

ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORT – D. W. GRIFFITHS

29TH JANUARY 2015

SECTION A: MATTER FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED: NEATH NORTH

PROPOSED TRAFFIC ORDERS - NEATH PEDESTRIAN AREA

Purpose of Report

To consider the responses received following the advertisement of the proposed amendments to the 2009 Neath Pedestrian Area Order as indicated in Appendix A.

Background

The scheme is necessary to prevent unauthorised entry and indiscriminate parking in the interest of pedestrian and road safety.

In December 2014, the proposals were advertised and at the same time a consultation exercise was undertaken to all properties directly affected by the scheme Appendix B

Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment, it has been determined that this function does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Financial Implications

The work will be funded by the Capital Programme.

Consultation Outcome

List of Consultees

Councillor M Protheroe

Councillor A Lockyer

Residents/Shop owners directly affected by the scheme

As part of the consultation exercise, 220 letters were delivered by hand to residents/shop owners, resulting in eight letters being received in response to the proposal. It is noted that one of the letters was received four days after the consultation period had ended (Letters 1 to 8 - Appendix C)

Also, taken into account, are four letters commenting on the pedestrian area which were received prior to the commencement of the legal consultation process. (Letters 1 to 4 – Appendix D)

Observations on Objections

Letter 1 – Appendix C

The resident will be able to drop off at the Church prior to the closure of the pedestrian area at 10.30am. The closest legal pick up point after this time will be Orchard Street or Old Market Street.

Letter 2 – Appendix C

Dropping off at the Church prior to the closure of the pedestrian area at 10.30am can take place. The closest legal pick up point after this time will be Orchard Street or Old Market Street.

Letter 3 – Appendix C

The implementation date of the Order can coincide with the opening of the new multi-story car park. Visitors to St. Thomas' Church and the Gwyn Hall will have an option to park in the multi-storey car park should they wish to do so.

Insurance personnel and Sky Broadcasting representatives will not be eligible for trader's permits. The Council is currently in the process of preparing a Town Centre Management document for the control of both commercial and non-commercial pitches within Neath Town Centre. At this stage, it is envisaged that the document will identify a maximum of two pitches which can be operated by food and non-food retailers within the town centre. A further non-commercial pitch will also be identified which can be operated by not for profit/charitable organisations.

These pitches will be strictly controlled in terms of their location, size, the design of the equipment to be sited on each pitch and the duration of each occupier on each pitch. Such measures will enable the Council to properly manage uses within the town centre and to enforce against those operating without the appropriate permits in place.

The Enforcement Officers will be working longer and there will be no added cost as the hours will be covered during their normal contracted hours. Alternatively, the Order can be amended so no enforcement is required after 5pm.

Letter 4 – Appendix C

Dropping off at the Church prior to the closure of the pedestrian area at 10.30am can take place. The closest legal pick up point after this time will be Orchard Street or Old Market Street.

Loading of heavy or bulky items can still take place before 10.30am on a Sunday, as long as they are seen to be doing so.

Letter 5 – Appendix C

Dropping off at the Church prior to the closure of the pedestrian area at 10.30am can take place. The closest legal pick up point after this time will be Orchard Street or Old Market Street.

The prohibition of driving order is enforced by the Police, therefore, the Council are unable to issue exemption permits for this Order.

Letter 6 – Appendix C

No permits will be required until the new Order has become operational, which will coincide with the opening of the new multi-storey car park.

The current Order operates Monday to Saturday, where the new Order is to operate seven days a week.

The reason a Traffic Order was rejected to exclude skateboarders, ball games and cyclists in Angel Square is down to enforcement. The Police would have to enforce the Order and they advised it would be a strain on their resources and not a priority; therefore, they would not be able to enforce it.

Should taxis be dropping off or picking up, they would not need a permit to enter the pedestrian zone within the permitted times for entry.

The Order can be amended so no enforcement is required after 5pm this would permit visitors to the restaurant to park close by.

Letter 7 – Appendix C

Any amendment to the existing Order would have to go through the legal consultation process. This consultation process was carried out between 5th December and 26th December 2014.

The current Traffic Order for the Pedestrian Area was implemented in December 2009. There have been no amendments to that Order and **no legal consultation** has taken place since.

The permit scheme was requested by traders so their vehicles could be identified by Council Enforcement Officers whilst they are loading or unloading. There is no obligation for the trader to purchase a permit, as they can still load or unload within the permitted times as long as they are seen to be doing so.

The Order can be amended so no enforcement is required after 5pm or before 8am, this would allow traders and the general public to enter the area and park legally during those times.

The rationale behind the enforcement is to produce a safer environment making it a more pleasant experience for all visitors to shop within the pedestrian area. The Council allow planned and special events within the pedestrian area and businesses will benefit from the recently approved permit scheme once operational.

The pedestrian area by its very nature should function as such and pedestrian safety is of paramount importance.

Letter 8 – Appendix C

Only disabled drivers or vehicles loading or unloading should be entering the pedestrian area during the permitted times, any other vehicles are in contravention of the legal traffic Order.

Letter 1 – Appendix D

This letter was replied to by David Griffiths, Head of Engineering and Transport 22 May 2014. (Reply 1 - Appendix E)

Letter 2 – Appendix D

This email was replied to by David Griffiths, Head of Engineering and Transport 20 June 2014. (Reply 2 - Appendix E)

Letter 3 – Appendix D

This letter of petition was replied to by David Griffiths, Head of Engineering and Transport 22 May 2014. (Reply 3 - Appendix E)

Letter 4 – Appendix D

Dropping off at the Church prior to the closure of the pedestrian area at 10.30am can take place. The closest legal pick up point after this time will be Orchard Street or Old Market Street.

The prohibition of driving order is enforced by the Police, therefore, the Council are unable to issue exemption permits for this Order.

Sustainability Appraisal

It is envisaged that the proposal aims to prevent unauthorised entry and indiscriminate parking within the pedestrian area in the interests of road and pedestrian safety.

Appendices

Appendix A
Appendix B
Appendix C
Appendix D
Appendix E
Appendix F

Recommendation

It is recommended, having due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment screening that:-

1. The objections be upheld in part and the objectors informed accordingly
2. The scheme is redesigned to allow vehicles to park in to the pedestrian area between 5pm and 8am.
3. The scheme is advertised as indicated in Appendix F and subject to there being no objections, the Order to be implemented.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To prevent unauthorised entry and indiscriminate parking in the interest of road safety. To support the night time economy within the area where there is less pedestrian movement.

