

Item No. 2
Halifax Regional Council
June 18, 2013

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

SUBMITTED BY:

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Director, Transportation & Public Works

DATE: May 27, 2013

SUBJECT: Parking on Ballathie Crescent and Kinclaven Drive

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 9.2.2 raised at the April 23, 2013, meeting of Halifax Regional Council. Councillor Dalrymple submitted a petition containing 37 signatures from residents of Ballathie Crescent and Kinclaven Drive requesting HRM deal with problem parking on the streets by students attending Lockview High School. Residents are requesting that HRM put up no parking signs sporadically along the street, allowing parking here and there which would distribute the congestion. The residents are suggesting that where parking is allowed those spots be parking by permit only.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 31 "Petitions and Communications" of Administrative Order Number One Respecting the Procedures of the Council.

BACKGROUND

Ballathie Crescent and Kinclaven Drive are local roads in Fall River and are both nine meters in width. There are currently no parking signs (no parking 8am-4pm Monday to Friday) installed on the south side of Kinclaven Drive from civic #52 to civic #28. There is also one no parking anytime sign on the north side of Kinclaven Drive at civic #51 which prohibits parking east of Ballathie Crescent.

DISCUSSION

According to HRM's residential on-street parking policy:

The policy procedure may be initiated through the completion of a petition with signatures (one per address) representing a majority of households and businesses on the candidate street block. The petition should indicate the street block to be considered for parking restriction review.

Staff will review the street, its existing parking restrictions (if any), width, grade, alignment, and if any special cases exist on the street (i.e. businesses, bus stops). This review will determine the number of valid parking spaces on each street, the number of sides on which parking can be accommodated, which is the preferred side if parking can exist safely on only one side and what parking restrictions (if any) would be acceptable under good traffic engineering practice and in consideration of nearby non-residential land uses.

The residents of Kinclaven Drive and Ballathie Crescent are permitted to submit a petition to the Traffic Authority for the installation of restrictive parking signs. Street width on Kinclaven Drive and Ballathie Crescent are both nine metres in width and are therefore wide enough to accommodate dual sided parking and parking restrictions; such as no-parking signs, are not required from a safety perspective on either Kinclaven Drive or Ballathie Crescent and the petition for the installation of additional no-parking signs would be rejected.

The local residents have concerns with the number of students from Lockview High School parking on the streets. Lockview High School is located off Lockview Road in Fall River. The student population of the high school is approximately 1200 students and 100 faculty and staff. The school administration advised that there are 85 on-site parking spots for faculty and 85 on-site assigned parking spots for students. Students can apply for a free parking pass each year; however, grade 12 students are given priority and only 85 passes are issued. Students unable to get a parking pass must park on public roadways near the school which is similar to other schools in the Municipality. Parking is not permitted on Lockview Road because it is 8.5m in width south of Kinclaven Drive, and it is classified as a minor collector road. There were also sightline concerns from residents because most of the driveways are sloped down from the road, parked vehicles obstruct a clear view of oncoming traffic. Kinclaven Drive and Ballathie Crescent are the closest streets to the school where parking is permitted. A path way off Kinclaven Drive leads to the sports fields at the school which shortens the walk that students have in order to get to school. See Attachment 1.

In the absence of signage, the rules and regulations for parking are found in multiple sections of the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act. For example, it is not permissible to park within 5m of a hydrant, park in front of and block access into a driveway, or park within 10m of a stop sign (Section 143 of the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act). Some parking restrictions were erected on the south side of Kinclaven Drive in 2010 around the path entrance and on the north side of Kinclaven Drive in 2012 to improve sightlines turning from Ballathie Crescent. See Attachment 2.

A site visit was conducted on Tuesday, April 29, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. and a total of 54 vehicles were parked in the area. It was not possible to determine how many vehicles belonged to students or residents, but the majority were likely students. See attachment 3 for a graphical summary of the parked vehicles on April 29, 2013.

There were six vehicles parked on the north side of Kinclaven Drive from Lockview Road to Ballathie Crescent, 18 vehicles parked on Kinclaven Drive from Ballathie Crescent to Ballathie Crescent and one vehicle parked on Kinclaven Drive west of Ballathie Crescent. No vehicles were parked on the south side of Kinclaven Drive.

