

## SOUTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

#### **THURSDAY 31st AUGUST 2023**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7**

Subject	The Essex County Council (Rochford District) (Prohibition of Waiting,	
	Loading and Stopping) And (On-Street Parking Places)	
	(Civil Enforcement Area) (Amendment No.7) (Part 2) Order 202*	
	Relating to Ashingdon Road, Rochford	
Report by	South Essex Parking Partnership Manager	

#### **Enquiries contact:**

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#### Purpose:

To report the receipt of representations made on part of The Essex County Council (Rochford District) (Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Stopping) And (On-Street Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement Area) (Amendment No.7) Order 202\*

#### **Options**

The Joint Committee has the following options available:

- 1. to agree that the proposed Order be made as advertised.
- 2. to agree that the proposed Order be made subject to modifications which result in less restrictive provisions or reduced scope.
- 3. to agree that the proposed Order be withdrawn in its entirety.

#### Recommendation(s)

- 1. The proposed Order should be made as advertised (Permit Parking Area Zone Q Mon Fri 8am-10am and 2pm-4pm, excluding Bank Holidays).
- 2. The people making representations be advised accordingly.

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#### Policies and Strategies

The report takes into account the South Essex Parking Partnership Document setting out how the SEPP will deal with requests for parking restrictions requiring TROs.

1.	Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this Order is to amend The Essex County Council (Rochford District) (Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Stopping) and (On-Street Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement Area) Consolidation Order 2019 as set out below:
- An application form was received in January 2021 requesting a Permit Parking Area Monday-Friday 8am-10am and 2pm-4pm on the parking area/access road outside property Nos. 116 144 Ashingdon Road. It was stated by the applicant that parents picking up children from the near-by Holt Farm School, park inconsiderately, blocking access to residents' properties, damage the verges and endanger other children. This request was supported by a 16-property petition and a Ward Councillor. It should be noted that the request is in line with the times of the adjacent Permit Parking Area on the parking area/access road outside property Nos. 104 114 Ashingdon Road.
- 1.3 It had been observed by the SEPP that parking at the location in question was congested during school pick up time. Additionally, it is likely that parking issues were exacerbated by displaced vehicles when the Permit Parking Area was introduced in the access road outside property Nos. 104 114 in 2020.
- 1.4 Therefore, a parking review was carried out from 21 January to 12 February 2021 regarding the introduction of a Permit Parking Area operating Monday-Friday 8am 10am & 2pm-4pm (excluding Bank Holidays). The results of the parking review were as follows:

Road	Properties Consulted	Responses Received	In favour		Percentage of Respondents in favour
Ashingdon Road	13	7	6	1	86%
Nos. 116 – 144					

- Upon considering the results of the parking review, it was agreed with the SEPP Joint Committee Member and Lead Officer for Rochford to cost a scheme to implement a Permit Parking Area Monday-Friday 8am-10am and 2pm-4pm, excluding bank holidays ('the Proposal'). Furthermore, the request for funding was agreed in December 2021 to proceed with the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders. The cost of the scheme was estimated at £3,000.
- 2. Relevant excerpts from SEPP Policy (Version 6 December 2020)

## **2.1** | SEPP Policy – 1.6

'It is acknowledged that all requests for a parking restriction will carry some form of merit and may be beneficial to the particular area. The requests will be submitted for a variety of reasons and depending on the circumstance will be considered as a high or low funding priority to the Partnership. As the amount of funding available for new schemes is limited it is the intention of this policy to provide a criteria, which if met, will be considered a high priority scheme for the Partnership and therefore stand a greater chance of receiving the available funding. Schemes that do not meet all the criteria can still be progressed and considered by the Joint Committee, but schemes with a higher priority will take precedence. All schemes will be subject to available funding.'

## **2.2** | SEPP Policy – 7.4 Commuter parking in a residential street (preferred parking)

- 'The parking by non-residents must be sufficiently severe to cause serious inconvenience to residents' met.
- 'The preferred traffic management solution for parking issues in residential areas is the introduction of a residents parking scheme' met.
- 'The majority of residents have no off-street parking facilities available to them' – met in part.
- 'The majority of residents are in favour of such a scheme' met.
- 'The introduction of a scheme would not cause unacceptable problems in adjacent roads' met parking would be spread throughout nearby roads.
- 'The Partnership is satisfied that a reasonable level of enforcement can be maintained' met, there are existing parking restrictions in the area.