List of Background Papers

File TR25

Officer Contact

Mr J C Davies – Senior Engineer – Traffic

Tel. No. 01639 686479

email: j.davies15@npt.gov.uk

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

PROPOSED TRAFFIC ORDERS - NEATH PEDESTRIAN AREA

(a) **Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for implementation after a three day call-in period

(b) **Sustainability Appraisal**
Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	-	Positive
Education and Lifelong Learning	-	No Impact
Better Health and Well Being	-	No Impact
Environment and Transport	-	Positive
Crime and Disorder	-	No Impact

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	-	No Impact
Sustainable Development	-	Positive
Equalities	-	No Impact
Social Inclusion	-	Positive

(c) **Consultation**

This item has been subject to external consultation.

Signs on Entry

<p>PEDESTRIAN ZONE PARTH CERDDWYR</p> 	<p>Except for loading and  Midnight - 10.30 am 5.00 pm - Midnight</p> <p>Ac eithrio  lwytho a Canol nos - 10.30 am 5.00 pm - Canol nos</p>	 At any time Unrhyw bryd
---	---	---

It is a Pedestrian Zone 24hours a day and 7 days a week where vehicles must not enter

THIS ORDER IS ENFORCED BY THE POLICE

The exception to the above is for vehicles displaying a valid disabled blue badge and vehicles which are loading/unloading with a valid permit displayed between the hours of 5pm and 10.30am

ALL VEHICLES ARE BANNED BETWEEN 10.30am – 5pm

THIS ORDER IS ENFORCED BY THE POLICE

Vehicles must not wait/park in the zone unless they are loading/unloading with a valid permit displayed or a vehicle displaying a valid blue disabled badge (3 hour limit)

THIS ORDER IS ENFORCED BY COUNCIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK)

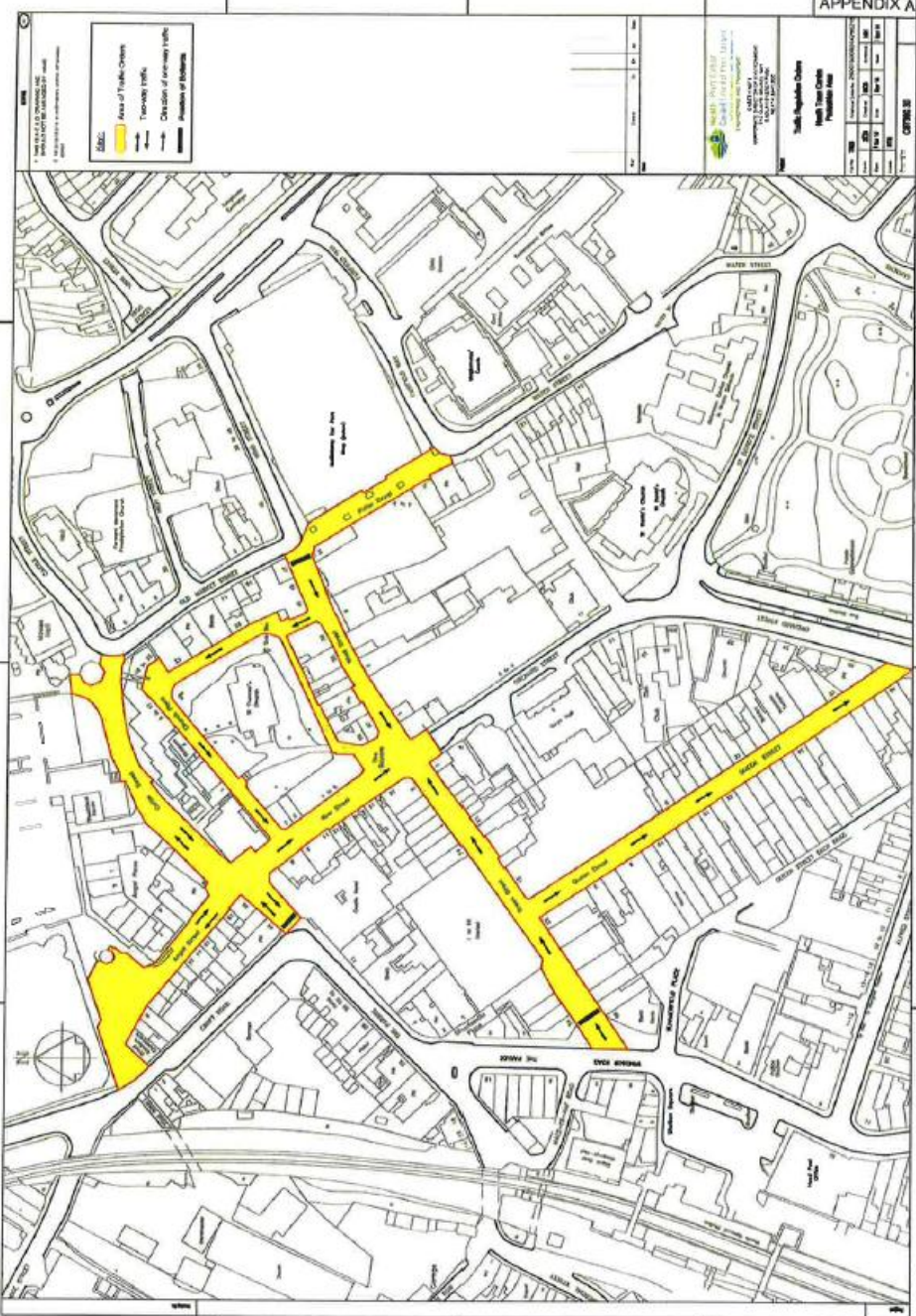
Internal Signs

<p>Pedestrian Zone Parth Cerddwyr</p>  At any time Unrhyw bryd	<p>No loading Dim llwytho 10.30 am - 5.00 pm</p>
---	---

These signs will be placed at various intervals throughout the pedestrian zone

THIS ORDER IS ENFORCED BY COUNCIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK)

APPENDIX A



10/15/2011 08:00:00 AM (10/15/2011 08:00:00 AM) ASST. CITY ENGINEER

28th November 2014

01639 686479

j.davies15@npt.gov.uk

Date **Dyddiad**

Direct Line **Rhif Ffôn**

email **e-bost**

Mr Jason Davies

Contact **Cyswilt**

TR25/JCD/JW

Your Ref **Eich Cyf**

Our Ref **Ein Cyf**

THE OCCUPIER

APPENDIX B

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Proposed Traffic Orders – Neath Pedestrian Order


Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council intend to advertise the above scheme. A copy of the plan is attached, together with a drawing of the new signage.

