

**HIGHWAYS  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

16 September 2014

**REPORT**

**Subject Heading:**

TPC419 Towers School, Osborne Road,  
proposed new and amendments to School  
Keep Clear markings –comments to  
advertised proposals

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**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

Clean, safe and green borough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Excellence in education and learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Value and enhance the life of every individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SUMMARY**

This report outlines the responses received to the advertised proposals to introduce three new School Keep Clear markings around the Towers School site in Osborne Road and to update the restricted period of the existing School Keep Clear marking, which were agreed in principal by this Committee at its meeting in March 2014 and recommends a further course of action.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Highways Advisory Committee having considered this report and the representations made recommends to the **Cabinet Member for Environment** that:

- a. the proposals to introduce three new School Keep Clear marking, as outlined on the appended plan and to amend the hours of operation of the existing school keep clear marking, where stopping will be prohibited from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday inclusive, be implemented as advertised.
- b. The effect of the scheme to be monitored.
- c. Members note that the estimated cost of this scheme as set out in this report is £1500 and can be funded from the 2014/15 Minor Parking Schemes budget.

## REPORT DETAIL

### 1.0 Background and Outcome to Public Consultation

- 1.1 Following the receipt of a petition signed by 304 signatories of pupils and parents of Towers School supported by a Governor of the school, the former Mayor, Councillors and the Road Safety Officer, Officers presented a request to the Highways Advisory Committee in February 2014, for further restrictions at the Infants school entrance, which the Committee agreed in principal to design and consult on such proposals.
- 1.2 Proposals were drafted and subsequently publicly advertised to introduce School Keep Clear markings on both sides of the access road to Towers Infants School and on the north-eastern side of Osborne Road opposite the existing School Keep Clear marking. It is also proposed to change the hours of operational hours of the existing school Keep Clear marking so that both the existing and proposed markings prohibit stopping from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday inclusive.
- 1.3 On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 residents of the area and Towers School who were perceived to be affected by the proposals, were advised of them by letter and plan. Eighteen statutory bodies were also consulted and site notices were placed at the location.
- 1.4 By the close of consultation on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014, there were nine responses received to the proposals. All of the responses were not in favour of the proposals or were against part of the proposals. The comments received, along with staff comments are outlined in Appendix A of this report.

## **2.0 Officer Comments**

- 2.1 The introduction of the new School Keep Clear restrictions is considered to be very important to the operation of the school site and for the safety of pedestrians and visitors, in particular children.
- 2.2 The prohibition of stopping between 8 am and 5 pm on Monday to Friday inclusive is designed to cover the main period that schools are open and is the standard being used for the introduction and upgrading of any school keep clear marking in the borough. The wording of term time within any restriction is now considered to be too ambiguous to use, as term times change from school to school and year to year.
- 2.3 Towers School is included in the parking enforcement rota 2-3 times a week. However, it is not possible for a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) to be available at all times and a small minority of parents/guardians will always be willing to take the risk of parking on restrictions to be as close to the school entrance as possible.

### **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

#### **Financial implications and risks:**

This report is asking the Highways Advisory Committee to recommend to the Lead Member the implementation of the above scheme.

The estimated cost of implementing the proposals as described above and shown on the attached plan is £1500 including advertising costs. This cost can be met from the 2014/2015 Minor Parking Schemes revenue budget.

The costs shown are an estimate of the full costs of the scheme, should it be implemented. A final decision would be made by the Lead Member – as regards to actual implementation and scheme detail. Therefore, final costs are subject to change.

This is a standard project for StreetCare and there is no expectation that the works cannot be contained within the cost estimate. There is an element of contingency built into the financial estimate. In the unlikely event of an overspend, the balance would need to be contained within the StreetCare overall Minor Parking Schemes revenue budget.

#### **Legal implications and risks:**

Waiting restrictions and school keep clear markings require consultation and the advertisement of proposals before a decision can be taken on their introduction.

### **Human Resources implications and risks:**

It is anticipated that the enforcement activities required for these proposals can be met from within current staff resources.

