

# Report of the Strategic Director, Place to the meeting of Shipley Area Committee to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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## **Subject:**

**Petition: Use of Parking Buddies on the Highway**

## **Summary statement:**

**Wilsden Parish Council in good faith purchased a form of traffic management (Parking Buddies) on advice provided by the Highways Department. Subsequently it has been discovered that the use of Parking Buddies is contrary to Highway statutes and are unable to be used in the fashion intended.**

## **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

Due consideration is given to Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 when developing all Safer Roads schemes

It is expected that there will be no disproportionate impact from the items recommended for implementation within this report; however, any elements where a potential disproportionate impact is identified, through more detailed investigation and design, will be subject to Equality Impact Assessments.

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Jason Longhurst  
Strategic Director Place

Report Contact: Simon D'Vali  
Phone: (01535) 618375  
E-mail: [simon.dvali@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:simon.dvali@bradford.gov.uk)

## **Portfolio:**

**Regeneration, Planning and Transport**

## **Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Regeneration and Environment**



## **1. SUMMARY**

Information provided to Wilsden Parish Council by the Highways office on the use of Parking Buddies has turned out to be incorrect. It is wholly appropriate for the Parish Council to be reimbursed for their costs.

As per the Council's petitions procedure, this petition will be considered by Shipley Area Committee as it received in excess of 20 signatures and the option of the petition to be deferred to Officers was taken.

The petition states:

In 2019, Wilsden Parish Council, Wilsden Primary School and the Wilsden Branch of the Women's Institute together purchased Parking Buddies to make the pupils of Wilsden Primary School safer. Wilsden Parish Council wrote to the Highways Department at CBMDC and received guidance of how the Parking Buddies should be deployed in line with Highways Department's requirements.

Highways has now changed the advice received by the Wilsden Parish Council in 2019 and are telling schools that the Parking Buddies may no longer be deployed. The Parish Council and the School wish to petition Shipley Area Committee to permit Parking Buddies to be reinstated and working again to keep pupils safer from traffic.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In 2019, Wilsden Parish Council contacted the highways office regarding the use of Parking Buddies on the highway.
- 2.2 In consultation with the Road Safety Office, permission was granted for the use of this resource, and a purchase was made.
- 2.3 After discussions with the Network Manager, the Principal Engineer for Highways North asked the Parish Council not to use this resource on the network. This is namely due to an obstruction on the Highway, breaching S.137, S.141 and S.171 of the Highways Act (1980)
- 2.4 As a way of using the resource, Highways and Road Safety asked the Parish Council if the Parking Buddies could be sited on School Grounds or attached to the school railings.
- 2.5 The Parish Council has received conflicting advice from the DfT explaining that the use of Parking Buddies is a localised matter for Bradford Council, despite the council receiving contradictory information from the DfT explaining that the resource is non-compliant and would not be authorised for use on the highway.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Bradford Council is clear about the use of these obstructive objects in the highway where there is a liability. There are other methods of management and education

the council can and will deploy in Wilsden and other locations in the district where requested.

- 3.2 It is appropriate for the Council to reimburse the Town Council with regard to the purchase cost of the Parking Buddies.

#### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 The financial reimbursement can be provided by locally held budgets.

#### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

There are no risk management implications.

#### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 6.1 There are no significant legal issues arising from this issue.

#### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

##### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no sustainability implications.

##### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

There are no implications regarding greenhouse gas emissions impacts.

##### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

The Council will work closely with Wilsden Parish Council and the school to provide any and all road safety resources available.

##### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are no Human Rights issues.

##### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

There are no Trade Union issues.

##### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

This issue pertains to the Wilsden district but could have wider implications for the Bradford district.

##### **7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

Whilst this issue pertains to the Shipley Area Committee, any outcomes could have an impact on the Bradford district.

## **8. OPTIONS**

### Option 1

That the costs are reimbursed to the Town Council and an alternative use of the resource is found along with an agreed course of action that supports the Town Council and Wilsden Primary School in safer roads issues.

### Option 2

The committee may wish to refer this report to the Council's Executive.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the Committee resolves to request that the Council reimburses the Town Council for the cost of the Parking buddies and an alternative use of this resource is found (Option 1);
- 9.2 That the Committee requests that the Traffic and Highways North office and the Road Safety Team work closely with Wilsden Parish Council and Wilsden Primary School to alleviate safety concerns in the vicinity of the school and beyond.

## **10. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Letter from the DfT

Appendix 2: Email from the DfT