

COMMITTEE:	Cabinet
DATE:	1 July 2002
SUBJECT:	Pedestrian Precincts, Terminus Road
REPORT OF:	Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities
Ward(s):	Devonshire, Meads
Purpose:	<p>To</p> <p>(a) advise Cabinet on limitations for parking vehicles for the promotion of work by Charities and others within the Terminus Road Pedestrian Precincts; and</p> <p>(b) to seek a direction, should Cabinet determine to change these arrangements.</p>
Contact:	Mark Probyn, Head of Amenities, Telephone 01323 415240 or internally on extension 5240.
Recommendations:	That Cabinet recognises the limitations for accommodating display vehicles within the Terminus Road Pedestrian Precincts and endorses the current procedures in place for the control of such activities.
1.0	<u>Background</u>

1.1	<p>At the meeting of the Eastbourne Borough Council on the 24 April 2002, Councillor Parsons proposed the following Motion.</p> <p>'Council notes the efforts being made to control illegal parking in the Town Centre pedestrian precinct between the hours of 10.00 hours and 18.00 hours. Nevertheless, Council is of the opinion that the policy should be exercised with an element of flexibility, so as to enable Information Display units to be located in this area for the benefit of residents'.</p>
1.2	<p>Further to this, Council resolved that this matter should be referred to Cabinet for consideration.</p>
1.3	<p>It understood that former Councillor Parsons raised the motion further to him being aware of certain difficulties encountered by the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) in seeking approval of the Highway Authority to position a large publicity/information vehicle within the Terminus Road Pedestrian Precinct, at Bankers Corner, adjacent to Sussex Gardens. The request was turned down by the Highway Manager due to the size of the vehicle and the associated obstruction to pedestrian flows.</p>
1.4	<p>Currently, the Highway Authority encourages rigorous enforcement by Sussex Police of the existing controls on vehicular access to the pedestrian precincts.</p>
2.0	<p><u>Status and Legislative Controls</u></p>

2.1	<p>The three Pedestrian Precincts in Terminus Road</p> <p>(a) between Cornfield Road and Bolton Road;</p> <p>(b) between Langney Road and Pevensey Road; and</p> <p>(c) between Pevensey Road and Seaside Road/Trinity Trees</p> <p>are all adopted highways and as such fall within the control of East Sussex County Council, the Highway Authority.</p>
2.2	<p>The Precincts are controlled by Traffic Regulation Orders, which restrict vehicular access between 10am and 6pm each day. Exemptions include:</p> <p>(a) road maintenance vehicles</p> <p>(b) vehicles given permission by Sussex Police</p> <p>(c) vehicles displaying a permit issued by the Highway Manager</p>
2.3	<p>Vehicular access in permitted times is restricted to goods vehicles only, and then only those which need access to premises that do not have a rear access for loading and unloading.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Control of Events, Display vehicles and other uses of the Precincts</u></p>

3.1	<p>The Highway Manager maintains a database of events planned to take place within the precincts, which enables him to ensure an appropriate disposition of such events throughout the year. These events include presentations by schools and community groups for the general entertainment of the public and also collections for charitable organisations.</p>
3.2	<p>In addition to this, two or three main events generally take place during the year including Eastbourne Cracker and such events as the French Market. These events are also controlled under Street Trading provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts for which the Borough Council has a Policy.</p>
3.3	<p>The Highway Manager controls the use of the precincts to ensure that any events comply with the legislative constraints, are adequately insured, and do not constitute an obstruction to pedestrian movements. In addition, the removal and reinstatement of any street furniture to facilitate access for events is carried out under the direction of the Highway Manager, with all associated costs reimbursed by the event promoter. The Highway Manager takes this initiative mainly due to the requirement for any contractor working on the highway to carry a £10 million public liability insurance.</p>
3.4	<p>As this relates to locating larger promotional vehicles, particularly in the area of Bankers Corner, site constraints through bollards, railings, wall structures and building frontages generally prohibit this. The Highway Manager is also conscious of the need to exercise caution with locating vehicles on private forecourts adjacent to the adopted highway in this area, particularly as a number of the forecourts have basements beneath them.</p>

4.0	<u>Human Resource and Financial Implications</u>
4.1	There are no Human Resource or Financial Implications that arise from this report.
5.0	<u>Environmental, Youth and Anti-Poverty Implications</u>
5.1	There are no Youth or Anti-Poverty issues that arise from this report.
5.2	There are Environmental issues arising from this report in relation to the safety of pedestrians within the precinct. It is important that the exact location of vehicles and/or display equipment is agreed well in advance of any event, and that suitable barriers and warnings are in place. This is to ensure safe passage for pedestrians, particularly for pedestrians with a mobility or sensory impairment.
6.0	<u>Summary</u>
6.1	The Highway Manger will give permission for Information Display Units to be located in the precinct providing that there is adequate space for the passage of pedestrians and that the other technical consideration referred to above can be satisfied. It has to be accepted however that there are few locations available within the three precincts suitable for this purpose and each case has to be determined on individual merits.
6.2	Cabinet is therefore recommended to endorse current control practices.

Mark Probyn	
Head of Amenities	
Background Papers:	
No Background Papers have been used in compiling this report.	