### **Equalities implications and risks:**

The proposal is to introduce new and amendments to School Keep Clear markings for Towers school, Osbourne Road. This is following a petition signed by school children and members of the community.

The proposals included in the report have been publicly advertised and subject to public consultation. All residents who were perceived to be affected by the proposals have been consulted by letter and plan. Eighteen statutory bodies were also consulted and site notices were placed at the location.

By the end of the consultation there was one equality issue raised out of nine responses received to the consultation. The one response raised issues relating to an elderly resident whose property frontage is already restricted and who has health issues. The resident reportedly requires carers, friends and family to take them to appointments and shopping. A neighbour fears that these proposals will render the resident housebound.

If the proposal is accepted the effects should be monitored to ensure that the resident does not become housebound

In addition to this, the proposal will have a positive impact for the children of Towers School because it will improve the safety of the road around the school.

There will be some physical and visual impact from the required signing and lining works. Where infrastructure is provided or substantially upgraded, reasonable adjustments should be made to improve access for disabled, which will assist the Council in meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Staff will monitor the effects of these proposals and if it is considered that further changes are necessary, the issues will be reported back to this Committee and a further course of action can be agreed.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Appendix A**  
**Appendix B**

### Responses Received

1. From a residents of Osborne Road, **who is not in favour of the proposals** as they feel that the proposed scheme has not taken into consideration the views of local residents and extending the hours will impact further on residents parking, who already have to put up with school traffic blocking access to and from their properties It is felt the present restrictions should remain in place and a scheme to restrict school traffic needs to be devised without impacting on residents. It is suggested that it's back to the drawing board.

#### Staff Comments

The proposed School Keep Clear markings and the increase of the restricted period of the existing School Keep Clear should help with keeping residents access clear and assist the operation of the School Crossing Patrol Officer.

2. From a residents of Osborne Road who believes that while children's safety should very much be a priority at peak times, **they feel that is it unnecessary to impose parking restrictions for the majority of the working day**, as it will severely affect deliveries of goods and services to the concerned households, as most couriers and deliveries are made between the proposed times. It will also affect vehicles used for building and maintenance work. The resident suggests that a better option would be to impose parking restrictions from 8:30 am to 9:30 am and 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, as this will retain the priority of the children's safety around pick up and drop off times, while having much less of an impact to the affected residents of Osborne Road. It is requested that their proposal is carefully consider, which would be much appreciated.

#### Staff Comments

The prohibition of stopping between 8 am and 5 pm on Monday to Friday inclusive is designed to cover the main period that schools are open and is the standard being used for the introduction and upgrading of any school keep clear marking in the borough. These times also fall into line with what a neighbouring borough is doing.

3. From a resident of Osborne Road who is in favour of No Stopping Restrictions **but at school drop off and pick up times only**. They were under the impression that any No Stopping Restrictions would be Monday to Friday at school drop off and pick up times, not a blanket ban between 8am and 5pm. They feel that to have No Stopping restrictions between 8am and 5pm does not allow for visitors, building works or deliveries.

### Staff Comments

The prohibition of stopping between 8 am and 5 pm on Monday to Friday inclusive is designed to cover the main period that schools are open and is the standard being used for the introduction and upgrading of any school keep clear marking in the borough. These times also fall into line with what a neighbouring borough is doing.

4. From a resident of Osborne Road who resides opposite the Infant School and **is in favour of part of the proposals**, namely that something has to be done before a child is seriously injured. They believe that the present restrictions, as indicated on the opposite side of the road from them by the "yellow line and signage" that is currently in use, should be mirrored on their side of this extremely busy road. The proposed 8a.m. to 5p.m. is **unnecessarily long**, will do nothing to make children safer and will cause genuine parking problems Monday to Friday, outside school hours. They presume whichever plan is implemented; it will be closely monitored thereafter.

### Staff Comments

The effects of any implemented scheme will be monitored.

5. From a resident of Osborne Road who is **not in favour** of the proposed 8am to 5pm restrictions. They believe this will not get to the root cause, as the affected times are the school run. They believe education and routine foot patrols by Community Support Officers and local Police will do more than a blanket ban on parking.

