

HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

17 September 2013

REPORT

Subject Heading:

Proposed coach parking in Theatre Road and outside the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch

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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 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

The Council's Highways Advisory Committee considered a report in July 2013 on the adoption of roads as public highways around the Queen's theatre. The Committee approved the majority of the measures but felt that temporary closure of roads for coach parking for events such as pantomimes needs to be addressed to formalise short term parking. This report deals with a second consultation based on revised proposals.

The scheme is within **St. Andrews** ward.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee having considered the responses and information set out in this report recommends to the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment that **one** of the following options is agreed for implementation.
 - i) **Option 1:** That the measures as originally designed are implemented. These include provisions of a drop off/pick up parking bay (for 3 cars), free parking bay outside the theatre and free parking in Theatre Road. The proposals are shown on drawing no. QH083-of-201. The cost of implementing the measures is £1,000.
 - ii) **Option 2:** That the redesigned measures as shown on drawing no. QH083-of-201/D are implemented. These include provisions for reduced size of drop off/pick up parking bay outside the theatre (2 cars) and free parking for coaches in Theatre Road and outside the theatre. The cost of implementing the measures is £1,000.
2. That it be noted the cost of carrying out the works can be met by the Council's Streetcare Revenue budget allocated for 2013/14 financial year.

REPORT DETAIL

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Council's Highways Advisory Committee considered a report on 9th July this year on regularising the parking regime in the roads around the Queen's Theatre as part of adoption of the roads as public highways. The committee approved the following measures:
 - i) 'At Any' time waiting and loading restrictions to enhance highway safety at various locations;
 - ii) Loading bay in Theatre Road;
 - iii) Stopping for 5 minutes maximum by the recycling centre;
 - iv) One-way traffic flow in the road fronting The Queen's Theatre;
 - v) Blue badge parking bays in the road fronting the theatre entrance.

- 1.2 During the meeting, Members had debated in detail on whether there should be free parking bays for coach parking for events such as pantomimes. Some members felt that temporary road closures would not be helpful in dealing with coach groups, therefore, considered that dedicated short term parking would be beneficial.
- 1.3 The proposals affected as a result of the decision are the drop off/ pick up parking bay in the road for 10 minutes maximum fronting the theatre entrance. Instead, it was agreed that its length is reduced in size and proposed parking bay is converted to coach parking.
- 1.4 It was further agreed at the meeting that the free parking in the Theatre Road are used for coach parking. Theatre staff or members of the public who currently park in these bays can park in Billet Road car park.
- 1.5 Members were further provided with a list of road names and were requested to select an appropriate name so that the Council's Legal Services can designate it in the Council's Highway Register. Members had selected the road's name as Theatre Road, therefore, arrangements are being made to install street name signs.

2. **Details of revised measures to supersede the previous measures**

The three measures that were suggested at the HAC meeting were redesigned and are explained in details below:

- 2.1 The proposals for a free parking bay outside the theatre is abandoned and converted for coach parking. The revised proposals are shown in drawing no. QH083-of-201/D.
- 2.2 The existing drop off point for audiences outside the theatre is reduced in size to enhance coach parking. The proposals have been amended and are shown on attached drawing no. QH083-of-201/D.
- 2.3 Free parking bays in Theatre Road have been excluded from the proposals and converted to free parking for coaches. The revised proposals are shown on attached drawing no. QH083-of-201/D.

3. **Outcome of the consultation**

- 3.1 The revised proposals were consulted again with the stakeholders. Approximately, 90 letters were hand delivered in the consultation area and the proposals were also advertised in the Romford Recorder on 26th July 2013, London Gazette. In addition to the above, Ward Members of St. Andrews were also consulted. The emergency services were not consulted on this occasion.

- 3.2 The closing date for receiving any comments was set for 16th August 2013. Seven responses have been received which represents 8% of the letters delivered.

4. **Summary of responses**

The manager of the Queen's theatre has welcomed the decision of a loading bay for deliveries and one-way traffic system outside the theatre. He has further stated that school audiences arrive by coaches mainly in December for the annual pantomime and most visitors are from the local area, arriving by cars or public transport. As a result, he has categorically requested to reject the revised proposals and return to the original measures (ie option 1).

Furthermore, he has concerns about reducing the size of drop off/pick up bay for audiences. He considers that more than one car would be picking up or dropping off passengers, therefore, he has suggested to have two parking bays to meet the prevailing demand.

In addition, 6 identical letters have been received from the theatre's staff. They have also asserted that coaches only arrive for a limited period of time and the free parking would be a loss.

The marketing manager of the theatre has stated that the staff do not receive high wages and if they were to park in the car park it would cost £8 per week. This will penalise them if the proposals proceed.

From the Council's prospective, the problem associated with excluding free parking in Theatre Road is that members of the public could start to park in other residential roads in the immediate vicinity of the theatre which could in turn displace parking for residents.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial Implications and risks:

The costs of implementing the options are included in the recommendations. The final cost is based on which options are selected and agreed by Members. The costs would be met from the Council's Streetcare Revenue budget allocated for 2013/14 financial year.

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 over spend the balance would need to be contained within the overall Streetcare Revenue budget.

Legal Implications and risks:

Parking restrictions, parking bays, loading bays and one-way working require advertisement and consultation of proposals before a decision can be taken prior to their implementation.

Human Resources Implications and risks:

The proposal can be delivered within the standard resourcing within Streetcare and it has no specific impact on staffing/HR issues.

Equalities Implications and risks:

The Council has a general duty under the Equality Act of 2010 to ensure that its highway network is accessible to all users. Where infrastructure is provided or substantially upgraded, reasonable adjustments should be made to improve access. In considering the impacts and making improvements for people with protected characteristics (mainly, but not limited to disabled people, the young and older people), this will assist the Council in meeting its duty under the Act.

Loading restrictions do not allow parking by blue-badge holders, but are sometimes necessary in order to maintain traffic flow, traffic capacity or to improve road safety by preventing all parking in key locations. This scheme provides parking for blue-badge holders.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scheme project file: QH083 – Queen’s Theatre road adoption.

Appendix 1: Schedule of Proposals

Schedule 1

Vehicles stopping outside the Queen's Theatre for a maximum period of 10 minutes to set down or pick up passengers.

The unnamed road fronting The Queen's Theatre, the east side, from a point 28.2 metres south of the southern kerb-line of Theatre Road, extending southward for a distance 12 metres.

Schedule 2

Provision for coach parking in designated parking places, operative at any time, on the lengths of streets specified below:

Theatre Road

- (a) the south side, from a point 15 metres west of the western kerb-line of North Street extending westward for a distance of 38 metres;
- (b) the north side, from a point 37 metres west of the western kerb-line of North Street extending westward for a distance of 19.35 metres.

The unnamed road fronting The Queen's Theatre, the east side, from a point 40.2 metres south of the southern kerb-line of Theatre Road extending southward for a distance of 27 metres.

Appendix C

Proposed layout drawings

Options 1 and 2