

Appendix A

Recommendations

Issue

The Transport Parking Working Party have asked officers in Highways and Parking to find a resolution to reports from the ward councillors and residents of Wellswood of a high level of camper vans parking overnight and for a number of days at Ilsham Marine Drive. At the present time officers do not have evidence via monitoring of the issue, the level and the frequency of this parking issue.

It is not illegal for a person to camp on the highway in a vehicle. It is however illegal to discharge waste from a vehicle onto the highway or highway drainage or to cause a hazard to other highway users.

The act of illegal disposal must be seen and evidenced before any action can be taken. At the present time due to the surveillance and resources required from the Environmental Protection and legal teams, there has not been any enforcement action taken for such violations.

On looking at the issue raised, officers have taken into account the area, which is a high natural amenity location and assessed the highway/parking legislation which is available to ensure there is a fair turnover of bays at the location for all to enjoy this area of natural beauty and to stop the issue of overnight or long stay camping.

Below there are six options to consider as follows:-

Option 1

Implement a restricted parking zone for the length of Ilsham Marine Drive. This would stop all parking within the area.

Advantage – this is a clear restriction. Compliance to the restriction will stop the issue, which has been reported, of a considerable amount of overnight parking and continual camper vans parking for several days/weeks and will apply to all vehicles.

Disadvantage – this will stop all parking for those who wish to visit this area of natural beauty and is likely to displace the parking of visiting vehicles and camper vans to surrounding areas. This may also result in an increase in vehicle speeds in the location

Option 2

Implement a 18:00 – 10:00 no parking in designated areas. This would be a restriction to areas that are currently available for parking. Double yellow lines will remain in existing locations.

Advantage – compliance to the restriction will stop the reported issue of overnight camper van parking and camper vans parking for several days/weeks, whilst allowing the area to be used by all visiting vehicles during the daytime.

Disadvantage – there may be a lack of compliance to the timed restriction and it would limit all users to be able to park and enjoy this area during the restricted hours. Drivers with Disabled badges may still park in the restricted locations

Option 3

Implement Pay and Display and double yellow lines. Maximum period to be set

Advantage – with compliance this would allow for a fair turnover of bays for all to enjoy with the relevant payment the natural beauty of the area. Blue Badge holders will not be disadvantaged as they are allowed to park 24 hours a day in on street pay and display locations

Disadvantage – campervan occupants who hold a valid Blue Badge will be able to park in the location for as long as they require. There would however be additional signage, carriageway markings and pay and display machines required to enable the operation of this restriction.

Option 4

Limited waiting and double yellow lines

Advantage – this would provide a fair turnover of bays.

Disadvantage – camper van occupants who hold a valid blue badge will be able to park in the location for as long as they require. Enforcement of this restriction is difficult as there is a requirement for a two observation process. There would be a requirement for additional signs and carriageway markings.

Option 5

A restriction for 'no camper van' parking – This may be time limited or 24 hours

Advantage – if compliance is gained this will stop the reported issue for camper vans, but will allow unrestricted parking to all other vehicles. The restriction only requires additional signage in the areas affected.

Disadvantage – this will stop campervan users, who use the vehicle for normal transport purposes and who wishes to visit and enjoy the natural beauty of the environment. It will only facilitate the stopping of the larger vehicles over 3 tonnes and will not stop the small campervan or converted van or camping in any other type of vehicle. The restriction may displace camper vans to other nearby locations or displace disabled camper van drivers to locations with double yellow lines.

Option 6

Do nothing.

Advantage – this would allow the existing parking regime to stay in place

Disadvantages – there are times when there is not a fair turnover of bays and will continue to allow the overnight or long stay parking of camper vans etc. in this area.

Recommendation

Of the 6 options listed in the report above, there is no single option which will entirely solve the current problem with long stay encampments on this section of highway, whilst allowing legitimate visitor parking for all vehicles. It is also the case that any additional restrictions will result in the displacement of parked vehicles to other nearby locations and therefore there is a likelihood of actions resulting in further issues in other areas, thus 'moving the problem'.

Of the 6 options listed, officers recommend that Option 3, 'Pay and Display' would provide the most effective benefit, whilst providing some additional financial resource to fund the additional enforcement required.