

Division(s) affected: *Isis*

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

22 MAY 2025

OXFORD: CHURCH WAY, IFFLEY – PROPOSED FOUR HOUR PARKING BAYS

Report by Director of Environment and Highways

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Approve the proposals for two new parking bays, restricted to 'Monday to Sunday, 8am to 6.30pm, 4 hours, No return within 2 hours' in Church Way & Mill Lane, Iffley as advertised.**

Executive Summary

1. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on proposals to introduce two new longer stay four-hour parking bays 8am to 6.30pm on all days (with permit holders not exempted) in Church Way & Mill Lane, Iffley as shown in **Annex 1**.
2. Following the Cabinet Member for Transport Management's decision in November 2024 to approve the Controlled Parking Zone for the wider Iffley area, Officers agreed to investigate options for potential longer stay parking in the vicinity of St Mary's Church due to concerns raised about the lack of longer parking provision spaces available for those using the church facilities.
3. As a result, Officers have identified suitable locations on Church Way & Mill Lane adjacent to the Church to implement new '4 hour parking places' for approximately six 'standard-sized' motor vehicles.
4. Enforcement of the restrictions would be undertaken by the County Council's enforcement contractor Trellint, as Iffley falls within the Civil Enforcement Area for Oxford City.

Sustainability Implications

5. The proposals will provide additional parking capacity (for up to approx. 6 vehicles) for longer stay parking in the vicinity of St Mary's Church due to concerns raised about the lack of longer parking provision spaces available for those using the church facilities.

Financial Implications

6. Funding for consultation on the proposals (and implementation if approved) has been provided by the County Councils revenue budget.

Legal Implications

7. The consultation that has been undertaken complies with the consultation requirements for the various elements as required by law including under the Highways Act 1980, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and any other relevant legislation.
8. The scheme has been promoted by Oxfordshire County Council as the Highway Authority and Traffic Authority under the Highways Act 1980, and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Comments checked by:

Jennifer Crouch (Head of Law - Environmental)

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Equalities and Inclusion Implications

9. No negative implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

Formal Consultation

10. Formal consultation was carried out between 06 February and 21 March 2025. A notice was published in the Oxford Times, and an email was sent to statutory consultees & key-stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport/access & disabled peoples user groups, Oxford City Council, local City Cllr's, and the local County Councillor representing the Isis division.
11. Additionally, a letter was sent directly to approximately 73 properties in the area adjacent to the proposals, and street notices were also placed on site in the immediate vicinity.

12. Relevant parish/town councils, and local Cllrs (including County, District, Parish, Town) were also encouraged to use the consultation documents provided to publicise the proposals amongst local residents as necessary.
13. An additional email & letter was sent to the statutory consultees, key-stakeholders and local residents on the 24th February, and an updated press notice published on the 27th following the identification of a minor error in text detailing the proposals as originally advertised, in that the restrictions were proposed to cover all days (i.e. 'Monday to Sunday') as opposed to the 'Monday to Saturday' as originally stated. Site notices were also replaced on site to confirm the correction.
14. 21 responses were received via the online consultation survey during the course of the formal consultation, comprising of: four objections (19%), five partially supporting (24%), and 12 in support (57%).
15. The 'Friends of Iffley Village' group response was in partial support for the proposal (as counted above), citing concerns about visual impact and that signage should be kept to a minimum in this Grade 1 listed and conservation area environment.
16. In addition, a further four emails were received directly, with Thames Valley Police & Oxford Bus Company expressing no objections, and two local residents offering their support.
17. The full responses are shown in **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors. Any comments received that Officers identify as containing personal abuse and/or other personal information will be redacted as appropriate.

Officer Response to Objections/Concerns

18. Overall, responses to the consultation are in support of the proposed new parking bays, but some concerns have been raised, with the key themes in responses including the following:

Support for longer parking provision

19. Many commenters support the need for 4-hour or longer parking bays to accommodate church and village hall activities, which often require extended parking times for events like weddings, funerals, and community activities.

Insufficient number of spaces

20. Several people believe that the current proposal of only approx. six spaces is inadequate and suggest that more spaces are needed, particularly in areas where residents have long drives and do not need to park on the street.

Inadequate time limit

21. Some believe that even four hours may not be sufficient for certain events, and there are concerns about the potential for misuse by people parking for other purposes.

Visual impact and signage

22. There are also concerns about the visual impact of signage in the conservation area, with requests for minimal and appropriate signage.
23. The comments highlight a mix of support and opposition, with a common theme of balancing the needs of the church and village hall with those of local residents.

