

# Croydon Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CABINET COMMITTEE</b> 9 February 2011
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>PETITION:</b> <b>PRIDHAM RD AND NURSERY RD – 15 MINUTE FREE PARKING REQUEST FOR THORNTON HEATH CHILDREN’S CENTRE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Community Services</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Phil Thomas</b> <b>Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>Thornton Heath</b>
<p><b>1. RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Committee agree to:</p> <p>1.1 Note the petition.</p> <p>1.2 Not introduce a 15 minute free parking permit for the Thornton Heath Children’s Centre.</p> <p>1.3 Inform the petitioners of this decision.</p>	
<p><b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b></p> <p>This report is inline with objectives to improve the safety and reduce obstructive parking on the Borough’s roads as detailed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parking Plan, Part III – Local Strategy and Parking Controls.</li> <li>• The Croydon Plan; Transport Chapter.</li> <li>• The Local Implementation Plan; 3.6 Croydon Transport policies</li> <li>• Croydon’s Community Strategy; Priority Areas 1, 3, 4 and 6</li> </ul>	
<p><b>LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) TARGETS:</b></p> <p>This report is in line with objectives to promote public transport and reduce congestion on the Borough’s roads as detailed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Croydon’s New Local Area Agreement GOL Reference 34</li> </ul>	
<p><b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b></p> <p>These proposals can be contained within available budget.</p>	

**For general release**

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A petition was presented to Council by Cllr Pat Clouder on behalf of residents of Pridham Road and Nursery Road requesting 15 minute free parking for the Thornton Heath Children's Centre.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 A petition signed by residents of Pridham Road and Nursery Road has been received.

- 3.2 A petition signed by 59 residents was presented by Councillor Pat Clouder on behalf of the residents for free parking in Pridham Road and Nursery Road, Thornton Heath, for 15 minutes at dropping off and collecting times for the Early Learning Centre. The petition is set out in the following terms:

"We the undersigned parents/carers of children attending Thornton Heath Children's Centre call upon Croydon Council to permit free parking in Pridham Road and Nursery Road for 15 minutes at dropping off and collecting times as follows:-

9.25 - 9.40 am / 11.50 -12.05 / 1.00 – 1.15 pm / 3.25 – 3.40 pm.

We suggest that exemption of parking fees be made at these times for vehicles of parents/carers when a permit issued by the Children's Centre is displayed in the vehicle."

- 3.3 This petition is considered as falling within the requirements of the Council's Petition Scheme whereby at least 50% of residents within a road have signed the petition. There are 50 properties in Pridham Road and the petition has been signed by 59 residents.
- 3.4 The Thornton Heath Children's Centre is a 104 place nursery school for 2 to 4 year olds situated on the corner of Pridham Road and Nursery Road. The nursery school is within the Thornton Heath Controlled Parking Zone with a combination of shared-use Permit and Pay & Display bays and single yellow lines operating between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday.
- 3.5 There are currently no concessions for parents and carers to park within restricted streets and Penalty Charge Notices can be issued to any vehicle which is either parked unattended on a yellow line or in a parking bay without displaying a valid ticket or Permit.
- 3.6 Pay & Display charges are reasonable in Pridham Road and Nursery Road with a 40p for 30 minute charge available. Surveys have shown that generally during the controlled hours there are plenty of vacant bays available within a short distance of the nursery.

- 3.7 It is important that there is a consistent policy for parking outside Schools and Nurseries otherwise a scheme for one School or Nursery can set a precedent for the Borough. At present there are no permit schemes in the Borough allowing free parking for parents and carers. Such a scheme is open to abuse and create conflict with other road users such as residents and visitors who are required to pay for parking.
- 3.8 The advantage of the present shared-use arrangements is that non-permit holders are able to park and the charges for short term parking are very reasonable. Some parents and carers will always risk parking on a yellow line or bay for a short period to set down and pick up their children. They can balance the risk of receiving a £100 Penalty against paying 80p per day parking legally for setting down and picking up.

#### **4 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 There are no consultation considerations arising from this report.

#### **5 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial considerations arising from this report.
- 5.2 Approved by: Tim Flood on behalf of Department Head of Finance.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER**

- 6.1 The Solicitor to the Council comments that the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) provides powers to introduce and implement Traffic Management Orders. In exercising this power, a Council may provide, amongst other things, designated parking places and charges (as applied in the Thornton Heath CPZ at present). There is also provision, at the Council's discretion, to make an exemption to charges within the powers of the Act. In this case, the Council would need to amend the existing Traffic Management Order under the terms of Sections 6, 45, 46, 124 and Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) whilst having regard to the relieving or preventing of traffic congestion.
- 6.2 Approved by: Melissa Clarke, Corporate Solicitor on behalf of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

#### **7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 7.1 There are no Human Resources Impacts arising from this report.
- 7.2 Approved by: Robert Laban, head of HR consultancy, on behalf of the director, Human Resources & Organisational Development

**8. CUSTOMER FOCUS IMPACT**

8.1 A decision not to introduce a free permit for parents and carers setting down and picking up nursery school children should ensure bays are free for existing permit holders and be seen as a positive move by residents of the Pridham Road and Nursery Road.

**9 EQUALITIES IMPACT, CYCLING CONSIDERATIONS, EQUALITIES, ENVIRONMENTAL & DESIGN, CRIME & DISORDER REDUCTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

9.1 There are no such considerations or impacts arising from this report.

**10. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

10.1 Whilst the subject matter of the petition can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the names and addresses of the signatories constitute personal information and are therefore, exempt under the Data Protection Act 1998.

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**REPORT AUTHOR / CONTACT OFFICER:** David Wakeling, Traffic Design Manager, Infrastructure – Traffic Design

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None