

# Petitions Committee

11 September 2015

<b>Report title</b>	Curzon Street, Blakenhall – parking issues	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Peter Bilson, City Assets	
<b>Wards affected</b>	Blakenhall	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
<b>Originating service</b>	Transportation	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Gwyn James	Transportation Manager
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	n/a	

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to endorse a review of signage to the shoppers' car parks in the Blakenhall area.

## Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The concerns of residents regarding parking problems in Curzon Street.
2. The historic lack of support for residents' parking schemes during previous consultations.
3. The intention not to undertake a consultation for a residents' parking scheme in Blakenhall at this time.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider a petition relating parking issues being experienced by residents of Curzon Street, Blakenhall, as detailed below.

## **2.0 Details of the petition**

- 2.1 In March 2015, a 45 signature petition was submitted to Wolverhampton City Council highlighting parking difficulties being experienced by residents of Curzon Street due to the parking demands associated with local businesses and community facilities.
- 2.2 The petition states that residents of Curzon Street are having difficulty parking their vehicles in front of their properties due to the parking demands of local businesses and community facilities. The petition suggests that the issues are as a result of the parking demands related to the redevelopment of Blakenhall Shopping Centre, the conversion of the former Vono unit to Pure Gym (located on Birmingham Road) and a dental surgery located at the corner of Curzon Street and Dudley Road.

## **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 Following receipt of the petition, officers from the Traffic and Road Safety section of the Council have investigated the residents' concerns and request for a residents' parking scheme and their findings are reported as follows:
- 3.2 Planning consent for the redevelopment of the Blakenhall Shopping Centre was approved at Planning Committee as part of the wider mixed use development of Blakenhall Gardens on 4 February 2011. The proposal redevelopment included two car parks accessed off Barcroft Road and Brodie Close with a total capacity of 97 spaces.
- 3.3 Planning consent for conversion of the former Vono Bed Centre to use as a gym was granted on 1 March 2012. The gym car park has a total capacity of 83 parking spaces.
- 3.4 Planning approval for conversion of the former residential dwelling at 158 Dudley Road to a dental surgery was granted on 22 May 1991. The dental practice has a small gated car park to the rear.
- 3.5 Historically, Curzon Street was a residential street linking Dudley Road with Birmingham Road; however, at some time in the past, access to and from Birmingham Road was stopped up to prevent through traffic. Consequently, Curzon Street is a no through road accessed from Dudley Street. The residential properties on Curzon Street are exclusively terraced properties with no off-street parking provision. Residents are therefore reliant upon on-street parking.
- 3.6 Curzon Street is situated in the heart of the busy commercial centre of Blakenhall, where parking demands are naturally high. The turning head at the Birmingham Road end of Curzon Street and the junction of Curzon Street/Dudley Road are protected by "No

Waiting at Any Time” traffic regulation orders to prevent inappropriate parking. There are no parking restrictions on the remainder of Curzon Street.

- 3.7 A major highway improvement scheme was implemented along the Dudley Road corridor in 2006, which addressed road safety concerns, traffic congestion issues, provided improved on-street parking facilities and enhanced the street scene.

#### **4.0 Residents’ parking scheme considerations**

- 4.1 The criteria for setting up and administering residents’ parking schemes were approved by Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 4 November 2008. The report set out the following criteria for introduction of residents’ parking schemes:

- schemes should be cost neutral
- a standard annual charge of £40.00 per permit
- 60% of residences must respond to the consultation
- 85% of responders must be in favour of the proposals

- 4.2 In 2012, the Council invested significant resources in consulting with residents in 19 locations across the City where the streets were subject to extensive parking by shoppers, commuters or attendees of events, to ascertain whether they would support a residents’ parking scheme. The results from all 19 consultations fell well short of the criteria required to implement a scheme and showed that there was little support for residents’ parking schemes of this nature. It seems the main problem is that people are unwilling to pay the £40 annual fee.

- 4.3 In order to avoid further abortive consultation costs and having regard to on-going budgetary constraints, no further consultation exercises have been undertaken since 2012.

- 4.4 The requirement for residents’ parking schemes to be cost neutral and the substantial set up costs of such a scheme (including legal fees, advertising and employee time) mean that it would not be cost effective to consider the introduction of a residents’ parking scheme for Curzon Street in isolation. Any consultation would therefore have to include a number of streets in the Blakenhall area and would almost certainly give a negative result.

- 4.5 In view of the likely outcome of a consultation exercise and the abortive costs that would be incurred, it is not proposed to undertake such an exercise at this time.

- 4.6 It should be noted that any other form of parking restrictions in Curzon Street would be inappropriate as the restrictions would apply to residents as well as the general public.

#### **5.0 Shoppers’ car parks**

- 5.1 The Blakenhall Shopping Centre car parks are accessed off Barcroft Road and Brodie Close and are not visible from Dudley Road. A review of signage in the locality has

revealed that there may be an opportunity to increase the use of these car parks by introducing additional signage to the car parks from Dudley Road. This might help to reduce the level of on-street parking in Curzon Street.

- 5.2 It is therefore proposed that the Traffic and Road Safety team will conduct a full review and commission new signage as soon as resources allow.

## **6.0 Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications to this report. Any possible signage improvements would be funded from the Transportation Capital Programme.

[JB/28082015/H]

## **7.0 Legal implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

[RB/28082015/O]

## **8.0 Equalities implications**

- 8.1 This report has no equalities implications.

## **9.0 Environmental implications**

- 9.1 This report has no environmental implications.

## **10.0 Human resources implications**

- 10.1 This report has no human resources implications.

## **11.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 11.1 This report has no corporate landlord implications.

## **12.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 12.1 None