

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	13 September, 2011
DIRECTOR	Director of Corporate Governance
TITLE OF REPORT	The Aberdeen City Council (Westbank, Aberdeen) (Residential Parking Bays) Order 2011
REPORT NUMBER	CG/11/102

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise of the statutory objections that have been received as a result of the public advertisement of this order; which are presented as an appendix hereto.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee overrule the objections in relation to The Aberdeen City Council (Westbank, Aberdeen) (Residential Parking Bays) Order 2011 and approve that the order be made as originally envisaged.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposal contained in the above traffic order will be fully funded by the 2011/2012 Cycling, Walking Safer Streets budget.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The Committee at its meeting on 24 May 2011 considered a traffic order which contained the proposals to establish Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, resident permit holder parking at Westbank, Aberdeen.

At that time the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the proposals regarding Westbank to its next meeting, to allow elected members to undertake further consultation with the residents, however that the remainder of the Aberdeen City Council (Various Traffic Management Measures) (No 3) Order 2011 be implemented as originally envisaged. In line with this, and in accordance with the traffic order procedure, the proposal has been re-advertised separately and a further period of public consultation undertaken.

The overall objection of the new provisions is actually to respond to concerns regarding a lack of available parking raised by a resident within the development, and thereby to relax existing regulations, and introduce parking opportunities not available at present. In line with this, roads officers acted in good faith and investigated the existing parking situation at Westbank. On undertaking surveys within the area, officers have concluded that the area has a lack of parking spaces which needs to be addressed. Appended to the report is photographic evidence of the indiscriminate parking occurring in Westbank at present. In order to alleviate the problems arising as a result of lack of available parking, officers have proposed three residential parking bays to be implemented in Westbank.

The two existing statutory objections reported on 24 May remain and nine other objections to the further consultation have been received. The two existing objections are as follows:- one from Ms. Shirley Henderson, on behalf of Westbank Residents Association and one from Mr and Mrs Jones, 3 Westbank, Fonthill Road (an updated objection has been received). The further objections have been received from Trinity Factoring Services Ltd, managing agent for the Westbank development, and Mr and Mrs Denniel, 5 Westbank, Mr Gosling - 1 Westbank, Mr McCusker, 6 Westbank, Ms De Martino - 4 Westbank, S and W Leighton - 7 Westbank, Mr and Mrs L Dickinson - 11 Westbank, Mr Lorenson - 10 Westbank, and Mr Archibald 12 Westbank.

Despite, the original concern regarding lack of available parking, the objectors have all highlighted their concerns at the proposals to introduce three resident parking bays and have expressed the view that these spaces are not required and would be detrimental for various reasons. In particular, the objections raise a number of concerns regarding access and egress to the development if the proposed spaces were implemented. They also raise concerns in relation to safety issues which they foresee arising as a result of the proposal, and the subsequent narrowing of the access available - all objections highlight that this concern will be greater in the winter period.

Specifically, with regards the requirement for additional parking spaces at Westbank, the objections cite that they feel there is ample parking available for residents and that the proposed spaces are not required. On this aspect, I would advise that at present three Westbank residents hold five parking permits for use on Fonthill Road, which, in addition to the survey finding and photographic evidence of indiscriminate parking, demonstrates that there is insufficient parking available for residents (and their visitors). Residents have also highlighted their concern that other individuals, perhaps residents of Fonthill Road, would be able to park within Westbank, however they have not objected at themselves having this option (an option which as detailed above 3 residents have taken up), and being able to park in front of another residents house outwith Westbank. Council officers cannot recommend exclusive policies for a specific area, especially when the evidence demonstrates the requirement for parking in that area. The objections are quite unique, in that the vast majority of objections received request parking closer to the vicinity of their homes. In addition, it is worth noting that one of the initial objections received does state that although it would be useful to have additional parking in Westbank, they do not think the proposal is possible due to the layout. However, I would highlight that this objector has

submitted a revised objection which now cites that availability of parking is not an issue.

With regards to the safety issues which have been cited in the objections, all of the emergency services and winter maintenance service have been consulted on the layout and the proposal, and that none of these services have objected or raised any concern regarding access of egress at any time of the year.

It is recognised that the majority of the residents have objected to the proposal, however on considering the basis of these objections, and the rationale for the proposal, the reasons for their objection, and the concerns raised therein do not outweigh the broader requirement for and benefits of the scheme, especially by residents of Westbank.

The main part of the appendix to this report is in the authorship of my roads colleagues, who have summarised the objections and offered commentary on the main points raised in them. Copies of the original communications are also appended to the report.

6. IMPACT

Section 5 above – and also the appendix containing the technical commentary – will allow members to consider the possible impact on communities compared with the intended virtue of the original proposals.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used as a point of departure for writing this report (other than the objections themselves).

The statutory advertisements are published here for information, allowing members to see the import of each order as advertised.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Allison Swanson
Committee Services Officer
aswanson@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(01224) 522822

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

**THE ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL
(WESTBANK) (RESIDENTIAL PARKING BAYS) ORDER 2011**

Aberdeen City Council proposes to make “The Aberdeen City Council (Westbank) (Residential Parking Bays) Order 2011” in terms of its powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The effect of the order will be to establish Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, resident permit holder parking at Westbank, Aberdeen.

Full details of the proposal are to be found in the draft order, which, together with maps showing the intended measure and an accompanying statement of the Council's reasons for promoting the order, may be examined during normal office hours on weekdays between 27 July, 2011, and 24 August, 2011, in the offices of the roads officials in the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure department, at 74-76 Spring Garden, Aberdeen.

It is recommended that anyone visiting Spring Garden to view any of the documents should make an appointment to do so, in order that a member of staff can be present to offer an explanation if necessary. Anyone unable to visit Spring Garden can telephone (01224 538069) to speak to one of the officials.

Anyone wishing to object to the proposed order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the undersigned or by email at TrafficManagement@aberdeencity.gov.uk during the statutory objection period which also runs from 27 July, 2011, and 24 August, 2011, inclusively.

Any person who submits an objection should note that the Committee agendas are public documents, available in libraries and also distributed to the press. Objectors' names and addresses, perhaps with summaries of their observations, may be able to be found in these agendas. Also, although the original letters of objection will not ordinarily be copied as part of the agenda, they are available for inspection by Councillors and are essentially in the public domain. To that extent, however, they are redacted, with e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and signatures blanked out.

Jane MacEachran
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Aberdeen City Council, Town House, ABERDEEN