The reason to advertise and consult on the new scheme is to extend the Orders (enforcement) to a Sunday and to allow businesses fronting the pedestrian area to be eligible for a permit.

A copy of the proposed Order, Statement of Reasons and an appropriate plan may be inspected during normal working hours at the main reception desks in the Civic Centres at Neath, Port Talbot and The Quays, Baglan.

Any objections/support or comments should be forwarded as soon as possible, in writing, to the address below and must be received no later than **26th December 2014**.

Yours faithfully



For **HEAD OF ENGINEERING & TRANSPORT**

Environment
Yr Amgylchedd

www.npt.gov.uk

David W Griffiths
Head of Engineering & Transport
The Quays, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park,
Neath SA11 2GG
Tel: 01639 686868 Fax: 01639 686100

The Council welcomes
correspondence in English or Welsh

David W Griffiths
Pennaeth Peirianneg a Chludiant
Y Ceiau, Ffordd Brunel, Parc Ynni Baglan,
Castell-nedd SA11 2GG
Ffôn 01639 686868 Ffacs 01639 686100

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth
yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg



114

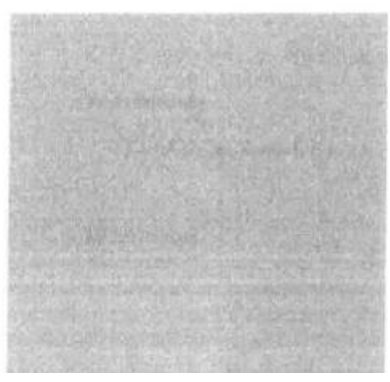


Mr D W Griffiths
Head of Engineering Transport
The Quays
Brunel Way
Baglan Energy Park
SA11 2GG

Dear Sir

I would like to submit my objection to the proposed closure of roads around Neath Town Centre on Sundays.

My wife and I attend St Thomas church every Sunday and are able at present to park in Church Place, my wife is a Blue Badge holder suffering with osteoporosis and it would be extremely difficult for her if parking was further away from the church.



APPENDIX C

LETTER 2

Mr David W. Griffiths
Head of Environment & Transport
NPTCBC

Dear Mr Griffiths,

RE: TR 25 – JCD – JW Proposed Traffic Order- Neath Pedestrianized Area Order

I wish to lodge my opposition to the proposed introduction of parking restrictions in Neath town centre on a Sunday.

I am a member of St Thomas' Church, and as such I am aware of the difficulties that would arise for many congregation members if parking were to be prohibited in the pedestrianized zone around the church.

While I am physically able to walk from alternative parking areas there are many people who attend St Thomas' for whom this is not possible. Indeed in some cases removal of the ability to park close to the church could result in them not being able to attend services at all.

St Thomas' has a very faithful, but predominantly older congregation. A number of people already have to rely on walking aids to make even the shortest journey from car to church door and with such an ageing profile it is sadly a situation which will inevitably increase.

Currently members of the congregation park in the streets surrounding St Thomas' Church on a Sunday between approximately 9am – 11am.

To my knowledge this time period has not caused any problems, as shoppers tend to come to Neath later on a Sunday when the shops are open and the church service has ended.

I would be grateful if you would please give thought to finding a way in which the less mobile members of St Thomas' Church can continue to attend worship at what is the Parish Church of Neath.

Yours truly,

FILE TR25

HH ✓

Mr D W Griffiths
Head of Engineering & Transport
The Quays
Brunel Way
Baglan Energy Park
Neath
SA11 2GG

15th December 2014

27/12/14
P 918277

APPENDIX C

LETTER 3

Dear Sir

RE PROPOSED TRAFFIC ORDERS – NEATH PEDESTRIAN ORDER

My wife has been in business in Neath market for 30 years.

I cannot see how these proposals will help the Neath businesses. Pedestrianisation has killed off town centres. Without adequate parking this proposal will be the "final nail in the coffin".

Prior to the closure of parking at Neath council office my wife's income from January to September had increased by 0.9%. Since the closure, October and November has shown a decrease of 18%. If you are going ahead with this proposal, would it be better to introduce it when the new car park is complete, otherwise you will have no businesses left in the town centre.

OTHER POINTS

- a) Where will people park when going to St Thomas?
- b) Where will people park when visiting the Gwyn Hall ?
- c) will you be giving Sky and insurance personal permits to off load even though they pay no fees to the council ?
- d) Will traffic wardens be working longer hours? If so, considering the financial situation, I can only assume that the motorist will have to foot the bill by fines and parking costs!

05 JAN 2014

APPENDIX C

LETTER 4

Ms JC Doures
Heath Park School CBE
The Quays, Burnel Way
Baglan Energy Park
Heath SA11 2GG
Yours w/ TR JS/JCD/JW



20 December 2014

Dear Sir

Sunday Pedestrianisation

I wish to object to the proposal to extend the pedestrianisation of Heath Town Centre to include Sundays.

It will result in several members of the congregation of St. Thomas' Church being unable to attend services as, due to age or infirmity, they will be unable to walk the distances from the boundaries of the pedestrianised area to the church.

Had the ban been in force last year I would have been in that position for several months so speak from experience.

It is very important to people that they should be able to attend church, many having been faithful members for decades.

2) Even if the pedestrianisation does not come into effect until 10.30am, as on weekdays, it will still affect church-goers as the service does not finish by then. Also, once a month, St. Thomas' Church holds a Welsh language service which begins at 11am to which people from other areas come as there is no other such facility in other parishes.

3) It will adversely affect the shops in the area. Many people choose to do their heavy or bulky shopping on Sundays as they can bring cars close to the shops. It is not convenient for people to do their shopping early on weekdays in order to leave by 10.30am. This particularly applies to elderly people & others who cannot carry heavy bags & also people who only have the use of a car for shopping on Sundays as it is required for travel to work on weekdays.

I trust the Council will take account of the difficulties the proposed Sunday pedestrianisation will cause to many people & will reconsider the position.

Yours faithfully



File Tr25

APPENDIX C

LETTER 5

Telephone Number: 01639635929

Mobile Number : 07910788690

Mr David W Griffiths
Head of Engineering & Transport
Neath Port Talbot C.B.C
The Quays
Brunel Way
Baglan Energy Park
Neath
SA11 2GG

Dear Sir

Re: Proposed Traffic Orders – Neath Pedestrian Order

I refer to your letter of November 28 2014 regarding the Proposed Traffic Orders within the Neath Pedestrian Area.

