

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 4 June 2013

Church Hill – Amendment to Parking Places

Item number	8.3
Report number	
Wards	10 – Meadows/Morningside

Links

Coalition pledges	
Council outcomes	CO22 , CO23 and CO26 .
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4 .

Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

Contact: Gavin Sherriff, Traffic Orders & Project Development Assistant

E-mail: gavin.sherriff@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3309

Executive summary

Church Hill – Amendment to Parking Places

Summary

This report summarises 10 objections received against the proposal to amend two parking places in Church Hill from residents' parking places to shared-use parking places.

Residents' parking places in Church Hill can be used by residents, visitors and retailers in possession of a valid permit. City-wide trades' parking permit holders can also park in these parking places between 9.00am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Shared-use parking places, in addition to the four permit holder groups above, can also be used by motorists paying for their parking time or displaying a disabled persons' blue badge.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1 upholds the 10 objections, but proceed to make the remainder of the Order after removing the Church Hill proposal; and
- 2 approves the investigation of additional parking opportunities for residents in the local area.

Measures of success

To help ensure that parking opportunities continue to be available for residents, business users and their customers near to their intended destinations.

Financial impact

It is recommended to uphold the objections and as a result there would be no cost to amend any street furniture. Future costs involved with any further investigations in this area will be contained within the parking revenue budget 13/14.

Equalities impact

Consideration has been given to the Council's Public Sector Duty in respect of the Equalities Act 2010. There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report.

The aim of the proposal was to provide more flexible parking opportunities in Church Hill for all motorists. However, a number of local residents raised concerns about the potential negative impact of the proposals, on the basis that the changes may cause them to walk a greater distance from their vehicles to their homes. As a result, it is recommended that the proposal is abandoned. Therefore, there are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

Sustainability impact

There are no adverse environmental impacts arising from this report.

Consultation and engagement

Part of the Traffic Regulation Order process includes a public consultation and the proposals were advertised for public comment between 16 November and 11 December 2012. In addition to the statutory press advert Morningside and Tollcross Community Councils were informed of the proposals, street bills were erected in the vicinity of the parking places and information was published online, on the Council's website and the Tell Me Scotland portal. During this period 10 objections were received from local residents.

All four local elected members were informed of the results of the consultation and there were no additional comments received.

Background reading/external references

None.

Church Hill – Amendment to Parking Places

1. Background

- 1.1 Following discussions with local traders in the Church Hill area, a request was made for additional parking places for their customers. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO/12/03D) was started to amend two parking places in Church Hill from residents' parking places to shared-use parking places.
- 1.2 The Church Hill proposals were advertised alongside a group of other proposed changes. Objections were not received in relation to any other locations.

2. Main report

- 2.1 There are few public parking opportunities in the section of Morningside Road in the vicinity of Church Hill relative to other parts of the street.
- 2.2 In addition, Church Hill is a bus route and while recent changes have improved access for buses they have reduced parking opportunities for residents and members of the public. Unlike many other side streets in the area, there are no parking places immediately adjacent to the junction with Morningside Road.
- 2.3 Shared-use parking places, can be used by residents', visitors', retailers' and trades' permit holders. In addition, they can also be used by disabled persons' blue badge holders and members of the public paying for their parking time. While this will increase the flexibility of the controls, it could create additional demands on the parking places.
- 2.4 The proposal was advertised to the public on 16 November 2012 and the public consultation ran until 11 December 2012. During this period 10 representations were received in relation to this proposal.
 - 2.4.1 Ten representations were received from residents in the area who regularly use the residents' parking places in question. There were 15 different reasons for objecting, including three major reasons where five or more people had made similar comments.

