Dear Resident

The purpose of this newsletter is to formally consult with you on the current parking proposals for Rougemont Avenue, Holne Chase and Torrington Way.

Following several route tests in these roads by the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA), concerns have been raised about the obstructive manner of parking which could affect accessibility by fire engines in the event of an emergency. Additionally the Council’s refuse vehicles also have access difficulties.

The minimum running width required by a fire engine to access residential road is between 3 and 3.5 metres. With cars parked fully on the carriageway, on both sides of each of these roads, the average available road width for access is reduced to 2.5 metres and even less in some sections of the roads.

Parking on the footway is an offence under Section 15(1) of the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1974. However, the Council can exempt areas of the footway from the parking ban by making a Notice under Section 15(4) of this Act. An exemption would include signs and road markings as per the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002. However, it is not normal practice to allow parking on grass verges because the grass verge would not be able to accommodate the weight of vehicles and it would be difficult if not impossible to mark the designated parking areas (which is a legal requirement). The continuous parking on grass verges would also lead to rutting of the surface, mud on the carriageway/footway, and a trip hazard being created between the hard surfaced footway and the verge. This would all lead to additional maintenance cost.

With regard to the creation of private off-street parking, the current criteria for the provision of footway crossovers are under review and the review report has been subject to Member Consultation. The final review report is due to be presented to Cabinet on 25th June 2007.

However, the current Council policy regarding provisions for footway crossovers, the depth of the private forecourt/garden must exceed 4.5m. This is to prevent obstructive parking across the footway that could be hazardous to pedestrians, particularly those using a wheelchair, those with pushchairs and blind or partially sighted people. Also, under the current criteria, crossings that would involve the removal of grass verge over 1 metre wide can be and are often refused.

It is appreciated that there is a high level of demand for on street parking in this area; however, priority must be given to safety of and access for all road users including pedestrians. It is considered that the proposals are essential for improving access for traffic including the emergency services and the Council’s refuse vehicle.

Formal Consultation

To address these concerns the Council is now carrying out a formal consultation to introduce double yellow lines (No waiting restrictions) along one side of the roads as indicated on the plan in the centre of this leaflet to assist the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians). Double yellow lines indicate no parking at any time and require no signs. However in the absence of No loading restrictions vehicles may stop to load and unload goods for a limited period of time. Waiting or parking is not permitted. The disabled persons parking bays will not be affected by this proposal.

Let us know your views

A notice of the Council’s intentions, proposing to make the Traffic Management Order (TMO) for the above measures will be published in the local newspaper, London Gazette and posted on lamp columns in the vicinity. We urge anyone who is either in favour or against the proposal to make their representation in writing to the Head of Street Scene and Waste Management, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX by no later than 20th July 2007, quoting reference ES/EG/RO. Anyone who opposes the scheme must state the grounds on which their objection is made. We also welcome letters in support. Please note that responses to any representation received will not be made until a final decision is made.

A copy of the draft TMO, a plan identifying the area affected by the proposal and the Council’s ‘Statement of Reasons’ can be inspected at the Merton Link, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, during the Council’s working hours, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm. Alternatively, this information can be viewed on Merton Council’s website, www.merton.gov.uk/rougemontave

Please note that the outcome of the consultation, along with officer’s recommendations will be reported to either the Cabinet Member and Street Management Advisory Committee on 4th September 2007 or earlier directly to the Cabinet Member. Once a decision is made you will be informed accordingly.

Contact us

If you require further information please contact Mr. Paul Atie on 020 8545 3214 or via email: paul.atie@merton.gov.uk.