

PETITION: DONINGTON CLOSE SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME

Report of the Director of Derby Homes

SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. A petition has been received concerning car parking provision at Donington Close sheltered housing scheme. This report sets out a response to the petition and proposes additional works to address residents' concerns.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Board is requested to
 - 2.1 approve the response to the petition
 - 2.2 approve the proposals in section 5.3 to carry out improvements to the main car park at Donington Drive which will provide safer car parking facilities for elderly/disabled residents. This course of action will help to resolve many of the issues raised by this petition.

DETAILS OF THE PETITION

- 3.1 A petition was received on 4 July 2002 signed by 35 residents, and 3 visitors, concerning the Donington Close sheltered scheme. The petitioners complained about a temporary relaxation of parking restrictions introduced by Derby Homes. The letter outlining these restrictions is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 This area has traditionally been designated as a "No Parking" area, mainly to allow uninterrupted access to emergency services vehicles. After fierce complaints from car owning residents who wished to park their cars within the scheme Derby Homes decided to temporarily relax the parking restrictions until an options appraisal of additional security measures to the Donington Drive car park had been carried out.
- 3.3 Advice on the relaxation of parking restrictions was taken from East Midlands Ambulance Service, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Derby homes Health and Safety Advisor, and no objections were raised.
- 3.4 Donington Close residents have access to a car park across the road in Donington Drive. This area is shown hatched on the attached map. Following incidents of vandalism and theft from residents' cars, some residents started parking in the turning area within the Donington Close

scheme.

3.5 The petitioners request that in relation to Donington Close

- parking, washing, cleaning, and repairing of any vehicles on the scheme is forbidden
- access is given to emergency vehicles and doctors
- residents and visitors are permitted 10 minutes to “pick up” and “set down” passengers
- delivery vehicles have restricted access by prior arrangement
- DCC/Contractors’ vehicles to park on scheme only whilst working on site
- turning area to be kept clear at all times.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

4. An options appraisal and consultation with residents of the sheltered housing scheme have now been completed. In total 58 letters were sent out to residents, 47 replies were received. The result of the consultation showed that

- 26 residents expressed interest in construction of garages within the Donington Drive car park
- 11 residents asked for parking spaces within Donington Close
- 10 residents preferred improvements to the main car park at Donington Drive.

RESPONSE TO THE PETITION

5.1 Following consultation during which the issue of garages has been raised consideration has been given to the construction of garages at Donington Drive car park, the following factors have been taken into account

- supply and demand for garages could fluctuate over a relatively short period of time giving rise to further difficulties
- construction of garages in Donington Drive will reduce the number of car parking spaces because front of garages will have to be kept clear for access.
- Construction of garages would cost between £45,000 to £55,000 depending on the number of garages. This level of capital spend on garages could not be justified, particularly, when there are properties requiring substantial improvements.

5.2 Consideration has also been given to the provision of parking spaces within Donington Close scheme. Points considered include:

- the relatively small size turning head
- it would be necessary to encroach onto the adjacent green area to provide a maximum of 8 parking spaces
- provision of 8 spaces is unlikely to meet the existing demand, which is

highly likely to increase in the future.

- creation of parking spaces in the scheme would adversely affect its appearance.
- The cost of providing eight parking spaces at Donington Close scheme would be approximately £15,000.

5.3 Finally consideration has been given to undertaking general improvements to the existing parking area on Donington Drive. It is proposed to provide secure car parking in the main car park that will enable us to meet the needs of car owning residents and reintroduce the parking restrictions in Donington Close sheltered scheme as detailed below

1. parking, washing, cleaning, and repairing of vehicles will be prohibited
2. access to emergency services' vehicles will be maintained at all times
3. residents and visitors will be allowed limited time to pick up or set down passengers
4. turning area will naturally become clear following reintroduction of parking restrictions.
5. Provision of perimeter fencing and gates to the car park to improve safety and security.

5.4 It is not proposed to introduce any additional restrictions sought by the petitioners in relation to delivery vehicles, City Council and contractor vehicles.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Provision of perimeter fencing and gates to the car park as recommended in 5.3 would cost £13,000, it is proposed that this is financed through forecast underspend within the City Housing Improvement Plan (CHIP) budget for 2002/03.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. None arising out of this report.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7. None arising out of this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Completion of improvements to the main car park would help to enhance the area and will also help reduce crime and fear of crime.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9. Residents of Donington Close are elderly and/or disabled and will directly benefit from these improvements.



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