I am the Church Warden in St Thomas' Church, Church Place, Neath SA11 3LL and on behalf of the congregation submit objection and comments to the proposal.

Religious Services have been carried out on this site since around 1298 when the Normans developed a small village, which later formed the nucleus of Neath Town and the Church.

I acknowledge one has to move forward, 716 years, to the present day, thus causing insurmountable problems to certain members of the congregation, who are elderly and infirm. These members rely on their own transport or conveyance by friends, due to the lack of public transport on Sunday mornings. It is not only the congregation that will be affected, the Clergy also may need to depart after 10.30 a.m. to conduct a service at one of the other 5 Churches within the Parish and the arrival of a minister to conduct the Welsh Service at 11.00 a.m.

The precarious traffic congestion in New Street; Green Street; Cattle Street; Wind Street; are streets that surround Church Place, which, although within the Pedestrian Area, Church Place is free of indiscriminate vehicular traffic. With this observation St Thomas' Church is being penalised for other inconsiderate drivers.

The Church holds the following Sunday Services:-

- (a) Each Sunday an English Service is held from 09.30, which members arriving at approx 09.15. The service terminates at approx 10.30a.m, with members leaving at approx 10.45a.m..
- (b) On the First Sunday of each month a Welsh Service is from 11.00a.m. and terminates at approx 12.30p.m with members leaving at approx 12.45p.m.

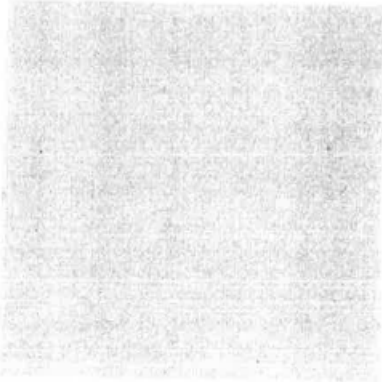
To enlarge on the times mentioned above, the introduction of the times mentioned in the Proposed Traffic Order, will penalise/prosecute Church Members who are still in Church after 10.30a.m. and prevent entry into Church Place after 10.30a.m. to attend the 11.00a.m. Welsh Service.

In enforcing the Order, the Church may become isolated and congregation seriously reduced. The monthly average of attendance during 2013 was 219.

I propose, with the agreement of the Authority, the issuing of a "dispensation permit(s)" to be held by the Church for known vehicles, however, this document would not answer the problem for the Welsh Services held as mentioned in (b) above when the bollards have been raised at 10.30a.m, prohibiting entry into Church Place.

On behalf of St Thomas' Church, I submit objection to the Order where it relates to Church Place and my comments and proposal, in an attempt to alleviate the problem that St Thomas will encounter.

Yours faithfully



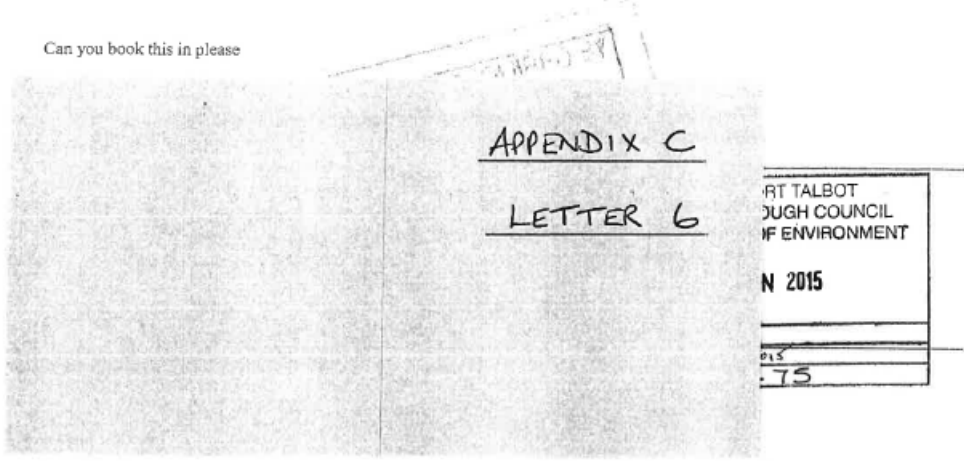
File TR25

HH

Carole Thomas

From: Jason C. Davies
Sent: 05 January 2015 09:26
To: Environment
Subject: FW: Neath Town Centre traffic restriction order

Can you book this in please



Dear Mr. Hasan

Thank you for your reply to my questions as per conversation on the 16th of December. Please accept this as an appeal against the order we feel that the parking restriction is not warranted at our end of Angel Street. By enforcing this along with Morrison using an Infra red system of clocking in and clocking out, this also is detrimental to our business.

Particularly on Sundays when only some of the shops in Angel Street are open there are very few pedestrians, in fact, by allowing vehicles along Angel Street this encourages people to attend our restaurant for Sunday Lunch, surely this is a way of attracting visitors to the town and not as you say in question 3 all of which I fail to see what attractions there are to visitors to Neath especially point 4 (getting young people into work).

In point 2 you state that the permits will be available to coincide with the opening of the new car park, what are we to do until then as regards the permits?

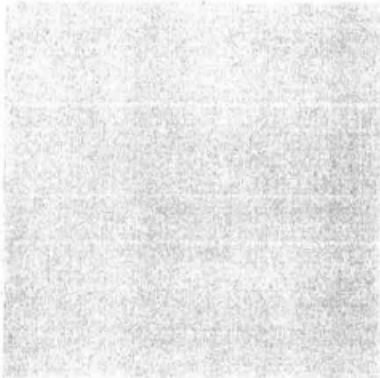
Having spoken to David Griffiths currently the council are unable to enforce the traffic restriction as their is none throughout Neath on the pedestrian areas after 5pm . If there were, why is the council applying again for another order?

Also, I spoke to Gemma Nesbitt via PCSO Andrew Neal regarding the skateboarding activity in Angel Square and making a traffic order to exclude them along with any ball playing or cycling. This was rejected as we were informed that there was no money available, however, there now seems to be money available when the council want to stop shoppers and visitors parking anywhere near town, this seem very strange as the council are saying that they want to attract visors to Neath which we wholeheartedly support.

Lastly I am pleased that taxis are able to come down to collect customers after 5pm, however, should they also require a permit as we have to? We regularly use taxi firms in Neath, generating income for the local economy where does this leave the permit situation?

