

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 26 August 2014

Parking in the Telford Area, Results of Informal Consultation

Item number	8.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	5 – Inverleith

Executive summary

At its meeting of 29 October 2013, the Transport and Environment Committee considered a report, on the progress of Priority Parking proposals in various areas. Among the areas under consideration, was the area north of Telford Road.

The response from the Telford area to the initial consultation was inconclusive, with few responses received and no clear indication of whether residents supported the concept of Priority Parking. After consulting with the elected members for the Inverleith Ward and the Community Council, it was decided to conduct a further consultation, in order to elicit more responses from residents of this area.

This report details the results of the second informal consultation, on proposals to introduce Priority Parking in the Telford area.

Links

Coalition pledges

Council outcomes [CO22](#), [CO23](#), [CO24](#) and [CO26](#)

Single Outcome Agreement [SO4](#)

Parking in the Telford Area, Results of Informal Consultation

Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee:
 - 1.1.1 approves the commencement of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and design processes, required to introduce Priority Parking, in the Telford area; and
 - 1.1.2 approves the commencement of the TRO process to introduce lengths of yellow line in various locations around the Telford area.

Background

- 2.1 At its meeting of 29 October 2013, the Transport and Environment Committee considered a report that detailed the results of an informal consultation into the possibility of introducing Priority Parking, in the Telford area.
- 2.2 There was a low response rate to the consultation and it gave little indication of public opinion on parking in the area. Following discussions with the elected members for the Inverleith Ward, on 21 May 2013, it was decided that further investigation into parking pressures within the area was warranted.
- 2.3 The Drylaw/Telford Community Council arranged a public meeting on 31 March 2014, to gauge opinion on the extent of perceived parking problems and the suitability of Priority Parking as a solution.
- 2.4 The meeting was well-attended and it was considered that there was sufficient indication of support to justify a second informal consultation, supported and assisted by the Community Council. This report details the results of this second consultation.

Main report

- 3.1 The initial investigation into Priority Parking in Telford included an informal consultation, where residents and businesses within the area were invited to indicate their support or opposition to the notion of Priority Parking. This initial exercise elicited 58 responses, a relatively low response rate compared to other areas.

- 3.2 A meeting was held with the Inverleith Ward elected members on 21 May 2013 to discuss the results of the consultation. It was suggested by the Councillors that the outcome did not accurately reflect the difficulties expressed to them by residents living in the area. The elected members had received separate representations indicating that there were strong feelings regarding parking in the area, which the consultation responses appeared not to contain.
- 3.3 On that basis, it was agreed that contact be made with the Community Council in order to gauge whether there was merit in undertaking a further consultation. The Community Council responded positively and organised a public meeting on 31 March 2014 to discuss parking issues in the Telford area.
- 3.4 The event was attended by approximately 100 residents, elected members and Council officials, with the resulting discussions being generally in favour of the introduction of Priority Parking.
- 3.5 With the assistance of the Community Council it was decided to repeat an informal consultation. This second consultation started on 9 June 2014, when all properties in the area received a letter from the Council, and ran until 27 June 2014. The letter asked for residents' views on parking pressures and if they supported the introduction of Priority Parking to help resolve those problems.
- 3.6 The Community Council and elected members visited households to inform people about the discussions and to encourage them to respond to the consultation.
- 3.7 During the consultation period 156 responses were received and 154 respondents supported the introduction of Priority Parking whilst two people did not.
- 3.8 The 156 responses represent a return rate, as a percentage of households within the area, of 23%, which is around average for a consultation of this nature.
- 3.9 A breakdown of the responses received per street is provided in the table below.