## 3 Traffic Regulation Order

- 3.1 The proposed Order was published in the Basildon and Southend Echo on Thursday 4 August 2022 and public notices erected on the parking area/access road outside property Nos. 116 144 Ashingdon Road. Copies of the proposed Order were sent to a number of organisations including Essex Police, Essex County Council (Essex Highways, the highway authority), Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Ambulance Service, the Road Haulage Association, the Freight Transport Association, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- 3.2 When proposed Order was published on 4 August 2022, a 21-day period of formal public consultation commenced.

#### 4 Comments

**4.1** The details of the representations are summarised in Appendix 2 to this report together with the comments of the Technicians.

## 5 Conclusion

Although some correspondents have made several points which lead them to believe 'the Proposal' should not be pursued in part, the SEPP Joint Committee Member and Lead Officer for Rochford, and SEPP Technicians consider that none of them are of sufficient weight to warrant the proposed Order not being made.

#### **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – List of people making representations

Appendix 2 – Summary of objections or support and Technicians comments

Appendix 3 – Photos

# **APPENDIX 1**

Ref	List of people making representations	Туре	
1	Email from resident of Ashingdon Road dated 04/08/22	Support	
2	Email from residents of Ashingdon Road dated 08/08/22	Support	
3	Email from resident of Ashingdon Road dated 08/08/22 and 09/08/22 Suppor		
4	Letter from resident of Ashingdon Road dated 08/08/22	Objection	
5	Letter from resident of Ashingdon Road dated 08/08/22	Support	
6	Email from resident of Ashingdon Road dated 18/08/22 Support		
7	Email and Letter from residents of Ashingdon Road dated 23/08/22 Comme		
8	Email from resident of Ashingdon Road dated 23/08/22	Objection	
9	Letter from resident of Ashingdon Road dated 25/08/22	Comment	
10	Email from resident of Ashingdon Road dated 25/08/22	Objection	
11	Email from resident of Ashingdon Road dated 26/08/22 Objectio		
12	Email from local resident in Ashingdon dated 26/08/22	Objection	
13	Email from parent of Holt Farm School dated 26/08/22	Objection	

# **APPENDIX 2**

# REPRESENTATIONS & RESPONSES FOLLOWING FORMAL ADVERTISEMENT – 31 March 2022 – 22 April 2022

	Representations & responses rela	ting to Ashingdon Road, Rochford
Ref	Representation -	Technician response -
1	I'm emailing in response to the letter about the parking restrictions on the Ashingdon road from houses 116 to houses 144. My husband and I are 100% behind this supporting it we've lived here At Ashingdon Road for and have had trouble exiting and entering our own property, we look forward to this being put in place.	Support noted.
2	We are writing in response to the proposal for Ashingdon Road Permit Parking Area.  We are fully behind the proposed scheme, and feel it will greatly help the residents with access and parking problems, in particular at the outlined times when we have some school parents parking irresponsibly.  We have lived at our property (No. ) for just under and have had constant trouble with people parking their cars in our access lane, blocking the entrance to our property. The access lane is for the purpose of 4 bungalows, but is constantly used by parents of the school and also residents from the opposite side of the road. We have previously been prevented from going to work, attending appointments and also collecting our own grandchildren at specific times, due to people parking in the access lane and causing an obstruction which we cannot get through. We have been informed that this problem has been on-going for many years and our immediate neighbours, numbers 116 - 122, would like to know if our section of the lane could be made "For bungalow residents only" as has happened on the opposite side of our lane, previously done several years	Support noted.  Installing an 'Access to bungalows only beyond this point' sign falls outside the remit of the South Essex Parking Partnership. The SEPP implement, maintain and enforce on-street parking restrictions. Most other Highway matters are the responsibility of Essex County Council, who are the highway authority. Residents should contact their local councillors who may be able to take this forward to the Rochford District Local Highways Panel. For more information see:  https://www.essexhighways.org/highway-schemes-and-developments/local-highway-panels/rochford-lhp