The council should also be ensuring that the barriers by The Castle Hotel and Kiwis bar are kept up until 5pm and not taken down around 3-3:30pm allowing vehicles on the pedestrianised areas to date none of which have been issued with any tickets!

Kind Regards





NEATH &
DISTRICT
CHAMBER
OF TRADE

SIAMBR
FASNACH
CASTELL NEDD
A'R CYLCH

APPENDIX C

LETTER 7

Dear David Griffiths,

I write to you with regards to recent communication dated 28th November and hand delivered on to businesses 5th December.

Re: Proposed Traffic Orders

This letter comes as a shock to businesses as during a meeting hosted by the Chamber of Trade attended by yourself, Steve Cook and Sandra Miller it was discussed that the current traffic order that isn't currently being enforced would receive consultation before any further enforcement is sought.

The letter would imply only one extra day is being added to the enforcement order, however, this letter seems misleading as traders and stakeholders of the town seek full consultation on the full traffic order that failed to be implemented back in 2012 due to opposition and support from our member of parliament.

Traders have reported their worse trading in many years over recent months. In part it's believed this is due to removal of the car park at the civic centre, failures with lifts at the current multi-storey car park, poor maintenance and cleansing at Milland Road along with public perception of accessibility of Neath town centre which is often re-enforced by independent reviews.

This comes at a time when we're seeing many new independent traders join our high street and the want of local support increasing, we'd like to harness and sustain this support and currently Neath Chamber of Trade is working with community groups, Government and stakeholders of the town to overcome the challenges the high street current faces. Parking will appear as the number one challenge on independent reports and that is echoed from traders and customers alike at Neath. It is felt that aggressive traffic enforcement will have a detrimental effect on Neath and we'll see a trend of larger anchor stores leaving the town as footfall decreases.

Neath and District Chamber has spoken to over 150 town centre businesses including Church groups and the Gwyn Hall personally in addition to a petition handed to yourself during the summer.



It is clear traders would like to be part of the solution and not the problem.

It's believed that this consultation is confusing to the current situation,

It's believed asking for consultation at the traders' busiest time of year is not a fair time to conduct a true consultation.

It's believed the permit scheme is fundamentally flawed under the current understanding.

Therefore, we are asking that any consultation to discuss current traffic enforcements and new traffic enforcements are halted until phase 1 of the new development is completed.

During this time the business community and wider community would like to work with you on potential solutions once the rationale behind these enforcements are truly understood.

As Chamber of Trade we're asking what studies have been carried out on the effect such traffic enforcements will have on trade to the town and how as an authority you propose to overcome these effects?

If you require each trader/stakeholder to sign this letter for authenticity please let me know in plenty of time so this can be arranged.

Kind Regards,



Jason C. Davies

APPENDIX C

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

LETTER 8

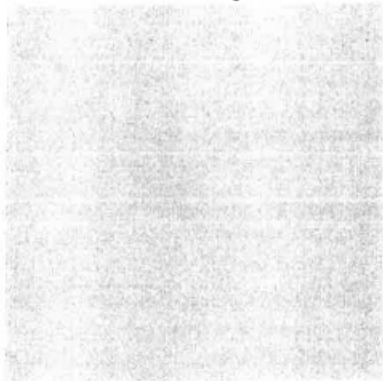
Dear sir

As you propose your plan for parking .It will have negative effect on trade which is already suffering.

As it is som general public come to pedestrn area an do there quick shopping and make there way:

So I propose it should left as it is

Yours faithfully



APPENDIX D

LETTER 1

Mr David Griffiths
Head of Engineering & Transport
Neath Port Talbot C.B.C
Civic Centre
Port Talbot
SA13 1PJ

NEATH
COUNTY
DIRECTORATE
CIVIC CENTRE
PORT TALBOT
SA13 1PJ
P 912348

Dear Mr Griffiths

Re:- The Neath Port Talbot Council to Ban Sunday Drivers the Town Centre Pedestrian Only Areas

I am in full agreement with your decision to restrict vehicular traffic in the Pedestrian Area on Sundays, as the amount of vehicles and pedestrian conflict is not in the interest of Road Safety, however:

1. I have not seen notices in the Press or on the streets in the Town Centre, publishing the proposal to amend the original Pedestrian Traffic Order, i.e. Monday – Saturday 10.30 to 17.00.
2. Without the proposed Notice, there is not an opportunity to object to the Order.
3. The Church of St Thomas, which has stood on this site since 1298, is directly in the centre of the Pedestrianized Area.

Referring to number 3 above, Church Services on a Sunday commence at 0930 and concludes 11.00 to 11.15. On the 1st Sunday of each month a Welsh Service is held. This Service commences at 11.00 and again, by the time members of the congregation leave it is around 12.15p.m.

90% of the members that attend St Thomas are elderly and infirm, and there are a few over 90 who are brought by car and need to be dropped off as close as possible to the Church. We are the only Church within the pedestrianized area who will have a problem to attend Church on a Sunday.

Worship at St Thomas' has been continuous since 1298 and due to the Sunday Shopping Act, the Church, with its 40 – 50 congregational members each Sunday, not counting families who wish to have their children Christened, is being victimised for the success of Sunday Shop Opening hours.

Having worked in Traffic Management for about 12 years, co-opted onto the former Neath Borough Council and West Glamorgan C.C on amalgamation of Local Authorities, I fully support your view on the indiscriminate parking, where people wanting to park right by the front door of shops, which was very prominent on Friday May 9 2014 at about 09.05 in Queen Street and Green Street, where

vehicles tend to park on both sides of the road and in places, cause unnecessary obstruction , without consideration to other road user. I have witnessed the problem the refuse vehicle wanted to collect rubbish and had to squeeze passed the parked vehicles. I dread to think of the consequences if an emergency vehicle, especially a fire vehicle required access.

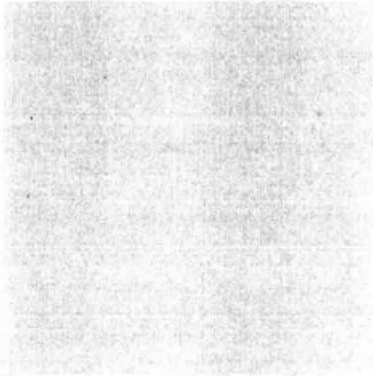
The other problem that I have witness is the lack of law enforcement in the town centre with vehicles driving past No Entry Signs, against the flow of traffic and then parking against the flow of traffic, indicating it is a free for all in Neath.