Officer comments

24. During the initial design stages of the parking proposals, officers did assess the possibility of installing a different style of parking bay (echelon styled bays) which could provide a additional space or two, however when officers undertook a vehicle tracking assessment, it highlighted that the movement of larger vehicles, such as refuse vehicles, fire engines etc. would be impacted by the bays being installed at this angle. It was therefore agreed that parallel bays accommodating up to 6 vehicles would be more suitable for this area.
25. The proposed 4-hour limit provides motorists with an option to park for longer periods than the current arrangement of 3 hours in the immediate CPZ area, but still allows for a reasonable turnover of vehicles utilising the proposed bays. Visitors can park in the bay(s) for 4 hours and then move their vehicle if required into the wider CPZ for a further 3 hours. This then allows for a total parking stay of 7 hours during the restricted hours of Monday – Sunday 8am – 6.30pm.
26. As the proposed is to introduce new parking bays, these will need to be marked out on the highway in white paint to the standard 1028.3 marking in the Traffic Signs Regulations. As is usual practise when implementing new parking restrictions in a conservation area, any associated signage will be carefully looked at and where possible mounted on a wall instead of installing new posts. Due to the size of the proposed bays, only 1 sign will be required for each bay to meet regulatory requirements and therefore not impact adversely visually.

Paul Fermer
Director of Environment and Highways

Annexes

Annex 1: Consultation Plan
Annex 2: Consultation responses

Contact Officers:

Vicki Neville (Senior Officer – TRO & Schemes)
James Whiting (Team Leader – TRO & Schemes)

May 2025

Drawing No. IF/CPZ/2025/001

Revision v1

Key

Existing 'No waiting at any time' restrictions (double yellow lines)


Proposed new time limited parking bays Monday to Sunday 8am - 6.30pm 4 hours no return within 2 hours

Bays to provide approx.6 parking spaces.

Any associated signage could be installed on walls

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

 **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Project title

IFFLEY
PERMIT PARKING AREA
(PPA)

Drawing title

PROPOSED TIME LIMITED PARKING BAYS
CHURCH WAY
IFFLEY

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
1:1000	VN	JW	JW
	Date drawn 17.12.2024	Date checked	Date approved

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No. IF/CPZ/2025/001

Revision v1

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ANNEX 2

A. Email responses:

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(e1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(e2) Head of Built Environment and Infrastructure, (Oxford Bus Company)	No objection – This doesn't affect any bus services and we have no comment to make.
(e3) Local resident, (unknown)	<p>Support – Can you please clarify further – You state 'Permit holders will not be exempt, and as such will also only be able to park for the maximum of 4 hours at any one time during the restricted period'. Will there still be spaces on Mill Lane where residents can legally park with a permit for an unlimited time? I presume residents will not be entirely prohibited from longer than 4-hour parking, just prohibited in the 'general' spots.</p> <p>If this is the case, then I'm happy to support your revised plan.</p>
(e4) Local resident, (unknown)	Support – Can I please add my support to the call for new four-hour parking bays for visitors to Iffley Church and Church Hall, on which, I understand, the County Council is currently consulting.

B. Online responses:

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(o1) As part of a group/organisation, (St Mary's Church Iffley)	Object – Four hours not always long enough

(o2) Local resident, (Iffley, Church Way)	Object – In my experience parking in Oxford privileges the financial segment of the equation failing to take account the social element. I have lived near Church Way for over year. Not once have I found parking a problem in the section of Church Way from Adderbury road to the church., If there is an event at the Village hall then one takes that into account and behaves flexibly. Not difficult. The Village Hall is a benefit for the area, these lines appear to turn this benefit into a negative. Why does finance always trump social well being. The council does appear to prefer the punitive and there comes a time when those of living here wonder why this is so. Where did 171 votes come from, unlikely from the upper section of Church Way where there are no more than 15 houses.
(o3) As part of a group/organisation, (Oxford, Courtland Road)	Object – 4 hours by the church is not enough, especially for some funerals and weddings. This coming Sunday 2nd March I have a problem. I am speaking at the 10am service so need to be parked by 9.45 am. After the service I am involved in helping with serving coffee in the hall for the congregation after the service. I am expected at the Rectory at 12pm to help the Vicar set up for the teenagers group , which finishes at 1.30pm. The vicar and I then discuss the meeting until 2pm. I therefore need to be parked for 4 hours and 15 minutes.
(o4) Local resident, (Iffley, Mill Lane)	Object – We strongly object to this proposal. As residents of Mill Lane a number of our immediate neighbours have no parking - wherr are they supposed to leave their cars. They are elderly and cannot walk hundreds of yards with shopping or indeed anything else. This is designed to facillitate parking for the hall and the church which is good but not at the expense of residents.
(o5) Local resident, (Iffley, Church way)	Partially support – If a four hour parking bay is approved, this obviously has the potential for anybody coming into Iffley to park there rather than the two or three hour parking bays so I am not sure how this would benefit the church.
(o6) Local resident, (Iffley, Eastchurch)	Partially support – Am totally in support of need to have 4 hour (or longer) for church and village hall use but the current proposal for only six spaces is laughably insufficient
(o7) Local resident, (iffley, Eastchurch)	Partially support – There is no need for a cpz at all south of the junction of Church Way and Abberbury but if there is to be one there need to be far more than six longer stay spaces. I suggest that Abberbury Road (and Avenue) would be a good location as all residents have long drives and no need to park in the road themselves

