



Beeches Community Board

Title:	Response to petition on Burnham Beeches Traffic Issues
Date:	17 February 2021
Author:	Rob Smith
Contact officer:	Mark Davis 01296 383147
Local members affected:	Cliveden

Summary

A petition has been raised by residents of Farnham Common, their concern is around pavement and illegal parking in residential roads by visitors to Burnham Beeches. They have seen a massive increase since COVID restrictions but have always had this issue and would like to see a permanent solution.

The petition was to find a solution to traffic problems immediately around Burnham Beeches and was worded as follows :-

“Residents of Farnham Common, are deeply concerned and unhappy about the increasingly dangerous traffic situation caused by inconsiderate parking on roads immediately around Burnham Beeches. Pedestrians are routinely forced into the road by pavement parking, often with pushchairs/wheelchairs/mobility walkers. Drivers are forced onto the wrong side of the road by illegal parking, and there have been many near misses, both with other vehicles and pedestrians. Residents are also faced with difficulty accessing their driveways because of inconsiderate parking, and visitors and tradesmen often cannot park because entire roads have been taken up by people who are not prepared to pay to park in Burnham Beeches or the village car park. Please can the Council take a long term view of this situation, which has been getting worse incrementally and has been impacted, not only by Covid 19, but by a shifting demographic with more people moving to the area.”

The Council has recognised that since the introduction of the various lockdowns, a number of areas of natural beauty in the County have been inundated with traffic, causing unprecedentedly significant problems for residents and road users alike. The Council are currently have discussions about what action can be taken to resolve this bearing in mind that is unlikely to be a short-term issue and will continue after restrictions are relaxed. The Council have currently been using cones to restrict the residents' area and have been doing the same on the woodland roads from 1st February, but this is only possible for six months.

Recommendation

We would recommend a mix of restrictions (which are currently under discussion) in the residential areas as well as clearway parking in the Beeches themselves to resolve the antisocial parking issues. Any proposals would be subject to a statutory consultation process

Supporting information to include the following if a decision is being requested:

Resource implications

Discussions are currently taking place about the best appropriate action to take and what funding will be required to implement particular schemes.

Legal implications

1.1 Section 122 (for permanent orders) and section 14 (for temporary orders) of the Road Traffic Act 1984 places a duty on Buckinghamshire Council to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

1.2 **Other implications/issues**

Equality and Diversity Issues – Equality Act of 2010. This proposal will not have any disproportionate effect upon people with protected characteristics, and concerning pavement parking, should improve access.

Feedback from consultation, Community Boards and Local Member views (if relevant)

Informal discussions are currently being carried out regarding the best solution to address this issue. Once a decision has been made Community Board Members will be informed via email. If the solution involves a consultation process all statutory consultees and residents of the affected locations would be contacted and a decision would be published on the Council's website.