If the Authority intend to amend the Order, and it appears to be on the cards, you may consider including that parking should only be allowed on the one side of the road, naturally, the appropriate signing would have to be placed, similarly the existing Traffic Signs will have to be altered.

To return to the problem that may affect members of St Thomas' Church, I wish to lodge an objection on behalf of the Church to the proposed ban on Sunday Drivers from Neath Town Centre (Pedestrianized Area), unless there could be an exemption in place to allow members access to attend Church services.

I await your reply on this matter, bearing in mind, from information relayed by a Traffic Warden, that the change is due to start on May 18.2014.

Yours sincerely



APPENDIX D

LETTER 2

~~SR~~
SR

Subject: STREET PARKING IN NEATH TOWN CENTRE

I have read in the Evening Post that the council still intend to prevent town centre parking before 10.30am and on Sundays. If this goes ahead, I envisage a massive loss of revenue for Neath traders. People like myself use this opportunity to 'pop in' to shops because although I do not have a disabled badge, my mobility is limited to how far I can walk and carry shopping bags.

I have asked, on several occasions, but have yet to receive, for statistics relating to accidents sustained by pedestrians who have been injured by a collision with vehicles. I wonder who I need to ask to get this information, perhaps a television programme such as 'The Ferret' or 'X-Ray' could elicit the figures if you feel unable to share this information with me, a mere user of the facilities in Neath!

The answer to this issue is, of course, for the consumer, to go to Lidl's and other out of town centres or for the council to recognise that this measure will destroy Neath. People complain now that the centre is overpopulated with charity shops and pound shops but whilst we can still attract the larger names such as NEXT and M&S, surely it makes sense to encourage access to them. Equally, the long established Neath Market has a large following of shoppers and without this easy access on weekdays, shoppers will take their trade elsewhere.

I urge you to rethink this strategy or feel the weight of angry residents at election time for the councillors who have made this decision. I would remind them that they are meant to have the best interests of everyone at heart not their own opinions.

For information, this letter will be copied to my Ward representatives, Alan Lockyer, Mark Protheroe, MP Peter Hain and MEP Derek Vaughan.

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT	
REC'D	- 6 JUN 2014
ACK'D	
ANS'D	
P913065	

Neath
Chamber
of Trade

JR

APPENDIX D

LETTER 3

Dear David

Please find enclosed a petition relating to the impending parking restrictions in Neath town centre, facilitated by the Neath Chamber of Trade, signed by the traders and organisations of the town.

Please respond to me at the above the address.

Regards



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT	
REC'D	16 MAY 2014
ACK'D	
ANS'D	912 467

NAME OF BUSINESS *St Thomas Church*
ADDRESS *New Street*
Neath

<u>NAME OF CUSTOMER</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
<i>YNISBA POWELL</i>	<i>12 OSWELL RD, NEATH. SA11 1HG.</i>
<i>Rosemary Soper</i>	<i>21 Lewis Rd Neath SA11 1DZ</i>
<i>Andrea Partington</i>	<i>15, West Glynclawen, Neath SA10 7RR</i>
<i>ROBERT REES</i>	<i>103 FRYNDON DAWEEL, ABERMULLEN, NEATH SA10 8EN.</i>
<i>Elizabeth Mills</i>	<i>18. Gwall View Neath</i>
<i>L Pascoe</i>	<i>78 Windsor Road Hair EMPORIUM</i>
<i>L Herbert</i>	<i>76, WINDSOR ROAD NEATH</i>
<i>JOANNA MEAD.</i>	<i>NEATH HARDWARE</i>
<i>LAM MILLARD</i>	<i>80 Windsor Rd, Twin-Tech Computers.</i>
<i>SIMONE GWARD</i>	<i>84 WINDSOR RD, LA POOCH</i>
<i>Joe Fisher</i>	<i>Cocca Beach, Windsor Road</i>
<i>candice morgan.</i>	<i>81 Windsor Road Neath.</i>
<i>Michelle Felcher</i>	<i>22, VERNON Street, B/ferry, Neath</i>
<i>Nai Tatu</i>	<i>51-53 Windsor RD</i>
<i>S Jones.</i>	<i>2 Davies Rd, Neath (Bodlytalk).</i>

NAME OF BUSINESS St Thomas Church Congregation
 ADDRESS New St Neath

<u>NAME OF CUSTOMER</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
George Griffiths	103, Knoll Park Road, Neath.
R H Williams	12 Llys Gwynnwyn Gyffwrch Neath SA10 7US + of St Thomas Church Church Place Neath
G H Williams	83, BROOKFIELD, NEATH ABBEY NEATH SA10 7EL
Sheila Cremon	113 LONGFORD ROAD, NEATH ABBEY NEATH SA10 7HF
Harold Lloyd	11. Parkside - Neath.
Werna Lloyd	SA10. 1RS.
Ed. Hynda Neuman	95, Ridgewood Gardens, Cymber SA11 3QJ
Chris Clement	19 CHEREBROEG SA11 3E
Kathie Price	4 GRANG LONGFORD NEATH ABBEY SA10 7L
Jenna (Ward)	103 Ffynon Darel, Aberdare SA10 8EM
Heather Edmunds	7 BRUNEL CROSS TONNA SA11 3JY
Ray Chadfield	3. Bryn Sirol Cymba. SA11 2DY.
Philip Hand	29, Victoria Gardens NEATH SA11 3AY
Patti Webber	29, Stanley Place, Cadroxtow, SA10 8BE.
Ann Sparks	7 Bilton Road, Neath SA11 1YH.
Sam Thomas	14. Rlantwrk Road Neath. SA11 3LB

The Local Authority are planning to re-introduce restriction of vehicle access to the pedestrianised area of the Town Centre.

Before 10-30am and after 5.0pm the following will apply: Monday -
Sunday also

(A) Disabled badge holders
No restriction on parking.

108
Businesses
signed.

(B) Businesses
Unlimited parking Before 10-30am and after 5.0pm for an annual payment of £20-00.

(C) All other businesses will be allowed a short time to Load/Unload before 1030am and after 5.0pm.

INCREASE IN PARKING CHARGES *
Neath Chamber of Trade believe the loss of trade due to these restrictions is going to affect the viability of many businesses resulting in a reduction of staffing levels.

If You wish to support this petition to the Local Authority please write your details below.