### Staff Comments

Unfortunately, the Police have limited resources to routinely patrol the area.

6. From a resident of Osborne Road who simply outlines that they **are in favour of this proposal**.

### Staff Comments

None.

7. From a resident of Osborne Road **who is not in favour of the school keep clear proposals**, as they feel the existing signs do nothing and adding more won't change the situation. It also felt that the parking problems are the councils fault for adding to the problem by increasing the school, not the residents.

### Staff Comments

The existing restrictions around all primary school sites are enforced as often as resources permit, are very visible and installed for the safety of the children. School Keep Clear markings do have a certain deterrent effect for most drivers however, there are the few that will ignore the restrictions and will put children's safety at risk. In respect of the increase of pupil numbers at the school, this is in response to a national increase in birth rate. All residents in

the area of a schools, where there are proposals for expansion, are fully consulted.

8. From a resident of Osborne Road who wrote twice, firstly making comments on the proposals and secondly confirming that they were **not in favour** of them. They outline that drivers are parking illegally from Nos: 201 to 215, reducing the road to single file, causing congestion and inflating tempers. They suggest that this area needs parking restrictions, as the aim of the proposals is clearly to help driving in to the school and these proposals as they stand do nothing to improve traffic flow or road safety in the area. It is considered that the proposals won't work and parking will be displaced further up Osborne Road. It is felt that the council's plans are ill thought out and someone is likely to get injured. They suggest that the Council devise a way that allows parents to drop their children off, without causing congestion, perhaps allow parents to drive in to the school area to drop-off, with no waiting allowed. They accuse the council of not visiting the site and considering the layout. They also advise that some footway parking bays shown on the plan don't exist.

### **Staff Comments**

The outcome of any implemented scheme will be monitored and if it is considered at that time that further restrictions are required, then these will be dealt with at that time. An Officer did visit the site to design the proposals and further site visits are planned should any of the proposals be agreed and to update the footway parking scheme in the road.

9. From a resident of Osborne Road who outlines that the residents of Nos. 174, 176 and 178 have the entrance leading off the road leading to the school, on their deeds and allows access to the properties. They make the Council aware that there is an elderly resident in one of the properties, whose property frontage is already restricted and who has health issues. The resident reportedly require carers, friends and family to take them to appointments and shopping and it is feared that these proposals will render them housebound, which is felt to be unfair.

The proposals would mean that if they pulled their car out of the garage and need to go back inside the property, they would be liable for a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN), when the frontage of the property is already restricted. This would mean that they would have to park some distance away before returning to the property.

The proposals would also mean a family member would be unable to park in the side road, but would have to park elsewhere when working a late shift, which starts at 9pm. This is felt to be a harsh imposition to the family member.

However it is understood that the proposals are to lessen the number of parents who park both sides of the school entrance road, rendering it dangerous for pedestrians and would like considered residents parking along

one side of the road with one space being allocated to nos. 174, 176 and 178, or stopping the proposed school Keep Clear marking short to enable the residents of nos. 174, 176 and 178 to park outside their driveways.

The resident also advises that they have always supported the school over parking matters and attended the recent meeting regarding the schools expansion, where they were advised that residents view would be given full consideration when the new intake classes started. They also attached photos of the property for information.

### **Staff Comments**

In respect of the access to the three properties in question, the proposed restrictions should ensure that vehicular access to the properties will be maintained throughout the school day, from an area that is currently unrestricted.

With regard to the concerns over the elderly resident, visitor or carers to the property should not be affected as there should be parking space in the close proximity and parking outside a neighbour's property to board and alight is expected to cause little or no problems. Emergency Services are exempt from parking restrictions. The restrictions will only apply Monday to Friday.

