

Petitions Committee

11 September 2015

Report title	Malins Road, Parkfield – parking issues	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson, City Assets	
Wards affected	Blakenhall	
Accountable director	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
Originating service	Transportation	
Accountable employee(s)	Gwyn James	Transportation Manager
	Tel	01902 555755
	Email	Gwyn.james@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	n/a	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to

1. Endorse the proposed action to proceed to formal advertising of parking restrictions in Malins Road.
2. Endorse the proposed action to review the access arrangements for St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy if and when the former Parkfield High School site becomes available for disposal.

Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note

1. The comments provided in response to the various issues raised by the petitioners.
2. The actions taken since receipt of the petition.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To report the receipt of a petition raising a number of issues relating to Malins Road, Parkfield, as detailed below.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In April 2015, an informal consultation exercise was undertaken to seek the views of residents on proposed waiting restrictions in Malins Road and Greenly Road. The waiting restrictions were proposed in response to concerns raised by the head teacher of St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy regarding the safety of children on their way to and from school and the manner in which parents park their vehicles in the narrow cul-de-sac where the school is located.
- 2.2 In response to the consultation letter a 64 signature petition was received, objecting to the proposed waiting restrictions and demanding changes to the school access arrangements or relocation/closure of the school.

3.0 Details of the petition

- 3.1 The key points of the petition are:
1. Objection to the proposed parking restrictions in Malins Road and Greenly Road.
 2. That the main entrance for St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy should be relocated to the old Parkfield High School site situated off Wolverhampton Road East, or
 3. That the school should be relocated, or
 4. That the school should be closed due to the inconvenience to residents and the unsuitability of the narrow road.
- 3.2 Following receipt of the petition, employees from relevant sections of the Council have investigated the key points raised and their findings/actions are reported as follows.
- 3.3 The school entrance off Malins Road is the only vehicle access to the school and is also the main pedestrian access. There is an alternative pedestrian access at the rear of the school but it is via an unsurfaced track that is in poor condition and is privately owned, with no formal public right of way so its use cannot be guaranteed.
- 3.4 The parking restrictions that have been proposed for Malins Road and Greenly Road have been drawn up in response to on-going concerns from the head teacher of the school about the safety of children on their journey to and from school. At present there are no parking restrictions in Malins Road other than the school zigzag markings outside the school entrance at the head of the cul-de-sac. A large number of vehicles park in Malins Road at the beginning and end of the school day and due to the narrow width of the road most vehicles park half on and half off the pavement, often blocking the footpath completely and forcing parents/carers and children to walk in the road. Complaints have

also been received from residents about the way in which parents park and the persistent blocking of driveways.

- 3.5 The proposed waiting restrictions in Malins Road, as shown on the plan at Appendix A, have been designed to keep one side of the road completely clear of parked vehicles thus enabling pedestrians to walk safely along the pavement free from obstruction. The proposed restrictions would also help prevent cars from blocking driveways. The restrictions would be timed to coincide with school start and finish times (8.00 am – 9.30 am and 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm) allowing residents to park overnight or during the middle part of the day.
- 3.6 All households along Malins Road have access to their own off road parking. A length of Malins Road will also remain available for parking of vehicles at any time, on one side only.
- 3.7 Vehicles regularly park at the junction of Malins Road and Greenly Road, obstructing visibility. The proposed waiting restrictions at this location would be double yellow lines (no waiting at any time) and would help maintain visibility at the junction.
- 3.8 The possibility of providing an alternative access to St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy through the old Parkfield High School site has been explored. The site has recently been leased to a newly established Free School, The Sikh School, for the forthcoming academic year 2015/16. The school will initially be at this site for one academic year although this may be extended whilst the school makes arrangements to move to its permanent site. It is not possible to pursue an alternative access while The Sikh School is occupying the site.
- 3.9 There are currently no firm plans for the long term use of the former Parkfield High School site. Any new access to St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy through this site would result in a significant land take and consequent reduction in the value of the site if it were to be sold off. Construction of a new access road would also be a substantial cost and currently no budget is available for this work to take place. However there may be an opportunity to revisit the provision of alternative access arrangements for St Teresa's as part of any proposed future development, if and when the site is declared surplus to requirements
- 3.10 St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy recently converted to become an academy. This means that the school is outside the control of the Council. Any decision to relocate or close the school is not one which the Council is able to make. If the academy were to propose closure the Council, which has responsibility for the provision of school places, would be likely to object due to the current pressures on school places across the City.
- 3.11 A proposal has been put to the school to convert part of its playground into a pick up/drop off point for parents and carers travelling by car. Unfortunately the Academy Trust that runs the school was unable to agree to this proposal due to the small size of the playground and safety concerns about managing traffic within the school grounds.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications to this report. Any provision of future Traffic Regulation Orders would be met from existing transportation budgets subject to Cabinet approval.