	ago.	
3	Email 1 to whom it may concern this is just my authorisation to confirm that I agree with the parking planning permission kind regards	Support noted.
	Email 2 Sorry yer I approve of parking permits outside along ashingdon road rochford	
4	We wish to object to the proposal to introduce a Residents Permit Parking Scheme in the service road on Ashingdon Road, opposite Holt Farm School, on the grounds of child safety, that it is excessive in its suggested implementation, and that it is unnecessary. Furthermore, it ignores future plans for the building of a new estate which will impact on the traffic at this precise point.  History  We have been residents at this address for over forty years and have experiences the changing parking situation since then. We believe we are only one of two families who have lived on this stench all this time.	Objection noted.  The purpose of 'the Proposal' seeks to prevent non-resident parking which will improve the amenity of the area and the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises.  In 2021 the SEPP received a request to implement a Permit Parking Area in the parking area/access road outside property Nos. 116 – 144 Ashingdon Road due to reports of vehicles parking inconsiderately, blocking access to residents' properties, damage to the verges and endangering other children. This request was supported by a 16-property petition and a Ward Councillor.
	Before we moved in, the service road was created to provide a safe place for parents at the school to park in order to drop-off and pick-up their children. Young children require supervision to cross a very busy road like Ashingdon Road, so it is reasonable for parents to have to leave their vehicles to see their child(ren) safely into the school premises. A crossing warden used to be employed here but several years ago the powers that be decided they should be withdrawn; it is now ever more important that parents supervise their children when crossing the road.	The request was also in line with the adjacent the Permit Parking Area on the parking area/access road outside property Nos. 116 – 144 Ashingdon Road which was implemented in 2020. Consistent restriction times in an area will aid enforcement of any parking restriction.  An informal consultation was carried out in 2021. The results of which are shown in 1.4 of this report. The results met the SEPP criteria to proceed with a Traffic Regulation Order (at least 50% response rate and at least 50% of respondents in favour).
	Additional parking for residents was a bonus but was not the original intention.	residents may vary depending on their location, for example properties 116-120. However, it was decided by the SEPP Joint Committee Member and Lead Officer for Rochford to cost a scheme to implement

#### Now

We will accept that traffic has increased and for various reasons more parents have been bringing their children to school by car. This has led to an extremely small number of parents parking without thought for the residents, but the vast majority recognise the situation and take steps to ensure they are not too much of an inconvenience.

We can understand that the instigator of the original application (who may not even live in this stretch) wanting to do something – his daughter was often unable to get back into her drive when she returned from picking her children up from elsewhere, but this situation only applies for about a half-hour both in the morning and in the afternoon. Implementing a system that imposes a restriction two hours at a time, twice a day, is excessive especially as it is, effectively, of benefit to just one person and inconveniences the rest of the residents. Not to mention that the proposed imposed inconvenience to residents of the permit system will apply all year round, even where there is no school traffic – and no problem at all.

The situation does not seriously affect the whole of the service road, but only to the cul-de-sac part created when Hawkwell Parish Council improved the landscaping some 15-20 years ago. This means that the only houses with a serious problems are 116-120, but this proposal penalises not just these five houses but the additional 10 houses that are largely unaffected, not to mention the bureaucracy and administration that they now become part of.

There are also others that legitimately require parking (other than the parents), and who appear to be excluded while not being part of a problem. Some residents in the odd-numbered houses on the other side of the road also use the area for parking, as well as staff at the school who cannot park in the school grounds, for whatever reason. Supervisors at

a Permit Parking Area on the whole parking area/access.

If the Proposal is introduced, it is acknowledged that displacement is likely occur, especially during school pick up time. It is difficult to determine where vehicles will displace to, however as with any new parking scheme its effect would be monitored.

Holt Farm Infant and Junior School is part of the SEPP 3PR Parking Initiative which has been designed to help tackle some of the issues around school parking. The SEPP will continue to work with the schools in order to encourage considerate parking.

Essex County Council (Essex Highways, the highway authority) are responsible for all Highway matters relating to new developments. Therefore, any parking related issues in relation to the new development will be dealt with by Essex Highways. It should also be noted that Essex Highways have been consulted regarding 'the Proposal', but no comments have been received.

The cost of a resident's permit is £50 for one year and can be used by one vehicle when restrictions apply. Residents over 65 are entitled to one free resident permit. A range of visitor tickets are also available. Further details on permits and costs can be found at: <a href="https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/parking">www.chelmsford.gov.uk/parking</a>

dinnertimes and part-time caretaking staff also use the area and will arrive/leave during the excluded periods. Also, there is a 'half-way house' a short distance away that requires car staff to attend at any time of the day.

If parents are not allowed to park there, albeit temporarily, where *will* they park? The Holt Farm estate, etc, already suffers from lack of space to drop children off on those narrow estate rads. Already, parents stop (illegally) in the bus bay outside the school to drop their children off, which disrupts the traffic flows, and interferes with the bus service operation. We anticipate that, if the proposal is implemented as currently published, a large proportion of the parents will park in Rochford Garden Way and walk through the alley that links to Ashingdon Road, bu the roads there are 1950s estate roads and are very narrow. In any event this route has been identified as an exit for the new estate due to the build in the next year or two.