On the east leg of Ballathie Crescent there were six vehicles parked on the east side and eight vehicles parked on the west side. On the west leg of Ballathie Crescent, there were five vehicles parked on the east side and ten vehicles parked on the west side. No vehicles were blocking driveways but four vehicles were parked in the “no parking” zone in front of civic #51 Kinclaven Drive. In addition, there were a few vehicles that could have been ticketed for parking too far from the curb (Section 156 of the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act).

On Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. there were a total of two vehicles parked on Ballathie Crescent and none on Kinclaven Drive. These vehicles most likely belonged to local residents as school dismissal is 3:25 p.m.

On Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 2:45 p.m. there were a total of 49 vehicles parked in the area. The no parking sign at civic #51 was missing so the vehicles parked at this location are not parked illegally. The post base was broken in the ground and the post and sign were missing. HRM Municipal Operations was advised and a Hansen service request was created to replace the missing sign (SR #5742469). See attachment 4 for a graphical summary of the parked vehicles on May 16, 2013.

On the east leg of Ballathie Crescent there were five vehicles parked on the east side and eight vehicles parked on the west side. On the west leg of Ballathie Crescent, there were six vehicles parked on the east side and four vehicles parked on the west side. On Kinclaven Drive there were five vehicles parked east of Ballathie Crescent, 18 vehicles parked between Ballathie Crescent and Ballathie Crescent and three vehicles west of Ballathie Crescent. Of the 18 vehicles parked between Ballathie Crescent and Ballathie Crescent three were parked in a no parking zone, however; the sign was not present meaning it was not illegal to park here during this time. No vehicles were parked on the south side of Kinclaven Drive.

A potential concern with stripping parking from Ballathie Crescent and/or Kinclaven Drive is that the students will be forced to find parking elsewhere on a different street or further up these streets, which is just displacing this concern further away from the school. Additionally, traffic studies show that speeds on a street are directly related to effective roadway width. By removing parking, effective road width would be increased and there is a possibility that vehicle speeds on these roads could increase. Even with the students parked not all available parking spots are being utilized and residents and guests could still find on street parking if they wished.

Parking by permit only zones are permitted in areas of high parking demand where local residents are unable to park their own vehicles or provide space for visitors. Typically, these areas are in older areas on the Halifax peninsula where years of development without the requirement to provide adequate parking for tenants, students and employees has forced parkers on to neighbouring residential streets. Where residential streets do not have driveways or alleys these parkers make it difficult for local residents to park their own vehicles or provide parking for guests. All residents on Kinclaven Drive and Ballathie Crescent have private driveways to accommodate parking. In addition, even with students parking in the neighbourhood there remains ample on-street parking for local residents or their guests.

HRM's parking policy permits parking on both sides of a street that is nine meters in width or greater. Parking could be prohibited or restricted on nine meters wide streets due to sight distance because of hills and/or curves. Both Kinclaven Drive and Ballathie Crescent are nine meters in width, do not have any sightline restrictions and therefore can accommodate dual sided parking.

Local residents have also expressed concerns that parked vehicles make it unsafe for pedestrians. With parked vehicles, pedestrians are required to walk out from the road because there is no sidewalk. Due to the relatively low traffic volumes and low traffic vehicle speeds on these streets the potential for conflict is reduced and the requirement to install no parking signs is not required from a safety perspective.

The concerns with littering and unsafe driving conditions will be forwarded to Halifax Regional Police, as this is outside the area of our responsibility.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was not deemed to be necessary in this process because decisions were based on operational procedures

ATTACHMENTS

- A1 – Aerial Plan of Kinclaven Drive
- A2 – Existing Parking Restrictions
- A3 – April 29, 2013 Parked Vehicles
- A4 – May 16, 2013 Parked Vehicles

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Stephen Dalrymple, Traffic Analyst, 490-4859

Original Signed

Report Approved by: Tanya Davis, P.Eng., A/Manager Traffic Services, 490-8425

Attachment 1- Aerial Plan of Kinclaven Drive



The map shows Ballathie Crescent, a curved residential street. To the north is High Rd, to the east is Lockview Rd, and to the south is Kinclaven Dr. Property numbers are displayed on various lots along the street. Two sets of parking signs are indicated:

