and prevent all day commuter parking.
- 1.6 Following extensive investigations, it is not considered that waiting restrictions could be justified at this location. Whilst officers understand the issue, there was no evidence of any motorists turning away or being unable to park.
- 1.7 It was agreed that carriageway markings at this location were faded, therefore, the Council has replaced the markings.

## PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Area Panel agrees that waiting restrictions are not necessary.
- 2.2 The Area Panel notes that the carriageway markings have been relined at this location.
- 2.3 That the petitioners be informed accordingly.

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**Background papers:** Available by contacting Parking Services

List of appendices: None

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