

5. **ST ALBANS STREET – SUGGESTIONS FOR P120 (11AM TO 3PM) PARKING RESTRICTION AND SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS FOR ST ALBANS/MERIVALE BOWLING CLUB USERS**

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Unit Manager Transport and Greenspace
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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Works, Traffic and Environment Committee's recommendation to the Board to approve the staff recommendation that the St Albans/Merivale Bowling Club's request for P120 (11am to 3pm) parking restriction on St Albans Street and special exemptions for the St Albans - Merivale Bowling Club (the Club) users be declined.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2. This report is to respond to the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board Works, Traffic and Environment Committee's request for staff to "consider the suggestions made by the St Albans/Merivale Bowling Club for P120 (11am to 3pm) parking restrictions to be implemented on both sides of St Albans Street from Papanui Road to Browns Road, and the possibility of special exemptions for Bowling Club members and visitors".
3. A deputation from the Club made the above request at the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board Works, Traffic and Environment Committee meeting on 24 August 2009.
4. The Committee requested that staff take into consideration the particular needs of the bowling club given the predominance of elderly people involved and the challenges of walking longer distances, often with heavy bowls to carry.
5. St Albans Street is a collector road, running off the east side of Papanui Road which is classified a minor arterial.
6. The Club is situated on Donald Place (a cul-de-sac) which runs off the north side of St Albans Street, approximately 270 metres east of the St Albans Street/ Papanui Road intersection.
7. **Attachment 1** shows the following parking restrictions and bus stops which currently exist on St Albans Street:
  - (a) On the north side of St Albans Street, P30 and P60 parking restrictions apply between Papanui Road and 29 St Albans Street. The P30 parking restrictions were implemented in 2009 as part of the *Papanui Road Bus Priority Project*, while the P60 restriction had existed before that Project.
  - (b) On the south side of St Albans Street, P15, P30 and P60 parking restrictions apply from Papanui Road to Bristol Street. The P30 and P60 parking restrictions were implemented in 2009 as part of the *Papanui Road Bus Priority Project*, while the P15 restriction had existed before that Project for more than 15 years.
8. **Attachment 2** shows the following parking restrictions requested by the Club:
  - (a) The suggested P120 (11am to 3pm) restricted parking areas on St Albans Street, from Papanui Road to Browns Road
  - (b) The parking spaces on the side streets which are within the same maximum walking distance of 244 metres (the distance from near Papanui Road to the Donald Place/ St Albans Street intersection) to the Donald Place intersection.

9. Through an earlier Customer Service Request (CSR) on 10 July 2009, the club had expressed concern about the impact of the new parking restrictions under the *Merivale North Parking Plan* (the *Papanui Road Bus Priority Project* parking restrictions were implemented at the same time), and had requested special exemptions from P120 parking restrictions on St Albans Street (there are currently no P120 parking restrictions here) for members and visitors attending events at the club. The club had claimed that Merivale Mall workers were migrating to all-day parking spaces on St Albans Street, and that there were now very few available parking spaces on St Albans Street and nearby streets for members and visitors to park when going to the club.
10. Staff visited the St Albans Street area on Wednesday 22 July 2009 between 1pm and 1.30pm to observe parking patterns in the area. The parking pattern at that time would be typical of the parking on the working days of the week, and would include all-day parking by Mall workers.
11. It was observed during that site visit that the north side of St Albans Street, between 29 St Albans Street and 73 St Albans Street (intersection at Gordon Avenue), was fully parked. However, there was only one vehicle parked on the south side of St Albans Street east of the Bristol Street intersection, and parking was very sparse on the side streets, namely Devonport Lane, Bristol Street, Gordon Avenue and Browns Road.
12. The above findings were conveyed to the Club on 23 July 2009 via an email (copy including photos attached as **attachment 3** for information), which also pointed out that:
  - (a) there were ample opportunities to park on surrounding streets on a typical working day, all within easy walking distance to the club, and the club should advise their members and visitors to park there.
  - (b) all public roads, including kerbside parking, were for the use of all members of the public, and it was not possible for the Council to set aside portions of public roads for exclusive use by a certain group within the community.
13. In response to the above email, Mr Pat Gregory representing the Club requested staff to meet with him on site on 28 July 2009 to discuss options. At this meeting, Mr Gregory suggested that P120 (11am to 3pm) parking restrictions be implemented on both sides of St Albans Street between Papanui Road and Browns Road to allow club members and visitors to park when attending events at the club.
14. At this meeting, staff explained to Mr Gregory that there was strong opposition to the parking restrictions under the *Merivale North Parking Plan* and the *Papanui Road Bus Priority Project*, and expected that there would be similar negative reactions if more parking restrictions on St Albans Street were implemented.
15. Staff again pointed out to Mr Gregory that there were ample parking spaces on surrounding streets within easy walking distance of the club. These were reiterated to the club on 6 August 2009 via a second email (copy attached as **attachment 4** for information), which also:
  - (a) advised that the Merivale North Parking Plan would be reviewed in a years time, and the Council had no plans in the meantime to consider installing any more parking restrictions in St Albans Street.
  - (b) suggested that the bowling club members and visitors could drive up to the club to drop off their bags containing their bowls before parking their cars on nearby streets, which would save them having to carry their heavy bags between their parked cars and the club.
16. The Club was not satisfied with not being given what they had asked for, and had then approached the Board's Committee on 24 August 2009 for support, which resulted in the preparation of this report.

17. Staff do not support the suggested P120 (11am to 3pm) parking restrictions, and the special exemptions from these restrictions for club members and visitors, for the following reasons:

(a) Opposition to the Merivale North Parking Plan

Although there was general support for the parking restrictions under the *Merivale North Parking Plan* and *Papanui Road Bus Priority Project* during the consultation process in late 2008/early 2009, there was also very strong opposition to the proposed restrictions, before the proposed restrictions were finally approved by the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board on 10 February 2009. Based on the sentiments expressed by the objectors at that time, it is expected that any additional parking restrictions in the Merivale area will further inflame the situation.