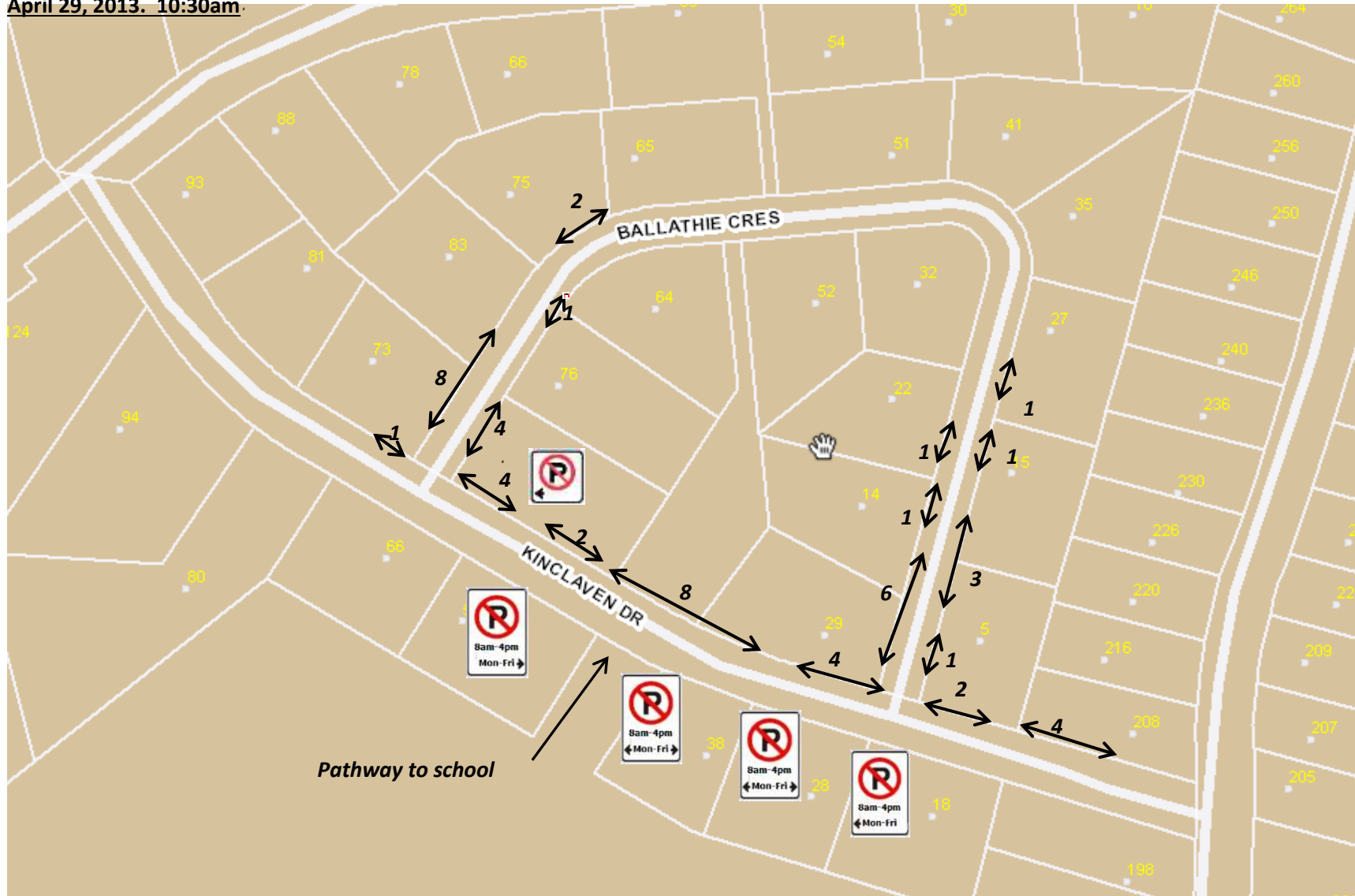
- SIGN ERECTED 2012:** A single 'No Parking' sign (a red circle with a diagonal line over a blue 'P') is located on the west side of Ballathie Crescent, near property 76.
- SIGNS ERECTED 2010:** Four time-restricted parking signs are shown. These are rectangular signs with a blue background, a red circle with a diagonal line over a blue 'P', and the text '8am-4pm Mon-Fri' with arrows pointing in both directions. They are located on the south side of Ballathie Crescent, near properties 52, 38, 28, and 18.

~~SIGN ERECTED 2012~~

SIGNS ERECTED 2010

Attachment 3 – April 29th, 2013 Parked Vehicles

April 29, 2013. 10:30am.



Attachment 4 – May 16th , 2013 Parked Vehicles

May 16 2013. 2:45pm

NOTE: RB-51 (no parking sign) at Civic #51 was missing. MOPS was advised.

