

30 August 2012

**Petition relating to Convenience Store at Blockall, Darlaston
submitted to Council on 9 July 2012**

Ward(s) Darlaston South

Portfolios: Councillor Ansell - Transport and Environment

Executive Summary:

A petition containing approximately 700 signatures was submitted to Council on 9 July 2012. The petition requested the implementation of limited parking outside the convenience store at 22/23 Blockall, Darlaston. This report details the response of the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services to this petition.

Reason for scrutiny:

The Council's petitions' scheme requires that, where a petition containing at least 500 signatures is received by the Council, the relevant senior officer will give evidence at a public meeting of one of the Council's Scrutiny and Performance Panels. The authority has determined that the response to such petitions must be given by either the Chief Executive or one of the Executive Directors, Assistant Directors or Heads of Service.

Recommendations:

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the report be noted.

Background papers:

None.

Resource and legal considerations:

The provision of parking would require a change to the existing Traffic Regulation Order that currently prevents parking at this location.

Citizen impact:

The provision of parking outside the convenience store would be beneficial to the customers of the store. However, increased traffic congestion and reduced road safety would be experienced by all citizens using Blockall (A462) if parking were to be permitted.

Environmental impact:

The provision of parking outside the convenience store in Blockall would create unnecessary traffic congestion and associated air pollution.

Performance management:

No impact.

Equality Implications:


An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

Consultation:

Consultation with the Council's Traffic Management and Road Safety teams has been undertaken in the preparation of this report.

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Report

1. The panel will recall that a similar petition was presented to Council in September 2009 requesting the provision of parking outside the convenience store located at 22/23 Blockall.
2. The Council was unable to agree to that request as the provision of on-street parking would have created unacceptable road safety hazards and unnecessary traffic congestion. The response to that petition detailed the following reasons:
 - 2.1. Blockall is a district distributor road that forms part of the Walsall strategic highway network. This and the adjoining roads on the A462 route, namely St Lawrence Way, The Green and Midland Road, are all covered by double yellow line parking restrictions.
 - 2.2. The existing double yellow line parking restrictions have been in place since 1984 and were originally introduced, and are still required, to maintain traffic flow and road safety for the significant numbers of private and commercial vehicles using the route.
 - 2.3. The carriageway width outside the convenience store at 22/23 Blockall is insufficient to permit parking whilst also maintaining the 2 way traffic flow necessary for the A462 to operate safely and efficiently.
 - 2.4. The close proximity of the convenience stores to the bend in the road, the bus stop immediately opposite the store and the pedestrian crossing point just a few metres to the north further highlight the location's unsuitability for parking.
3. Since the 2009 petition was received by the Council, nothing has changed that would make the provision of formal parking outside the store a safe option.
4. The Council has a statutory duty to manage the safe and efficient operation of the public highway. The provision of parking outside the store would be counterproductive to the delivery of that statutory duty.