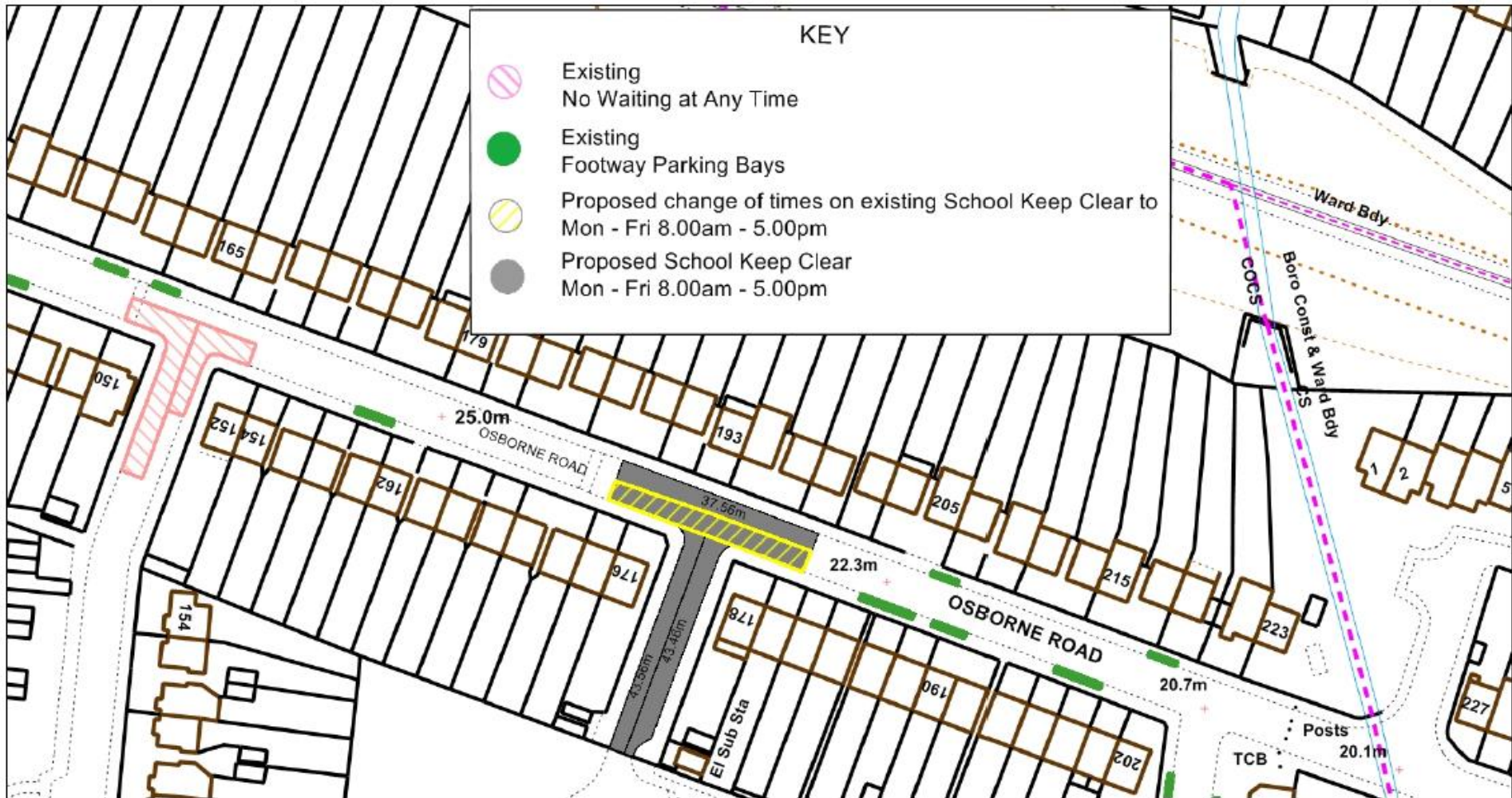
While it is unfortunate that a family member will be affected by the proposals, this is very common for those who work a shift pattern outside normal office hours to have parking difficulties.

In respect of residents who may drive their car out of their garage and then need to go back inside the property, this is likely to happen infrequently and should not really cause a problem.

It is suggested that the Highways Advisory Committee would not consider implementing an isolated residents parking scheme in the vicinity of a school as it will set a precedent and open the flood gates for other such requests around school sites.



## Appendix B



TPC419 Proposed School Keep Clear, Osborne Road



Scale: 1:1000  
Date: 07 April 2014  
Size: A4