- 2.5 The three major points include; limited availability of residents' parking places, businesses being allowed to buy two parking permits and the possible impact that such a change may have on older residents or those with children.
- 2.6 The remaining 12 points were each raised less than three times and are summarised in Appendix One: Detailed Analysis of the Consultation Responses.
- 2.7 Residents also suggested a number of possible improvements to parking in their area, such as changing double yellow lines to single yellow lines and introducing more parking places in the vicinity of Church Hill. It is considered that there is scope to investigate additional parking provision for permit holders in this area.
- 2.8 A plan indicating the two residents parking places in question can be found in Appendix Two: Church Hill Residents' Parking Places.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
 - 3.1.1 upholds the 10 objections, but proceed to make the Order after removing the Church Hill amendments.
 - 3.1.2 approves the investigation of additional parking opportunities for residents in the local area.

Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

Links

Coalition pledges	
Council outcomes	CO22 - Moving efficiently – Edinburgh has a transport system that improves connectivity and is green, healthy and accessible. CO23 - Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community. CO26 - The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives.
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4 - Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.
Appendices	One: Detailed Analysis of the Consultation Responses. Two: Church Hill Residents' Parking Places.

Appendix One

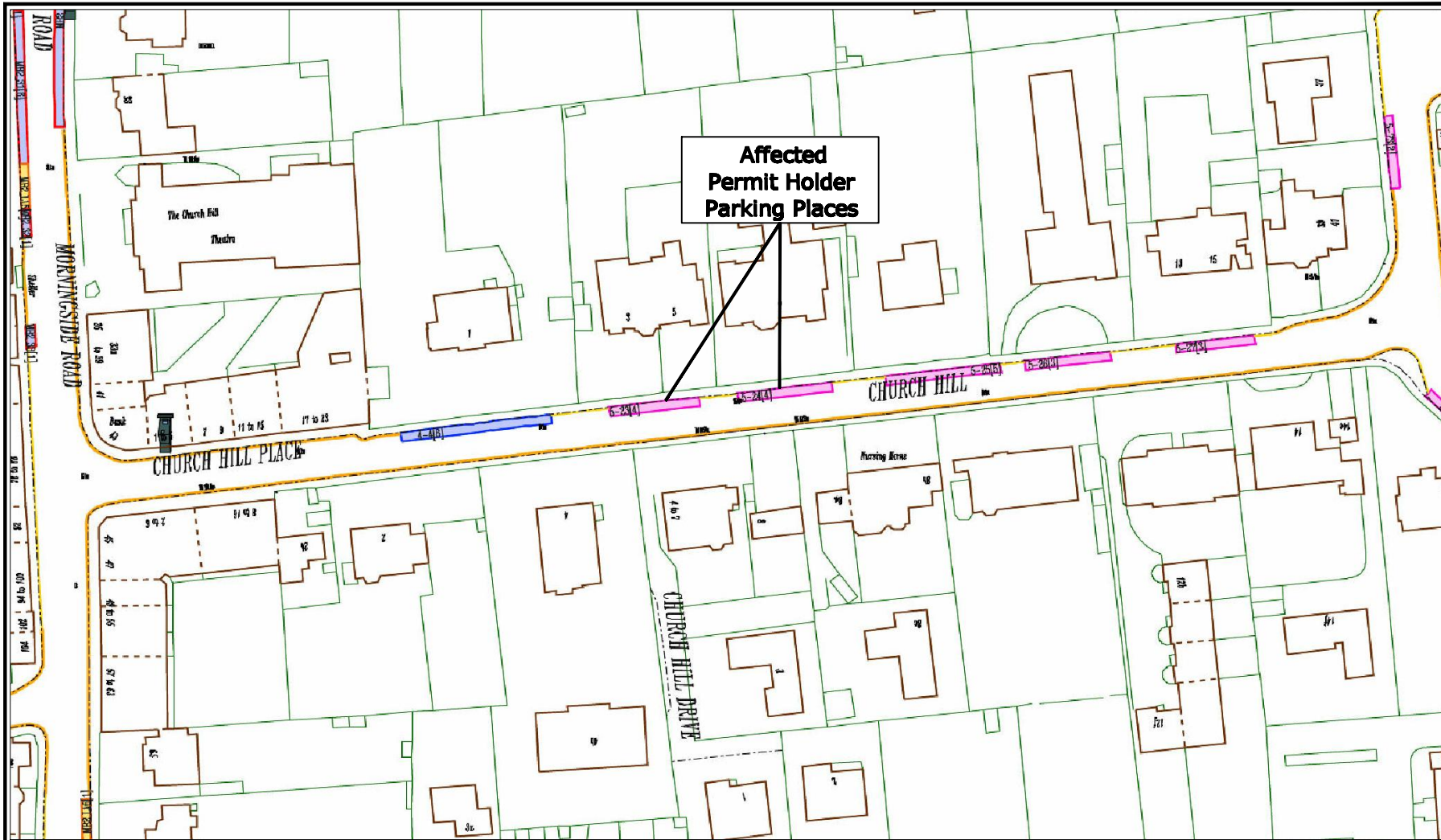
Main Issues

- 1 The main issue raised by each resident is the current availability of parking places available for residents' permit holders.
- 2 It was either said that there was an insufficient number of permit holders' parking places in the area or that there were too many permit holders for the available parking places. One resident stated that there was already a 'chronic shortage' of residents' parking places.
- 3 As a result, residents do not consider that the proposed change is being made in their interests and that increasing competition from public parking users will reduce parking opportunities for them.
- 4 The following table details the number of parking permits issued in the local area along with the available parking places.

Street	Permit Type				Parking Places	
	Residents'	Retailers'	Business	Trades'	Public	Permit
Church Hill	2	0	0	0	6	22
Church Hill Place (an extension of Church Hill)	17	2	2	0	0	0
Church Hill Drive	1	0	0	0	0	0
Morningside Road (33-63 & 38-104)	23	4	2	1	9	0
