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| Committee: | Regulatory Planning Committee |
| Date: | 10 December 2008 |
| Report By: | Director of Transport and Environment |
| Title of Report: | Old Town, Hastings Pedestrian Improvements – Objections to: "The East Sussex (Borough of Hastings) (Traffic Regulation) (Consolidation) Order 2007 (Amendment) Order 2008 No.10" |
| Purpose of Report: | To consider objections to the advertised removal of existing Residents & Business User Permit Holder bays located on Courthouse Street West, Hastings |

RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning Committee is recommended not to uphold the objections to the proposed removal of the Residents/ Business User Permit holder bays in Courthouse Street West, Hastings; and recommend that the Order be implemented as advertised.

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

1.1 Proposals for pedestrian improvements in Hastings Old Town were identified in conjunction with the local County Councillor; Hastings Borough Council; and the Hastings Old Town Residents' Association, following a survey undertaken by the Residents' Association on the improvements local people would like to see in the area.

1.2 The main aims of the scheme are to improve the narrow and uneven footways and public realm in the High Street which is within a conservation area and to improve the pedestrian environment in Courthouse Street (West). In addition, local people requested improvements to the existing crossing points along The Bourne (A259).

2. Consultation

2.1 A public exhibition and consultation on the proposals was held in June 2006, which included a meeting with local traders. There was strong support for the introduction of safer pedestrian areas in the High Street (90% in favour); the creation of a Pedestrian Zone on Courthouse Street West (93% in favour); and to upgrade existing zebra crossings to Puffin crossings on The Bourne (A259) at Courthouse Street and Roebuck Street junctions (90% and 92% in favour respectively).

2.2 The proposals were approved at the Lead Member for Transport and Environment meeting on 6 November 2006 and the resultant detailed design has been progressed.

2.3 The proposals for the Pedestrian Zone in Courthouse Street West originally showed the existing permit parking would be relocated approximately 3 metres westwards along Courthouse Street West. However, prior to the implementation of the

recent experimental Pedestrian Zone in Courthouse Street West, concern was raised about previous damage that had been caused by high sided vehicles, overrunning the footway flush with the carriageway along Courthouse Street and striking the overhang of No 19. Concern was also raised that this was causing conflict and safety issues between pedestrians and vehicles in the area.

2.4 Although it is envisaged that the introduction of the experimental pedestrian zone will result in a reduction in the number of vehicular movements along this section of the road, there still needs to be access for businesses to load and unload along Courthouse Street, as well as enable residents to access properties. Therefore an adequate carriageway width needs to be maintained for access purposes. As evident within the photographs attached as Appendix A, the narrow carriageway width incorporating the existing permit parking, compromises access along the road in a safe manner for vehicles and pedestrians alike.

2.5 Having considered the various options with Hastings Borough Council officers, to ensure the safety of all road users and negate the potential conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, it is recommended that the entire length of the existing permit parking be removed. This would result in the loss of approximately three permit parking spaces.

2.6 The loss of residential permit parking will ensure the safety of pedestrians, properties and vehicles along this section of road and sits well with its designation as a 'Pedestrian Zone'.

2.7 The changes to the existing Residents & Business User Permit Holder bays located on Courthouse Street West were advertised in the form of a draft Traffic Regulation Order on 12 September 2008. The closing date for objections was 10 October 2008.

2.8 1 letter of objection has been received, a copy of which is available in the Members' Room.

3. Comments / Appraisal

3.1 Comments in relation to the specific points raised by the objector are summarised below.

3.2 The objector is registered disabled and uses the current permit bays in Courthouse Street to leave her vehicle. The objector has asked whether any other area near to their property could provide a disabled bay. Hastings Borough Council, who is responsible for managing parking enforcement in the town on our behalf, has been contacted to ask whether disabled parking provision could be provided in close proximity to their property. The objector has been advised that an application for an alternative location for a disabled bay can be requested. No such application has yet been made. Should such an application be forthcoming, this will be considered separately by Hastings Borough Council and the scheme should not be delayed, pending the consideration of such an application. It is recommended that this objection is not upheld.

3.3 The objector has asked whether it is possible to maintain one bay as a permit or disabled bay. The objector feels that the bay nearest The Bourne (A259) could be retained. The objector notes that even when vehicles are parked within the permit bays, dust bin lorries can pass without mounting the pavement because the junction mouth widens. As part of the design process, this issue was considered and it was concluded that retaining any of the parking is not possible. With a carriageway width of approximately 4.5m, which includes a 1.8m wide parking bay [the minimum width permissible for a parking bay], and bearing in mind wider vehicles are often parked there, there would be insufficient width to allow other vehicles, in particular larger vehicles, to pass. It is recommended that this objection is not upheld.

3.4 The objector has asked that should the permit bays be removed, whether 3 more permit bays be placed locally elsewhere. The bays will not be directly replaced elsewhere although consideration to an alternative disabled bay can be given by the Hastings Borough Council should the objector apply and meet the necessary criteria process. It is recommended that this objection is not upheld.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 The County Council has consulted widely throughout the development of the scheme working particularly closely with residents' representatives to develop appropriate pedestrian improvements that would be acceptable to the local community. Consideration has been given to the objection to the scheme and every effort has been made to resolve this. This report seeks a decision by the Planning Committee regarding these objections. It is recommended for the reasons set out in section 3 of the report, that they not be upheld and the proposed removal of the permit parking along Courthouse Street West is implemented to ensure the safety of all road users on this route.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Transport and Environment
2 December 2008

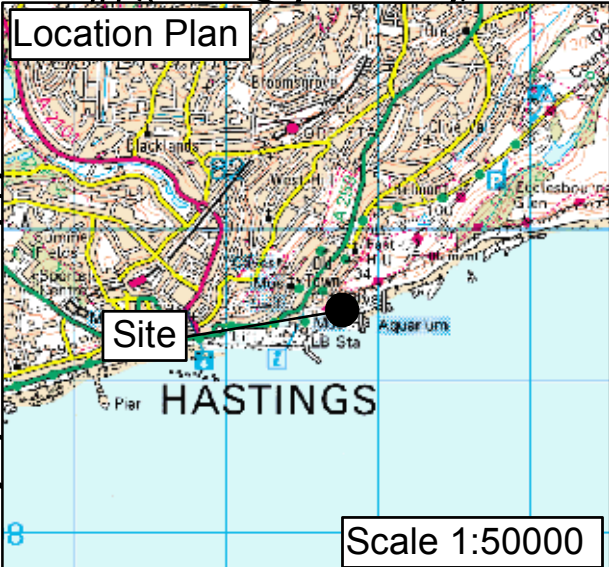
Contact Officer: Tracy Vaks Tel: 01273 482123


Local Member: Councillor Jay Kramer

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Lead Member for Transport and Environment decision making meeting 6 November 2006 Agenda item 5.

Courthouse Street Hastings. Proposed removal of Permit Holder Parking and replacement with No Waiting At Any Time



 No Waiting at Any Time Markings

Scale 1:5000

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