



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of General Committee**

From: **Cynthia Fletcher**
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services

Meeting Date: **October 13, 2020**

Subject: **Report IPSTR20-030**
Change to Parking Restrictions on Briarhill Road

Purpose

A report to recommend the implementation of No Stopping prohibitions on Briarhill Road.

Recommendations

That Council approves the recommendations outlined in Report IPSTR20-030 dated October 13, 2020, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services, as follows:

- a) That a No Stopping Prohibition be implemented on Briarhill Road from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive; and
- b) That a By-law be approved to amend the appropriate Schedules and Articles of Parking By-law 09-136 to authorize implementation of Recommendation a).

Budget and Financial Implications

Implementation of the recommended No Stopping restriction on Briarhill Road will cost approximately \$1,000, funds for which are available in the 2020 annual sign maintenance budget.

Background

Briarhill Road is a cul-de-sac that dead ends at a walkway serving Westmount Public School. The street is a rural cross section with no sidewalks, nor curb and gutter. The pavement surface is narrow at only 7.5 m in width. No Parking signs are currently in place on Briarhill Road throughout the cul-de-sac and on both sides of the road, however; there have been numerous complaints and safety concerns raised about parking on this street. A sketch of the subject area is shown in Appendix A.

The school safety protocols require children up to a certain grade to enter the school yard accompanied by an adult and they also require parents to have eye to eye contact with the yard supervisor before they leave their children in their care. This requires that parents of younger children must park in an appropriate area and walk their child to the school yard. Since Briarhill Road does not have any sidewalks, the parents walking their children to school must walk on the road to do so.

Parents of older children can drop their children off, and the children may exit and walk into the school yard unaccompanied. Due to the convenient location, parents continue to frequently use Briarhill Road as an access point to drop children off at school. While doing so they often block both sides of the roadway, park on the boulevard, or sometimes park in the residential driveways.

The current “No Parking” regulations are not sufficient to completely prohibit this drop off behaviour. Under the Highway Traffic Act (and the City’s Parking By-Law), designating an area for No Parking prohibits parking a vehicle on the street unless the motorist is engaged in the loading or unloading of passengers or merchandise. Enforcement staff can only issue tickets for vehicles that park in such a manner as to block a driveway, block access to a fire hydrant, or park on the grass boulevard.

Since Briarhill Road does not have a sidewalk, when the parents of older children drive down the road to drop their children off, a conflict between motorists and pedestrians walking on the roadway is created. Due to the narrow width of the street this conflict becomes much worse during the winter months when snowbanks restrict the width of the roadway surface. The combination of snowbanks and vehicles parked on both sides of the road caused safety concerns that the road would be too narrow for emergency vehicles to have appropriate access. Fire Services have attended in the past to confirm these concerns. Last year the City posted emergency no parking signs during the winter months, to prevent vehicles from parking on both sides of the road.

In April of 2018, Council approved Report USTR18-009 – Provision of Sidewalks on Wildlark Gate and Briarhill Road. Recommendation b) of this report proposed the creation of a capital project for the draft 2019 budget to facilitate reconstruction of Briarhill Road to provide an urban section with a sidewalk on the north side, from Wallis Drive to the east end of the street connecting with the walkway to Westmount Public School. The report noted that installing a sidewalk without urbanizing the roadway would be throwaway infrastructure when the road is reconstructed due to the grading changes that are likely to occur, and the installation of a temporary sidewalk would cost almost as much as the full reconstruction and would potentially increase drainage concerns on the roadway. The project to reconstruct Briarhill Road and provide sidewalks was deferred in 2019 and again in the 2020 budget due to capital budget constraints.

In January 2020, staff received a formal request from the Ward Councillors and area residents to consider changes to the current parking restrictions on Briarhill Road, while waiting for funding approval for the larger capital project.

To address the issue of parent drop-off of school children along Briarhill Road, a “No Stopping” restriction is proposed, effective Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The change in the restrictions would prevent all parents from stopping or parking on the street during the normal school drop off and pick up times while allowing the residents or visitors to park on the street during non-school times. While there is some risk that enacting new restrictions at this location will push the parking drop off problem to other neighbourhoods, these proposed restrictions are similar to changes to parking restrictions that were implemented on other streets in the surrounding neighbourhood.

Implementation of the new restrictions should also prevent the need for posting Emergency No Parking signs each year.

Parking Survey

In accordance with existing policy, staff surveyed the households on Briarhill Road asking residents to indicate their choice for parking restrictions on their street. The survey included the 4 households that are directly affected by the parking restrictions and the results of the survey are as follows:

	No of Surveys returned	Percentage of total surveys issued
No Stopping	4	100%
Leave as it	0	0.0%
No Response	0	0.0%

The criterion to initiate parking changes on a residential street is that a minimum of 60% of the households surveyed agree to the changes.

The results indicate that 100% of residents support no stopping during specified times. In response to this, staff is recommending the posting of a No Stopping restriction be implemented on Briarhill Road during specified times.

Summary

The parking survey results met the minimum criteria to implement changes to parking restrictions on a residential street. The implementation of a No Stopping prohibition on Briarhill Road from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive will address the most serious safety issues between vehicle parking and pedestrians walking on the street, while awaiting capital funding for the urbanization of Briarhill Road and construction of a permanent sidewalk.

Submitted by

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Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services

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Attachment:

Appendix A – Briarhill Road Area

Appendix A – Briarhill Road Study Area

