

**REPORT:** M J Noone, Operational Director  
Policy, Planning & Transportation

**DATE:** 24<sup>th</sup>. January 2012

**REPORTING OFFICER:** S. Johnson - Lead Officer, Traffic & Road Safety

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Waiting Restrictions & Disabled Person  
Parking Ares, Russell Court, Widnes

**WARDS:** Farnworth

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1.1 To seek approval for the introduction of “At Any Time” waiting restrictions and designate an area for disabled person parking only in Russell Court, Widnes.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that notice be given of the Council’s intention to:

**[a] introduce a traffic regulation Order to implement “At Any Time” waiting restrictions on part of Russell Court, Widnes as Appendix "A".**

**[b] introduce a traffic regulation Order to designate an area of Russell Court, Widnes as disabled person parking only as Appendix "B".**

2.2 **Subject to no objections being sustained at the end of the public consultation period and to the agreement of the Police and emergency services and satisfactory consultation, the Orders be made.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In recent years a series of complaints have been received concerning parking congestion in Russell Court, Widnes. The Court serves as access to 24 properties and also gives access to off-highway parking spaces at the rear of Farnworth Street properties nos. 55 to 59. However, because of existing “At Any Time” parking restrictions on Farnworth Street, Russell Court has become the location where residents from a wider area choose to try and park their vehicles, particularly overnight and at the weekends.

3.2 This use of Russell Court as a parking area has caused numerous congestion and obstruction issues as the parking is frequently thoughtless and inconsiderate, causing friction between local people and preventing access for emergency vehicles and refuse collection lorries. Residents of Russell Court have reported problems with parking for several years and have lodged complaints both with the Council and with Halton Housing Trust who own and manage the properties. Complaints culminated in a residents’ petition requesting that a solution to the parking problems be found. The petition was reported to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board in June 2011, since which time officers of HBC and HHT have been working together with Ward Councillors on a scheme of improvements in Russell Court, funded jointly by HHT and the Locality Area Forum.

- 3.3 The Court is home to a number of elderly and disabled people and there have been regular requests for the provision of disabled person parking bays close to the flats. The recently completed improvements have provided two off-street parking bays on HHT owned land (for the exclusive use of Russell Court residents) and three disabled person parking bays within the highway. It is evident that demand for disabled person parking bays is exceptionally high at this location, and these bays need to be legally enforceable due to the pressure on parking space in general.
- 3.4 It is believed it is now also necessary to introduce vehicle waiting restrictions on the entrance to Russell Court and on one side as far as the rear parking accesses to nos. 55 to 59 Farnworth Street in order to prevent obstruction. The occupants of these properties have been consulted over these proposals and are in favour, rejecting an alternative suggestion which would have seen the "At Any Time" restrictions extended further past their parking area entrances at the rear of their homes. Instead, an 'H Bar' road marking has been provided to protect access crossings from obstruction.
- 3.5 Following the completion of the improvements and with the recommended waiting restrictions in place, the design of Russell Court means that adequate space is provided for vehicles to turn around in order to leave. Drawing no. 9107 refers.

#### **4.0 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 During the formal advertising period to follow, all directly affected residents will be notified in writing of these proposals as will all the emergency services and other regular consultees. All ward councillors have already been consulted and are content with the proposals.
- 4.2 During an earlier consultation exercise amongst the residents of nos. 55 to 59 Farnworth Street, there was no support for extending the proposed waiting restrictions past the rear of their homes and their off-road parking spaces.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The total cost of implementing the waiting restriction proposals is approximately £500. This will be charged to the jointly funded (HBC Area Forum / HHT) improvement scheme.

#### **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct policy, social inclusion, sustainability, value for money, legal or crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES.**

##### **7.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority.

##### **7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

##### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority.

#### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

The proposed waiting restrictions will serve to prevent obstruction of Russell Court and reduce the incidence of confrontation between drivers in parking and access disputes. Disabled person parking spaces near disabled resident's homes reduces the chance of falls and improves the quality of life for affected residents.

#### **7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Halton's Urban Renewal'.

### **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 There is a variable and uncertain road safety risk associated with introducing these proposed waiting restrictions, the degree of risk depending on the degree to which drivers would continue to park so as to obstruct the highway without them.
- 8.2 The proposals could prove unacceptable to local residents but following the consultation process the validity of any objections that cannot be resolved will be considered by the Executive Board Sub-Committee.
- 8.3 Traffic displaced from parking at the locations to receive new waiting restrictions will inevitably place an extra parking demand on adjacent areas and this is largely unavoidable. The new restrictions recommended in this report are being proposed generally on access, movement and alleviation of the effects of disability grounds, which should have a higher priority than a slight increase in the pressure on available parking space.

### **9.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES.**

- 9.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

### **10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 There are no background papers under section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

**Details of Proposed Order:**

[a] "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions.

[b] Details:

Russell Court, north side, from the junction with Farnworth Street to a point 8 metres west of the west kerb line of Farnworth Street.

Russell Court, south side, from the junction with Farnworth Street to a point 24 metres west of the west kerb line of Farnworth Street.

[c] Associated revocations: None

[d] Exemptions: Standard

[e] Statement of Reasons: To provide for the unrestricted movement of traffic along Russell Court..

[f] Plans: Drawing no. 9107 refers, for deposit only.

[g] Date to be advertised: ASAP

[h] Date to be effected: ASAP

[i] Advertising code: 2050 1625 W041

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**Details of Proposed Order:**

[a] Disabled persons parking space.

[b] Details: Russell Court, for a length of 9 metres on the west side (adjacent to nos. 9 to 12) at the head of the cul-de-sac.

[c] Associated revocations: None.

[d] Exemptions: Standard

[e] Statement of Reasons: To provide dedicated parking spaces for disabled persons in an area where demand for such facilities is exceptionally high.

[f] Plans: Drg. No. 9107 refers, for deposit only.

[g] Date to be advertised: ASAP

[h] Date to be effected: ASAP

[i] Advertising code: 2050 1625 W0

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