Totals	43	6	4	1	15	22

- 5 Half of the respondents indicated that the new business parking permit and the increased availability of retailers' permits has created additional problems for them.
- 6 The business parking permits scheme extended the classes of business that could apply for permits and changes to the eligibility criteria for retailers' permits increased the number of permits available per retailer from one to two. The available permit information indicates that an additional six parking permits could be using the residents' parking places in the area.

- 7 The other main objection concerns the distance that older residents or those with young children would have to walk from the parking places to their homes. Furthermore, this was also a problem for people loading or unloading goods from their vehicles.
- 8 There were a number of other issues which were raised during the consultation, including; residents already having to park several streets away, inconsiderate parking taking up finite space, demand from theatre patrons, money-making proposal, demands from Morningside shoppers, discourages the use of public transport and visitors to local amenities arriving before the end of restrictions but staying until late in the evening.
- 9 All these factors contributed to a strong feeling from local residents that the needs of businesses, shoppers or theatre goers were being given priority over their own.
- 10 While the changes could have little impact on the parking places in question during the day, there is a distinct possibility that due to the proximity of local amenities there will be higher levels of demand at the end of the controlled period.
- 11 This may result in residents' permit holders having to park further away from their homes because visitors can start to park in the shared-use parking places at earlier times.
- 12 This is not in the best interests of permit holders and could make the current situation more difficult.
- 13 There were a number of suggestions for improving parking for residents in the area including; changing some double yellow lines to single yellow lines, introducing public parking places in Church Hill Place and introducing additional parking places in Pitsligo Road. As a result, it is considered that there is good reason to investigate additional parking provision for permit holders in this area.



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**Church Hill
Residents Parking Places
Edinburgh**

SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES
249 HIGH STREET
EDINBURGH EH1 1YJ
TEL.No. 0131 469 3655 OR 3730

PARKING OPERATIONS
TRAFFIC ORDERS AND
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

DATE:- Apr 2013
SCALE:- NTS

DRAWN BY:- AJM
CHECKED BY:- AJM

Drg. No.:- H:/

APPENDIX 2