(b) Lawn bowls during warmer months of the year

The two outdoor greens at the St Albans/Merivale Bowling Club mean that the sport is played only about five months of the year, usually between the end of October and end of March. According to the club's online calendar for January 2010 and February 2010, play usually takes place commencing between 1pm and 2pm, lasting for about two hours, on four afternoons of the week (including Saturdays, but not Sundays). Play also takes place on most Saturday mornings starting at 9am.

In contrast, parking restrictions operate throughout the year, and these will unfairly inconvenience residents and commuters while allowing club members and visitors to conveniently park in their area of choice over only five months of the year, on four days of the week, for part of the day.

(c) Surrounding streets are sparsely parked

Observations made during further site visits on 31 July 2009, 27 August 2009, 3 September 2009, 10 September 2009, 16 September 2009, 5 January 2010, 26 January 2010, 27 January 2010 and 28 January 2010 confirmed staff advice to the club in the 23 July 2009 email, that parking on surrounding streets is sparse, and there are ample opportunities for club members and visitors to park on side streets on a typical working day.

It should be noted that the club had approached the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board's Works, Traffic and Environment Committee in August 2009, before the start of the current summer bowling season in October 2009. All the site visits in January 2010 had coincided with events held at the club, and it was observed on these occasions that there were still many parking spaces available on the side streets. The concerns about the lack of parking raised by the club before the start of the current summer bowling season are not supported by actual parking patterns observed on site.

(d) Equal walking distances to/from side streets, while carrying heavy bowls

Before the *Merivale North Parking Plan* and *Papanui Road Bus Priority Project* parking restrictions were implemented in 2009, club members and visitors were able to park near the Papanui Road end of St Albans Street and walk to the club. The suggested P120 (11am to 3pm) parking restrictions would allow club members to park in this same area as before.

It can clearly be seen from attachment 2 that for the same maximum walking distance of 244 metres from the side streets to the Donald Place intersection, there are in fact more spaces available for parking on these side streets than there are, in the area suggested by the club. Staff had advised the club in both earlier emails that there were ample parking opportunities on the side streets closer to the bowling club.

- (e) Parking will be pushed further out, creating more parking problems.

Removing the current all-day unrestricted parking and replacing it with the requested P120 (11am to 3pm) would push all-day unrestricted parking further out along St Albans Street and into surrounding streets and this will create even more parking problems.

- (f) The Council cannot grant special exemptions for club members and visitors.

As explained to the club in the email dated 23 July 2009 (**Attachment 3**), the streets and roads in Christchurch are for the use of all members of the public, and the Council does not currently have any legal mechanism for granting special exemptions on parking restrictions for the exclusive benefit of a certain group in the community.

The **Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004** only allows the allocation of parking to specific classes of vehicles like taxis, motor cycles, buses, etc. The Council parking strategy and Council policy do not allow allocation of parking to specific groups within the community. If the Council were to change their policies, it would set a precedent, which would open the Council to requests from other groups in the community for special exemptions to satisfy their exclusive needs.

- (g) Bowls drop-off/pick-up would encourage and promote car-pooling.

At the site meeting with Mr Gregory on 28 July 2009 and in the subsequent email to the club on 6 August 2009, staff had suggested that club members and visitors could drive up to the club to drop off/pick up their bowls before parking on nearby streets.

If the Club recognises the merit in adopting this practice, they could also promote the practice of car-pooling and encourage their members and visitors to be pro-active in easing, rather than further contributing to, traffic congestion and the associated parking issues in the Merivale area.

18. In summary, staff do not support the suggested P120 parking restrictions and special exemptions for the club users because:

- (a) To consider implementing further parking restrictions would only reignite the issues raised by the objectors to the Merivale North Parking Plan.
- (b) Lawn bowls is played on the outdoor greens between end of October and end of March, and any parking restriction would only benefit club users while unfairly inconveniencing residents and commuters who need unrestricted parking in the area throughout the entire year.
- (c) It has been shown on the plan (attachment 2) that there is ample parking available on the side streets within the same walking distance (244 metres) as the area the bowling club requested restrictions and exemptions for in St Albans Street.
- (d) If the suggested P120 parking restrictions are implemented, commuter parking will be pushed further out along St Albans Street and into surrounding streets and this will create even more parking problems throughout the whole year.
- (e) There is no mechanism to create exemptions from parking restrictions for specific groups within the community.
- (f) The Club could consider promoting and encouraging their members and visitors to car-pool, and to practice drop-off/pick-up at the club while parking on the nearby side streets.

- (g) While some Mall workers are now parking on St Albans Street, there is no evidence to support the claim made by the Club about the lack of opportunities for other road users to park on St Albans Street and side streets. This is verified by observations made during a number of site visits.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

19. Nil.

#### **Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?**

20. There will be no cost to the Council if the recommendation by staff is adopted.

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

21. There are no legal implications for the Council if no changes are made to on-street parking.

#### **Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

22. There are no legal implications for the Council if no changes are made to on-street parking.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

23. No change recommended, therefore not applicable.

#### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?**

24. Not applicable.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

25. The recommendations align with the Council Strategies including the Parking Strategy 2003 and the Road Safety Strategy 2004.

#### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's Strategies?**

26. As above.

#### **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

27. No consultation was carried out as no changes are proposed to be made to the current on-street parking arrangement.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board's Works, Traffic and Environment Committee recommends that the Board decline the suggested P120 (11am to 3pm) parking restrictions on St Albans Street and special exemptions for the St Albans/Merivale Bowling Club users.