(o8) As part of a group/organisation, Friends of Iffley Village)	Partially support – strongly supports in principle the wishes of the church authorities in requesting 4 hour parking provision in order to support visitors to the church and the church hall. We have concerns, however, that visual impact and signage should be kept to a minimum in this Grade 1 listed and conservation area environment. We have already queried via the County Councillor, Brad Baines, whether your signage can go onto listed walls (as you propose) but understand that you have not yet reviewed whether this is permissible. We should be grateful for direct engagement / a site meeting on your proposals prior to implementation.
(o9) Local resident, (Iffley, Mill lane)	Partially support – I responded earlier to say that I objected to this plan. We were sent 2 envelopes - one did not have a map of where the plans were and my understanding of the description of Mill Lane parking was the southern section of Mill Lane. In fact when we opened the second letter the plan enclosed showed it to be a small area by the church. This is not going to affect the residents of Mill Lane. Therefore I have no objections
(o10) Local resident, (Iffley, Abberbury Road)	Support – Church services and Church events - baptisms, special evening services, etc - can often run longer than normal service times. Making people worry about running afoul of parking time limits would cause needless stress and interfere with the aim of these ministries.
(o11) Local resident, (Iffley, Abberbury Road)	Support – elderly and disabled access to the church and church hall
(o12) Local resident, (Iffley, Anne Greenwood Close)	Support – I am a member of the congregation of Iffley church. The hire of the church hall during weekdays is an essential source of income for maintaining our glorious ancient church, and we would have more difficulty finding hirers if there was no parking. It is impossible to provide a car park for the church and hall so on-street parking is essential. Also, some church events can require more than three hours parking. The parking problems in the past have primarily been with commuters parking near the bus route on Henley Avenue, they would not walk 15 minutes to the far end of Church Way.
(o13) As part of a group/organisation, St Mary's Church Iffley)	Support – This would be a very welcome and helpful measure to assist those needing to organise or attend longer functions in the Church and/or Hall. The introduction of the parking restrictions has caused a lot of uncertainty for some of our principal regular Hall hirers who need the longer term parking and we are already noticing a reduction in regular hall bookings, so the proposed 4 hour parking should be helpful.

(o14) As part of a group/organisation, (Oxford, Fairacres Road)	Support – I am a member of the Church of St Mary the Virgin at Iffley, and the introduction of 4-hour bays is very important to ensure that the congregation and the many visitors we receive have enough time to attend the full range of church activities. There are also many community activities in the church hall during the week which require parking facilities of up to 4 hours.
(o15) Local resident, (Oxford, Iffley Road)	Support – Essential for all kinds of church activities including marriages, funerals etc
(o16) Local resident, (Iffley, Maywood Road)	Support – The church and village hall are an essential part of village life. Many of the users are elderly and infirm. Driving them away because they cannot park for services and events is bad for the village. This should have been considered in the original plan and consultation.
(o17) Local resident, (Iffley, Mill Lane)	Support – We did not even want CPZ in Mill Lane in the first place so I suppose the four hour limit is better than two hours. It is harmful to the church and also to the Isis Farmhouse, both of which often have clients using the church hall or the public house for events lasting more than four hours.
(o18) Local resident, (Iffley, Sheepway Court)	Support – There are sometimes two services close together. Performers in the hall arrive for rehearsals before concerts, so can be there for longer than 3 hours.
(o19) Local resident, (Oxford, Sheepway Court)	Support – This proposal will help the church and the nearby church hall better to perform their functions, and therefore better support the religious and civic interests of the residents of Iffley and the many visitors to the village.
(o20) Local resident, (Iffley, Tree Lane)	Support – I agree that provision of parking for those attending Iffley church & church hall events is needed

<p>(o21) As part of a group/organisation, (St Mary's Church Iffley)</p>	<p>Support – I am a deputy churchwarden helping with services, funerals, weddings, coffee duties after church, church events. I need to be at church at 9am when on duty and sometimes needed until/after 1pm for a funeral or baptism. 4hrs should just about cover me as I live outside the OM zone. I would need to consider restricting my duties if I am not able to park past 3hrs.</p>
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