We find that a polite note on the windscreen has been the most effective way of stopping people from parking across our driveway, without draconian measures such as those proposals.

## Summary

Our objections are:

- The proposal takes no account of the knock-on effects for child safety while getting to school, and is likely to increase the dangers.
- 2) The proposal negates the original reasons for the parking area being created.
- 3) The proposal is excessive for the size of the problem in terms of the number of hours it applies, and for the periods in the year (i.e. in the school holidays) in which there are *no* problems.)

	<ol> <li>The proposal takes no account of the current traffic flows in the area and the changes that will take place as and when the new estate is built behind numbers 122 to 144 Ashingdon Road, and further along the road.</li> <li>The proposal takes no notice of the effect on parking in the wider area and can only move the problem, rather than solve it.</li> <li>The proposal Imposes an unnecessary and bureaucratic administrative cost on both the City Council/Parking Partnership and the residents and their visitors.</li> <li>The system proposed is not necessary and that other avenues should be explored taking into account factors other than a petition from (some) residents.</li> </ol>	
5	With reference to your letter on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug. I am replying regarding the parking within our houses 116-144. I support this parking as I hold a disable badge and sometimes it can be difficult to manoeuvre between the cars parked.	Support noted.
6	I am replying to your notice from August 2nd. I have attached all of my previous emails as they have the pictures that I need put in evidence of the parking situation. This has been one of our biggest nightmares and awful living conditions, especially when my partner and her sons have to go to work/school and can't even get off of the drive to do so. Having the parking restrictions would hopefully help make things bearable and allows us not to be blocked in our house or having to drive around the block 3 times before being actually allowed into our property. Please let us know of the outcome?	Support noted.
7	I am writing neither in support of nor objection to the above- mentioned parking restrictions proposal, since I do not understand what this proposal is aiming to positively achieve. However, I would ask you to consider the following in relation to the proposal on behalf of those of us residing in the odd numbered properties along the proposed stretch of Ashingdon	Comment noted.  Concerns have been raised by residents that non-resident parking in the parking area/access road for property Nos. 116 – 144 evens is causing access issues and vehicles taking up parking spaces so that visitors and tradespeople cannot always park. The proposal seeks to

Road.

You state permits for parking are to be allocated to even numbers only. We feel that this decision has been based on an incorrect assessment of the use of the area in question and feel it would be fairer to also offer permits to the odd numbered properties along the proposed stretch for the following reasons:

- The narrow footpath and limited frontage for parking for the odd numbered properties means that there is often no reasonable alternative but to use the proposed area to park a vehicle when needed.
- The even numbered properties, on the whole, have larger capacity driveways and garaging facilities, whereas the odd numbered properties are mostly older Edwardian housing without this additional space.
- Permits for both odd and even numbers along this stretch would allow extra parking capacity for those properties that are three car families; or for those times when family or friends visit, or when trades or skips are needed at these properties.
- The granting of permits to both the odd and even numbers along this stretch would represent the current use of the said area and would only increase the revenue obtained from permit sales.

I would ask that you consider the above and agree to either of the following:

- 1. Permits are offered fairly to residents of both even and odd numbers along the proposed stretch in order to mitigate any of the above parking needs during the restricted times; or
- 2. Agree that during the restricted times, but outside of the existing urban clearway times, when required residents will be free to take up the right to park vehicles outside of their properties, directly on Ashingdon Road.

I'm sure you will agree that option 2 is the least desirable option, but without a fair opportunity to apply for a permit, those odd numbered properties along the proposed stretch will be left at times with little alternative.

prevent non-resident parking by introducing a Permit Parking Area Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) between the hours of 8am - 10am & 2pm - 4pm, which will improve the amenity of the area and the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises.

Holt Farm Infant and Junior School is part of the SEPP 3PR Parking Initiative which has been designed to help tackle some of the issues around school parking. The SEPP will continue to work with the schools in order to encourage considerate parking.

The aim of a permit parking scheme is not to penalise residents. Therefore, although only property Nos. 116 – 144 have been included as eligible addresses, other nearby properties on Ashingdon Road without adequate off-street parking would be considered on a case by case basis. It should be noted that a valid permit is only required during the operational hours of a Permit parking scheme.

