

APPENDIX G

3.16 Cemetery Road – Proposed Parking Restriction Scheme (Including reference to the proposed Standhill Road Parking Restriction Scheme)

3.16.1 This note refers to paragraph 3.16 of the Champion News and Finance Report, Agenda Item 9, and has been prepared by the Planning Projects Manager, in consultation with the Planning & Transport Portfolio Holder, Cllr Tom Brindley.

3.16.2 Reference is made to agenda item 8 of the Hitchin Committee Meeting of 12th January and to Minute 80 of that Committee. As requested in the minute the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transport, Cllr Tom Brindley, met with the Chair of Hitchin Committee, Cllr Judi Billing and the three Local Ward Members for Highbury Ward, Cllrs Paul Clark, Lawrence Oliver and Clare Body at the beginning of February. Following that meeting officers have been requested to:

- (i) Draw up the two current parking restriction proposals on separate plans to avoid confusion, that being:
 - a) Cemetery Road: To show the disabled bays and the one hour restriction bays with the “cut-in” and double yellow lines (See Plan A attached).
 - b) Standhill Road, Sandy Grove, Standhill Close. To show the position after the meeting at the Highbury Infants School on 5th November 2009 with any additional agreements from upper Standhill Road residents. (See Plan B attached).
- (ii) Present these plans together with a note regarding the Cemetery Road proposal to Hitchin Committee in March;
- (iii) Send copies of these plans to the Standhill Residents Group with a supporting note; and
- (iv) Establish what timescale could be achieved if the Standhill Road element was to progress.

3.16.3 In terms of the Cemetery Road Proposal, a full report outlining the rationale for proposing restrictions along this road and Hertfordshire Highways (HH) position on the proposal were set out in the officers report of 12th January 2010. HH do not consider that there is sufficient evidence to set this road apart from other roads to prepare a Traffic Regulation (TRO) for safety reasons. Therefore as mentioned in the previous report there are two suggested options open to the Council as a means of progressing this proposal. These were summarised as follows:

- (i) The first is to consider the street as part of the town wide review in 2011/2012 where any form of restriction along Cemetery Road, such as no waiting at any time, could be considered along with implementing restrictions in St. Johns Road to allow for restricted parking for visitors to the cemetery and the recreation ground. At present, St. Johns road is unrestricted and the implementation of a scheme in advance of the town wide review places this street at risk in taking the displaced all day non-resident parking. It is also

anticipated that a certain amount of the non-resident parking in Standhill Road could be displaced to this street following the implementation of the Standhill Road Scheme.

- (ii) The second is to consider the possibility of allowing for a certain amount of restricted parking to take place along Cemetery Road that will meet the needs of visitors to the Cemetery. It is to be noted that the Council regularly receives complaints from visitors who find it difficult to park nearby and to access the cemetery from Cemetery Road.

3.16.4 For this second option to occur there is a need to satisfy the requirements of the emergency services to pass through an area. The introduction of a formalised TRO scheme for parking along the street with the carriageway width at present is too narrow and would certainly result in objections from the fire service. As a means of addressing this issue, it is suggested that some civil engineering works is undertaken to provide a limited number of restricted parking bays along the western side of Cemetery Road. This could be achieved by excavating into the grass bank. This option would allow for two disabled parking bays, one either side of the main entrance gate and at least three further restricted bays in each excavated area (i.e. totalling two disabled bays and six restricted bays). Such restrictions could be '*No waiting 10am to 11am Mon to Friday*' in one of the bays and the other could be '*No waiting 1:30pm to 2:30pm Mon to Fri*'. These would follow the similar restrictions being imposed in the Standhill Road area. (See plans A and B attached). The remainder of the road would be '*No waiting at any time*' i.e. double yellow lines. Such a restriction would help to improve the visibility at the junctions of Cemetery Road with Standhill Road in the north and with St. Johns Road in the south.

3.16.5 The Council is not responsible for undertaking highway engineering works and an option would be to progress this proposal through the North Hertfordshire Joint Member Panel (JMP). Such schemes are more likely to be supported, where NHDC provides matched funding. The estimated cost to implement this proposal would be approx £15,500 for the engineering works and a further estimated £1,800 for the TRO, which would have to be funded separately by the Council. There are no significant budgets available for match funding of engineering works within the Transport or Planning budgets, however input is being sought from other service budget holders. The scheme would be more likely to proceed if there was some funding put forward through the discretionary budgets held by Hitchin Committee. Local ward councillors and the ward county councillor could also contribute to the matched funding.

3.16.7 Therefore if Hitchin Area Committee is willing to support the proposed Cemetery Road scheme as outlined in Plan A, the Committee needs to decide if it is prepared to commit funds and if any Members are prepared to commit discretionary grants for this proposal. The proposal would then be presented to the JMP at its meeting on 19th April 2010 for its consideration and possible agreement to match fund the proposal from the JMP Discretionary Fund for 2010/11. If JMP agreed to support the scheme it could then be delivered during the period 2010/11. This would then accord with the timescales for the Standhill Road Scheme. Members are asked to refer their wishes as set out under the Recommendation at para 8.6 in the Champion News & Finance Report, which states:

“8.6 That the Committee refer their wishes regarding as stated at Paragraph 3.16 Cemetery Road to the April meeting of the Hertfordshire Highways Joint Member Panel.”

- 3.16.8 In terms of the Standhill Road Scheme and estimated timescales for delivery, as outlined at points (iii) and (iv) under para 3.16.2 above, members are requested to note the proposed plan (i.e. Plan B attached). This plan along with other concerns raised by the residents will be the subject of further discussion with the local residents and the Highbury Infants School on the 10th March with the Strategic Director of Planning, Housing & Enterprise and other officers. The local ward members, the Chair of Hitchin Committee and the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transport have been advised of this meeting should they wish to attend. It is hoped that a consensus will be reached and that the proposed scheme can then be prepared and formally published in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations 1996.
- 3.16.9 Assuming a proposed scheme for the Standhill Road area is agreed with the residents, then the Council's intent to make a TRO could be published in late April, which would be followed by a 28 day objection period. Following analysis of representations made and assuming that these can be easily resolved, the formal publication of making the TRO could be in late June. A 42 day High Court Challenge period would need to be followed before implementation of the scheme in mid August, which would take approx 2 weeks. The scheme could then come into force in September 2010. This 5 to 6 month timescale assumes few representations are made and that the Delegated Officer, namely the Strategic Director of Planning, Housing & Enterprise, agrees to publish the order following consultation with the Chairs of the Hitchin Committee and the NHHJMP plus with the local ward members.