Table 1: Informal Consultation Responses by Street

Street	Responses
Telford Drive	99
Telford Road	23
Telford Place	17
Telford Gardens	7
Telford March	3
Telford Grove	1
Unknown	6
Total	156

- 3.10 Further consideration of the individual comments received during the informal consultation is contained within Appendix One: Informal Consultation Responses.
- 3.11 From the 156 responses received; 147 were standard letters issued by the Community Council for residents to complete and return to the Council. A copy of the standard letter is also provided within Appendix Two for information.
- 3.12 It is noted that from the 156 responses, 39 did not clearly include their full, or in part, name and address details that would allow the Council to verify the responses if necessary. For instance; house numbers were omitted, street names were incomplete or signatures were illegible.
- 3.13 Even removing such responses from consideration there remain 115 residents who support the introduction of the Priority Parking, compared to two people who opposed the proposals.
- 3.14 The result of the consultation indicates that the residents who responded were overwhelmingly in favour of introducing the Priority Parking scheme. On this basis, it is recommended to start the TRO process that is necessary to introduce the Priority Parking scheme in the Telford Area.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Provide residents' parking places throughout the area that help residents to park closer to their homes during the day.
- 4.2 Engaging with the local community to produce a scheme that will reflect the views of the majority of residents who responded to the consultation.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The cost of preparatory work for the introduction of the Priority Parking scheme, including the design of the scheme and advertising the TRO, will be met from within existing Parking Operations budgets.
- 5.2 The cost of implementing the Priority Parking controls has been estimated at approximately £20,000.
- 5.3 The intended approach to introduce Priority Parking would follow a similar process to previous schemes; to introduce parking places in phases, making use of existing street furniture and seeking permission for signs to be erected on walls or fences to minimise costs where applicable.
- 5.4 The elected members have indicated that they would like residents to be issued with free parking permits in year 1, with charges only being introduced in year 2, after the completion of a review of the scheme.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 It is considered that there are no known risk, policy, compliance or governance impacts arising from this report.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 Consideration has been given to the Council's Public Sector Duty in respect of the Equalities Act 2010 and there are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report.
- 7.2 The main aim of Priority Parking is to manage the various demands on the limited kerbside space available in residential areas and to help residents park closer to their homes. It is expected that this will have a positive impact on the Council's duty regarding the protected characteristics of age and disability.
- 7.3 The necessary legal process for the introduction of the proposals include full public consultation in addition to a number of statutory bodies, including residents' groups, the emergency services, business representatives and public transport operators.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered and the outcomes are summarised below:
- The proposals in this report are not expected to impact on carbon emissions;
 - The proposals in this report are not expected to impact on the city's resilience to climate change impacts; and
 - The proposals in this report are not expected to impact on social justice, economic wellbeing or the city's environmental good stewardship.
- 8.2 It is possible that the proposals may have a beneficial impact on reducing carbon emissions by helping residents park closer to their homes and decrease their search when driving around looking for a parking space. It may also help encourage commuters to use alternative more-environmentally friendly forms of transport.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Consultation took place with local elected members, and the Community Council that led to a public meeting attended by approximately 100 people (including elected members and Council Officials). A further informal consultation took place supported by the Community Council which resulted in a 156 responses being received.
- 9.2 There was a good response to the informal consultation and as a result it is recommended to begin the necessary TRO process for the introduction of Priority Parking in Telford. There will be a further opportunity for residents to comment on, or object to, the draft proposals as part of that process.

Background reading/external references

None.

John Bury

Acting Director of Services for Communities

Contact: Gavin Sherriff, Traffic Orders and Project Development Assistant

E-mail: gavin.sherriff@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3309

Links

Coalition pledges	Maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in Edinburgh.
Council outcomes	CO22 – Moving efficiently – Edinburgh has a transport system that improves connectivity and is green, healthy and accessible. CO23 – Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community. CO24 - The Council communicates effectively internally and externally and has an excellent reputation for customer care. CO26 – The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives.
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4 – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.
Appendices	Appendix One: Informal Consultation Responses. Appendix Two: Standard Letter.