Name of Business

Business Address

Neath Pharmacy	32 Orchard St Neath, SA11 1HA
forty Six 46	46 Queen St. SA11 1DL
Post Bags	44, Queen St. SA11 1DL.
This a That	42, Queen St, Neath SA11 1DL
Stallions & Gallions	40, Queen St, NEATH
DAN JONES	SPORTS DIRECT.COM
THE smokers Angel	36 Queen Street
Nettie Betties	27 Queen Street
Allure Hair Design.	25, Queen Street
Manselias.	23, Queen Street

Name of Business

Business Address

BROWNS OF NEATH
USA MAILS

16 ANGEL ST
13 BROWN
~~13 ANGEL ST.~~

Valley Mill
S. Newlyn
SCOPE


18 Angel st.
ellis
Country Kitchen
unit 8, Angel Street

Travel House

Stutton.
Cullis.

Sevco Saturn

DE VRIES

Country Kitchen &
Rooms.

Andri

Country Kitchen

Deunants

Beamers Baguette Bar
The Buddha Shop

3A Angel Square
Mary Gray

RANSOENS
RANSOENS.

~~DEP~~


NORTH LEGION
Bush Healthcare

Breslin


Belloroma.

Galles

Head Kondi.

AG William.,
14 Angel Street

TAFFYS BARBER SHOP
ELECTRUE

~~DEP~~
S. Lewis


<u>Name of Business</u>	<u>Business Address</u>
MISS TILLIE'S HAIR SALON MRS C McLENNAN	No 7 old Market St Neath. C. McLean
Phria Boutique	6 old market St
MIR B'S CAFE	30 High ST
K + D BARNES BUTCHERS	14. Old Market ST D. Barnes
NATHAN SUTTON	ST IVERS INN 12 OLD MARKET ST
Emma Tamplin	LIWYDPOWS 15-16 old market
STORE 21	46 WIND ST NEATH
Tasty Jackets	wind street / water street. D. Jones
Sharon Phillips	Tea cosy Church place Neath.
W. K. Mason	W. K. Mason
BRIGHTHOUSE	50 WIND ST NEATH
SUPERDRUG	7 wind Street
Talsgol Daf	52 53 WIND ST NEATH
Round House Castle St SA11 3LW	N Sheehy . 07800902509
ENFYS FOUNDATION CHARITY	34 Windsor Rd. NEATH
Molland + Barrett	4 Queen street.
Iceland Foods LTD	3 old Market Street

Name of Business

Business Address

THE EDGE
MENSWEAR

Gwyn Hall.

NR & Cafe Bar

LETTICE LIKES

BAKE N' TAKE
(Nicola Jones)

Cooking Paper

NUCOFI

STATION Sq
NEATH

ORCHARD ST.
NEATH.

9-11 New Street

12, NEW ST.

STALL 5, NEATH MARKET

Windsor Rg NEATH

Windsor Rd Neath

<u>Name of Business</u>	<u>Business Address</u>
Williums Sweets	Stall 22 Neath Marke
John Lees Leather	Stall 36 Neath Market
J. G. REES RE & V (RESTAURANT)	STALLS 23 TO 32 NEATH MARKET
B Phillips (Newellys)	Stalls 6 & 27 Neath Market
N. Jones (Bake n Take)	Stall 5 Neath Market
D Jones (SIZZLES)	Stall 7
Y. L. Michael. Pet Stall.	STALLS 28-29 MARKET HALL
Christian Bookshop	stall 8 Market Hall
Stall 9 Coles Caverys	Stall 9 Neath Market
M. POWELL Neville's	STALL 10 Neath Market
M. BEVAN. Bevan's Barbers	STALL 11 NEATH MARKET
L. BECK - FORGET ME NOT FLORIST	STALL 12 NEATH MARKET
P. ROCHE - TRENDY TOTS	STALL 53/54/55 NEATH MAR
M. BOWEN - CORNER CABIN	STALL 13 NEATH MARKET
M. WOLFE - KATIE'S KITCHEN	STALL 14 NEATH MARKET
M. PEET - Peet + Sons	STALLS 56/57/58 Neath Market
PE Peet - Parby at Peets	STALL 19A Neath Market
H. JONES - BELLA FIGI	STALLS 2 NEATH MARKET
Allan W James, TEWENSTWIST 'N' PRINT.	STALL 43 NEATH MARKET.
MARK REYNOLDS VEG	STALL 39.40.41.
STYLE MOBILE ACCESSORIES	STALL 2, NEATH MARKET
Deshaun Fine China	8 Queen St, Neath
Nicola O'Brien Fine China	8 Queen St Neath.

TV repair.

Karen Evans Scrayas

NEATH GOLDSMITHS.

Jen King Bakery

KAREN BOWEN (Peacocks)

EMMIES BABY BOUTIQUE

PETHAN CHURCH

NEATH PICTURE FRAMERS

FLAIR FABRICS

EDDIES SECOND HAND BOOKS

Tabana Boutique.

ARTY AT PEET'S

LET'S CARDS

FRU ELECTRICAL

Paul GEAR

Paul Cole.

Joseph

MM Lees

J MEATS

Adi WINDAW

17 Queen St

18 Queen ST

16 Queen ST.

15. queen st

6 Queen st.

45 Neath General Market

37 NEATH GEN. MARKET

STALL 44 NEATH GEN MARKET

STALL 48 NEATH GEN MARKET

STALL 49 NEATH GEN MARKET

STALL 46 NEATH GEN MARKET.

STALL 19A NEATH GEN MARKET

STALL 57-58 " " "

STALL 47. NEATH MARKET

STALL 19B NEATH MARKET

STALL 9+20 NEATH MARKET

STALL 33 Neath Market.

STALL 21 NEATH MARKET

STALL 1. NEATH MARKET.

STALL 51 Neath Health Shop

APPENDIX D

David W. Griffiths

From: Michael Roberts
Sent: 13 May 2014 08:48
To: Cllr. Cari Morgans; David W. Griffiths
Cc: Nicola L. Thomas; Stephen Rees
Subject: Re: Parking pedestrian area

LETTER 4

Dear Cllr Morgans

By copy of this e-mail I will ask the Head of Engineering and Transport to respond to your queries

Regards

Mike

Sent via Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Cllr. Cari Morgans
To: Michael Roberts
Sent: Mon May 12 20:51:55 2014
Subject: Parking pedestrian area

Mike,

I've been approached by residents living in Tonna who attend St. Thomas Church in the centre of Neath about the opportunity to park in the pedestrian zone on Sunday mornings being removed. As they are elderly they rely on parking along the pedestrian zone to get to the Sunday Morning Service and are quite concerned that the opportunity may be removed. Could you confirm whether this is the case and if so whether church goers could be given a permit which would allow them to park to attend the Sunday Service?

