

Committee: Planning, Highways & Transport

Date: 1 March 2022

Title: West Street Restricted Parking

Purpose of Report

Members to receive information obtained from a resident on the free parking canvas.

Recommendation:

Members to recommend to Full Council delegation to officers to start the process again to request the parking restrictions on West Street be removed.

Background:

1. At the Planning, Highways & Transport meeting held on 7 December 2021, (Minute No. P494), Members discussed a request from a resident of West Street with regards to restricted parking.
2. The resident had lived in Ilminster for more than five years and in that time there had been no parking restrictions on West Street, outside No's 5, 7, 11 & 27 and further, from the junction with the car park to the junction with Brewery Lane. Suddenly a parking restriction sign was put up on
3. The new parking restrictions are 1 hour with no return within 2 hours. Somerset County Council informed him that parking restrictions have always existed in this area and all that had been done is to reinstate the sign.
4. Members discussed the parking restrictions on West Street. Discussions included, there are more private houses than businesses in that area now as opposed to when the original application was made in 2013. Is it something all the residents in West Street would like, and there is the potential of others parking in the spaces all day, or all weekend, and the possibility of a residents parking scheme. If there was a residents parking scheme who would police it to ensure compliance, parking is at a premium in Ilminster.
5. Members RESOLVED to ask the resident who sent the request to canvas the opinion of other residents and businesses in West Street to see if they would support any changes to the parking restrictions, given that so much time has passed since the original request.

Report:

1. It was resolved at the Open Spaces meeting held on 13th August 2013 Minute item number 43 'that the Town Council supports the lifting of the parking restriction from the 6 bays in West Street. Town Council resolved to support the recommendation on 10th September 2013.
2. There is no evidence of any contact with Traffic Management to implement the above recommendation.
3. The parking sign was removed from West Street around that time but there is no evidence to confirm who removed the sign.
4. The parking restrictions sign reappeared in May 2021.
5. The resident has now canvassed the homes and businesses on West Street and has collected signatures from 12 households and 6 businesses who all support the removal of the parking restriction.
6. From the Electoral Roll, there are 34 households on West Street.
7. Officers have contacted Traffic Management who have advised that they have no record of the above changes being proposed.
8. Members may choose to recommend to Full Council to delegate officers to start the process again to request the parking restrictions on West Street are removed or have an alternative suggestion.

**Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
March 2022**