8	As an aside to the above comments relating to the residents use of the parking area, we would also like to raise the issues that these permits will cause with regard to Holt Farm Infant and Junior School. As I am sure you will appreciate, Ashingdon Road is an increasingly busy road in the area, and with 3 schools in close proximity set directly upon it, the school drop off and pick up times are some of the busiest.  During these busy times all properties are affected by the extra traffic that this brings, but we see no reasonable alternative for parents who do not have the luxury of being able to walk their children to school. How else will they be able to safely drop-off and pick-up their children along the road at these times? The new restrictions if they proceed may in fact create a safety issue for the children of the school, as well as the residents along this stretch, with parents also being forced to resort to stopping on the main road. We therefore feel that you may want to reconsider the proposal in its entirety.  I recently heard of a plan to introduce resident parking permits for the service road opposite Holt Farm School in the Ashingdon Road. While I know about the attitude of some parents to park anywhere they like, I do feel this will just move the problem to other places (roads on the Holt Farm Estate)and other driveways, grass verges (very common). The majority of parents are considerate and I thought this road was created for them many years ago. It will shift the problem especially as the Bloor Homes development will start work at some point.  Furthermore, staff at the Holt Farm Schools also park in the service road (considerately) when their tiny school car park is full. They may be the TA's, kitchen staff, teachers, visitors etc. that need to use the service road. It will hit them very hard as the school car parks are way too small for the amount of staff employed at both schools. Stop Bloor Homes= less cars=less parking problems.	Objection noted.  If the Proposal is introduced, it is acknowledged that displacement is likely occur, especially during school pick up time. It is difficult to determine where vehicles will displace to, however as with any new parking scheme its effect would be monitored.  Holt Farm Infant and Junior School is part of the SEPP 3PR Parking Initiative which has been designed to help tackle some of the issues around school parking. The SEPP will continue to work with the schools in order to encourage considerate parking.
9	parking problems. Please consider this objection.	Objection noted
9	I would like to express my objection to you proposal of making the access road outside 116-144 Ashingdon Road permit parking.	Objection noted.  If the Proposal is introduced, it is acknowledged that displacement is
	parting.	in the interpolation introduced, it is downers to describe that displacement is

From what I have been told this access road was intended for the school drop off and pick up. I completely understand that it gets busy and as a resident it is frustrating when driveways are blocked. However, with children coming from all around Rochford, I don't feel making this permit parking is going to help the already busy road and with the new development beginning on the SER8 field behind this area where the entrance will be at the beginning of the access road I feel this will be dangerous.

The Holt Farm Estate is very narrow and already has a lot of cars parked up. The pavement outside the school is going to be narrowed which again will not help with the volume of pedestrians, particularly if they have to walk from further a field.

As a resident with two cars, I don't particularly want to pay for a permit on the off chance I need to park on the access road and as we have a shared driveway, we do not have space for visitors. With the increase in all living costs currently, this is not something we want to budget for.

I feel it would be much safer for our community to continue accessing this road as it is with potential to revisit once the development has been finished if necessary.

I would like to object to the application made to change this to permit parking as it would cause havoc to an already extremely busy road if parents cant pull into the lay by to drop their children off and could put children in danger.

likely occur, especially during school pick up time. It is difficult to determine where vehicles will displace to, however as with any new parking scheme its effect would be monitored.

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Objection noted.

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11	I object to the proposed parking permits being needed opposite Holt Farm School as our road is extremely busy outside the school and it would be dangerous if parents couldn't pull off of the road into this area	Objection noted.  If the Proposal is introduced, it is acknowledged that displacement is likely occur, especially during school pick up time. It is difficult to determine where vehicles will displace to, however as with any new parking scheme its effect would be monitored.  Holt Farm Infant and Junior School is part of the SEPP 3PR Parking Initiative which has been designed to help tackle some of the issues around school parking. The SEPP will continue to work with the schools in order to encourage considerate parking.
12	I would like to put my objection forward for this permit to be put in place. I work at a local school and my children go to holt farm. Parking is an issue at any school but with it being on a main road children need to be collected safely.  I do not feel a permit is going to solve this problem in rochford. This layby was put in many many years ago and was access for cars to the school. There does need to be a one way in one way out system and possibly bays stated on the ground but to remove even more parking where Bloor are building more houses is ridiculousness. All parents especially working parents need ease of parking to safely take and collect there children to school.  I feel If this bay is removed people will start to park illegally and cause much danger and Hazzards to the children and roads.	Objection noted.  If the Proposal is introduced, it is acknowledged that displacement is likely occur, especially during school pick up time. It is difficult to determine where vehicles will displace to, however as with any new parking scheme its effect would be monitored.  Holt Farm Infant and Junior School is part of the SEPP 3PR Parking Initiative which has been designed to help tackle some of the issues around school parking. The SEPP will continue to work with the schools in order to encourage considerate parking.

# APPENDIX 3

# **Photos**

# Images taken from Google Maps (2020)