Regards,

Cari Morgans
Councillor for the Tonna Ward

22nd May 2014
01639 686868
d.w.griffiths@npt.gov.uk

Mr D W Griffiths

APPENDIX E

REPLY 1

Neath Town Centre Pedestrianised Zone

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 9th May, which was received on the 13th May.

The introduction of restrictions to the pedestrian zone on Sundays are not intended to be introduced until the completion of Phase 1 of the Neath Town Centre regeneration project, which includes the replacement of the existing multi-story car park, towards the Autumn of 2015. When the required traffic orders are published there will be an opportunity to formally comment on the proposals which would have to be considered by the Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Board.

I note the timings of the services on Sundays and how the Order will affect your parishioners. Your points in connection with the enforcement of the Town Centre are noted.

I can advise that a 'traders permit scheme' has recently been approved by the Environment and Highways Cabinet Board which will be advertised in the coming weeks. This will allow traders and organisations within the pedestrian zone to use a permit between 5.00pm and 10.30am, outside the time the bollards are used to prevent traffic in the pedestrianised area.

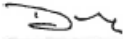
The same principles would apply on a Sunday should the order be introduced in 2015/2016. The issue of course with this is, even if your parishioners did have permits, they would not have access to the zone at the times of the service.

~ 2 ~

I will be reporting a wide range of issues in connection with the Neath pedestrian zone along with a petition I have received from the Neath Chamber of Trade who wish to have no enforcement within the Centre between 5.00pm and 10.30am which is in direct conflict with some of the items which you have highlighted.

I will highlight the issues raised in your letter as part of a report to the Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Board in early September.

Yours sincerely,



Head of Engineering and Transport

REPLY 2

PARKING IN NEATH TOWN CENTRE P913065

Thank you for your e-mail of the 6th of June.

Firstly, I can see it is important to clarify the existing orders for you that covers the Pedestrian Zone in Neath, particularly as you are not a Blue Badge Holder.

The entry signage states/displays the 'prohibition of driving order' which is 24 hours 7 days a week except for loading and disabled blue badge drivers who are exempt at the times stated on the signs, the prohibition of driving order is enforced by the police.

The 'prohibition of waiting order' is only Monday to Saturday (the amber part of the sign), this order is enforced by our wardens, blue badge drivers who are exempt at the times stated on the signs, the prohibition of driving order is enforced by the police.

The above means that loading can take place and disabled drivers are permitted to park within the specified times Monday to Saturday and on Sundays they can load and unload all day as long as they are seen to be doing so, and disabled drivers can park within the rules of the Blue Badge scheme i.e. for up to 3 hours during the day. The everyday driver *should not* be going in the pedestrian area at any time.

The consequences are that should a driver have an incident, they could be prosecuted by the police for dangerous driving, their insurance maybe invalidated and they could be personally liable for claims against them for damage to property, vehicles, street furniture or worse injury to persons.

I am sorry to hear of your current mobility difficulties, in this regard may I alert you to the Shopmobility Unit adjacent to the High Street Car park which I understand has a limited free parking area for those members of the public highering a mobility scooter to shop in the centre which maybe of assistance.

Turning to accidents, these are limited as the zone is not open to vehicle movement between 10.30am and 5.00pm i.e. physical barriers are raised prohibiting access.

I have however on recorded CCTV footage a young girl under the age of two walking in the pedestrian zone holding their parents hand being reversed into, with the Emergency Services, the police and ambulance in attendance. Needless to say it was a very distressing for the parents of the child and indeed the elderly lady that reversed into and nearly over the child who was also extremely distressed.

I am sure you would have been very concerned if it had been a member of your family and a balance needs to be struck between the safety of the wider public and those of the town centre retailers.

The locally elected Members of the Neath North, South and East wards are scheduled to meet shortly to discuss the extended parking enforcement by our own Civil Enforcement officers to establish a workable balanced solution to the issues that you have raised.

The local members are taking this matter very seriously and you will appreciate that they will need to consider all of the issues in coming to a fair and equitable position for all users of the town centre.

3

FILE COPY

22nd May 2014
01639 686868
d.w.griffiths@npt.gov.uk

Copy sent to
Cllr Miller
for info
23/5/14
Abb.

Mr D W Griffiths

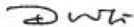
APPENDIX E

REPLY 3

I acknowledge receipt of the petition relating to the parking management of the pedestrian zone in Neath. The petition and the concerns raised will be reported to an Environment and Highways Scrutiny and Cabinet Board towards the end of the Summer. In the meantime, I will brief Environment Cabinet Members and Local Members for the Neath Wards on the concerns documented.

The advertisement of the 'traders permit scheme' approved by the Environment and Highways Cabinet Board following Scrutiny on the 6th March 2014 is now scheduled to be advertised in the next few weeks. My traffic section will write to all businesses and organisations within the pedestrianised zone when the legal order is published.

Yours sincerely,



Head of Engineering and Transport

Signs on Entry

<p>PEDESTRIAN ZONE PARTH CERDDWYR</p> 	<p>8 am - 5 pm</p>
<p>Except for loading and </p> <p>8 am - 10.30 am</p> <p>Ac eithrio llwytho a </p> <p>8 am - 10.30 am</p>	<p>8 am - 5 pm</p>

It is a Pedestrian Zone 7 days a week 8am – 5pm where vehicles must not enter
THIS ORDER IS ENFORCED BY THE POLICE

The exception to the above is for vehicles displaying a valid disabled blue badge and vehicles which are loading/unloading between the hours of 8am–10.30am

ALL VEHICLES ARE BANNED BETWEEN 10.30am – 5pm
THIS ORDER IS ENFORCED BY THE POLICE

Vehicles must not wait/park in the zone unless they are loading/unloading or a vehicle displaying a valid blue badge
THIS ORDER IS ENFORCEABLE BY COUNCIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (7 DAYS A WEEK 8am – 5pm)

Internal Signs

<p>Pedestrian Zone Parth Cerddwyr</p>  <p>8 am - 5 pm</p>	<p>No loading Dim llwytho 10.30 am - 5.00 pm</p>
---	---

These signs will be placed at various intervals throughout the pedestrian zone

THIS ORDER IS ENFORCEABLE BY COUNCIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (7 DAYS A WEEK 8am – 5pm)