[JB/28082015/H]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 The Council, as a local traffic authority under the Traffic Management Act 2004, has general duties to manage the road network, otherwise there are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

[RB/28082015/P]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 This report has no equalities implications.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 This report has no environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 This report has no human resources implications.

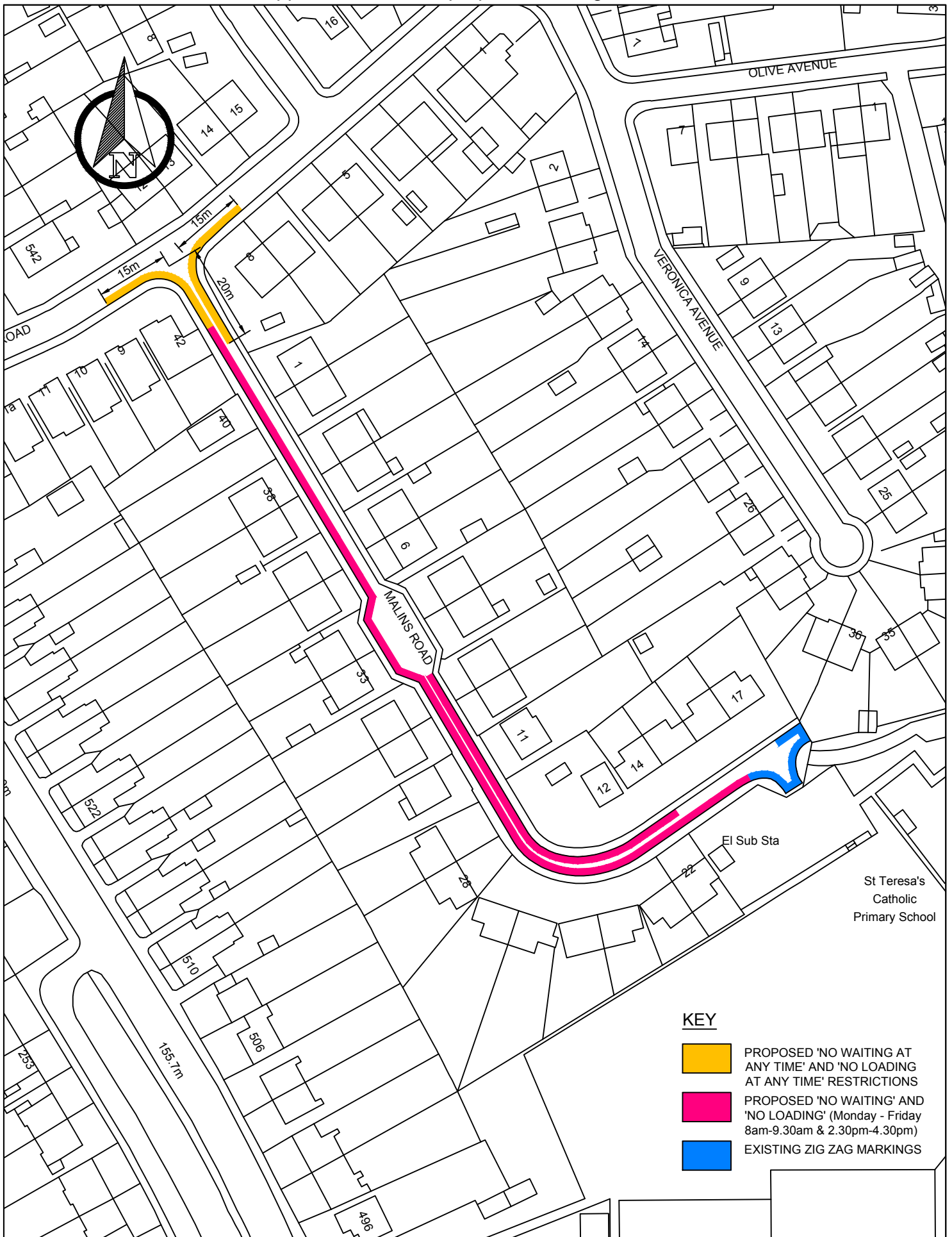
9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no immediate corporate landlord issues. Any future proposal to create a new access to St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy might have corporate landlord implications that would have to be considered at the time.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 None.

Appendix A: Plan of proposed waiting restrictions



Wolverhampton City Council
 Regeneration & Environment,
 Transportation Services,
 Heantun House,
 Salop Street,
 Wolverhampton WV3 0SQ.

Malins Road Proposed Waiting Restrictions

Date 10/03/15

Scale 1:1000

Drwg. No. T4/M1