Appendix One: Informal Consultation Responses

1. The 147 standard letters received indicate that respondents support the introduction of Priority Parking in the Telford area. However they did not include any further comments on parking for consideration.
2. The remaining nine responses produced 28 separate comments regarding the proposals or other issues, which were a cause for concern for residents. These are categorised into eight general themes; footways, hospital, driveways, access, verges, displacement, road safety and miscellaneous.
3. The main issue that residents raised concerns about was the inconsiderate parking on the footway in Telford Road. Five people suggested that parking in such a manner is becoming more and more commonplace, as vehicles parked on the footway are not only dangerous for pedestrians attempting to cross the road but they are damaging the pavement.
4. The second theme regarded problems that were attributed to the Western General Hospital. Four residents considered that commuter parking problems were created by hospital staff and one said the removal of their on-site parking had resulted in them parking in residential streets. Another resident thought the Council should be doing more to understand and address the needs of hospital staff, to resolve their issues. NHS Lothian has a Travel and Transport Manager who is responsible for such matters.
5. Three residents said that they had a driveway so the proposals would not affect them; this includes one of the two people who opposed the introduction of the scheme.
6. The fourth issue relates to the impact of inconsiderate parking on access around the estate. It is suggested that inconsiderate parking on corners or adjacent to driveways prevents deliveries and residents using their vehicles. Furthermore, there were fears that it causes problems for emergency service vehicles in the event of an emergency. One resident suggested that all corners in the area need to be treated with double yellow lines, whilst another requested that current restrictions be refreshed.
7. The fifth topic regards the grass verges around the estate. A parking ban on grass verges was requested as residents pay a factor for the maintenance of these areas. Plus it was suggested that parking in this manner brings mud onto the road, which results in drains becoming blocked and streets flooding.

8. Two people have suggested that introducing Priority Parking will displace parking pressures into other areas, such as Drylaw. The aim of Priority Parking is to help residents park closer to their homes, without moving parking problems to other areas. By introducing residents' parking places and in phases, to meet the number of residents who support the scheme and want to buy permits, the risk of moving problems elsewhere is minimised.
9. There were a number of road safety issues, which included:
 - a suggestion to move the safety camera on Telford Road closer to the Western General, as vehicles trigger the vehicle activated speed sign;
 - a resident calling for a pedestrian crossing on Telford Road;
 - a request to reduce the speed limit throughout the Telford area; and
 - a resident concerned that with many children making their way to and from school through the area, accidents urgently need to be prevented.
10. The final miscellaneous category includes points which were raised once but do not fall within a previous theme. The first suggested that the Council needs to sell the scheme more effectively to residents, by breaking down the annual permit price into a weekly fee. Secondly, it was requested the scheme be introduced as a pilot with parking permits being issued free of charge in the first year. There was a concern that too many gardens were being changed into driveways, which is detrimental to the environment. Security concerns about leaving the car out of sight in the evenings were also included. It was claimed many residents had two or more vehicles on the road which created parking problems. One person said they never had any issues parking in the area.
11. These concerns will be taken into consideration during the design phase of the Priority Parking scheme and where necessary issues will be discussed with other Council teams.

DRYLAW TELFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

TELFORD PARKING SUB-GROUP

Priority Parking Scheme Consultation Letter

Dear Telford Resident,

The City of Edinburgh Council (Parking Operations) carried out a consultation in March 2013 on the possibility of introducing a Priority Parking scheme in your area and the result of it was inconclusive.

With further representation from residents in the Telford area Drylaw Telford Community Council held a public meeting, attended by your local Councillors and Council officials, in the Telford Arms on 31 March 2014. Those attending that meeting broadly indicated their support for Priority Parking. On that basis of support it was decided to ask for a new consultation in order to offer residents another opportunity to give us their views.

You will have or soon receive a second consultation letter from the City of Edinburgh Council on the possibility of introducing a Priority Parking Scheme in your area.

Drylaw Telford Community Council supports the merit of the Priority Parking Scheme as a means to solve the large commuter parking within Telford and urges all residents to respond to this consultation letter.

So please respond by the 27th June 2014. Failure to do so it will be unlikely the City of Edinburgh Council would consider parking controls in Telford area again for another five years.

Alex Dale,
Chair, Drylaw Telford Community Council.

I of

agree to support the Priority Parking Scheme for the Telford Area

Signature

Date