

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 12 SEPTEMBER 2019**

### **WITNEY, HIGHWORTH PLACE: PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

**Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery, Communities**

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve proposed waiting restrictions on both sides of Highworth Place, Witney including at its southern junction with The Croft; the existing restrictions at the northern junction with the Croft to be retained.

#### **Executive summary**

2. Waiting restrictions are reviewed when there are changes to the road layout or usage as a result of development and when requested by the local member or local councils due to concerns over parking obstructing traffic and/or being detrimental to road safety.

#### **Introduction**

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce no waiting at any time restrictions on both sides of Highworth Place, Witney including at its southern junction with The Croft; the existing restrictions at the northern junction with the Croft to be retained.

#### **Background**

4. The above proposal as shown at Annex 1 has been put forward at the request of the local member in response to concerns over safety and the obstruction of traffic arising from parking in the area.

#### **Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 5 June and 5 July 2019. A public notice was placed in the Witney Gazette newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, West Oxfordshire District Council, Witney Town Council and the local County Councillor. Street notices were placed on site and letters sent to approximately 35 properties in the immediate vicinity adjacent to the proposals.

6. Twenty-two responses were received. 1 objection, 2 neither supporting nor objecting, and 19 (86%) in support (albeit the Town Council have some concerns). The responses are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

### **Response to objections and other comments**

7. Thames Valley Police did not object to the proposals noting that they would address long standing problems in this narrow road but noted that residents needed to be aware that the proposed restrictions will apply to their own vehicles as well as non-residents parking here. The police also noted that West Oxfordshire District Council (rather than the police) are responsible for parking enforcement in the district.
8. Witney Town Council expressed support for the proposals should these also be supported by residents, but also expressed the view that they were not the ideal solution and that a wider review of parking in and near the town centre was required and in particular existing longer stay (8 hour) parking spaces. It is accepted that such a review would be desirable but is outside the scope of the current proposal which, it is noted, is widely supported by the residents responding to this consultation.
9. One objection was received from a resident who, while acknowledging the need for better management of the parking, expressed the view that the current proposal was not fair to residents who did not have off-street parking and that a residents' parking scheme would be a much more equitable and acceptable approach. A response was also received from a resident stating that their property was the only one in Highworth Place without off-street parking and expressing neither support or an objection but noting that the proposal would lead to their having to park further away from their home resulting in inconvenience and requested a resident's permit to address this difficulty.
10. The above concerns are noted and while it is accepted that as part of a possible wider review of parking as referred to above, it would be appropriate to consider the introduction of a residents' parking scheme that is unfortunately beyond the scope of the current scheme.
11. Eighteen expressions of support were received from residents, many of whom expressed concerns over current parking obstructing the passage of traffic and particularly delays to emergency vehicles and other servicing vehicles and difficulties for vehicles turning to and from driveways. Strong concerns were also expressed over parked vehicles blocking the footway creating hazards for pedestrians including those with buggies and wheelchair users.
12. Noting that the balance of opinion is predominantly very supportive of the proposals officers are recommending that the restrictions as advertised be progressed now given the severe difficulties experienced in the road as a result of the current parking. Regarding comments for introduction of a residents' parking scheme officers feel it would be appropriate for that to be done as part of a wider review of parking in Witney.

## **How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives**

13. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

## **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

14. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by the Councillor's Priority Fund.



OWEN JENKINS  
Director for Community Operations

Background papers:        Plan of proposed waiting restrictions  
   Consultation responses

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September 2019

**Key**

	Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time'
	Existing 'No Waiting at Any Time'

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**Project title**  
 PROPOSED 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME'

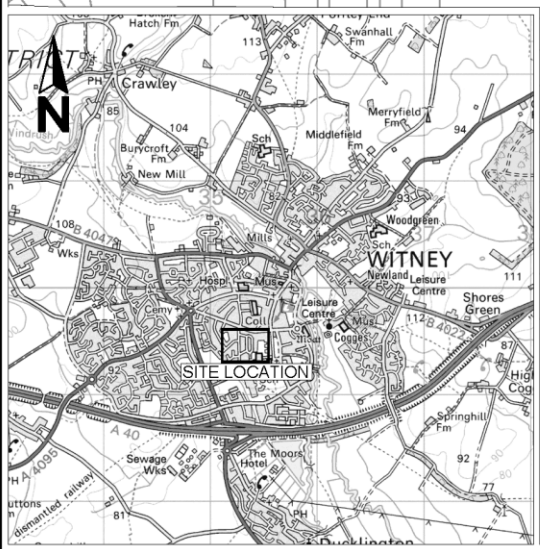
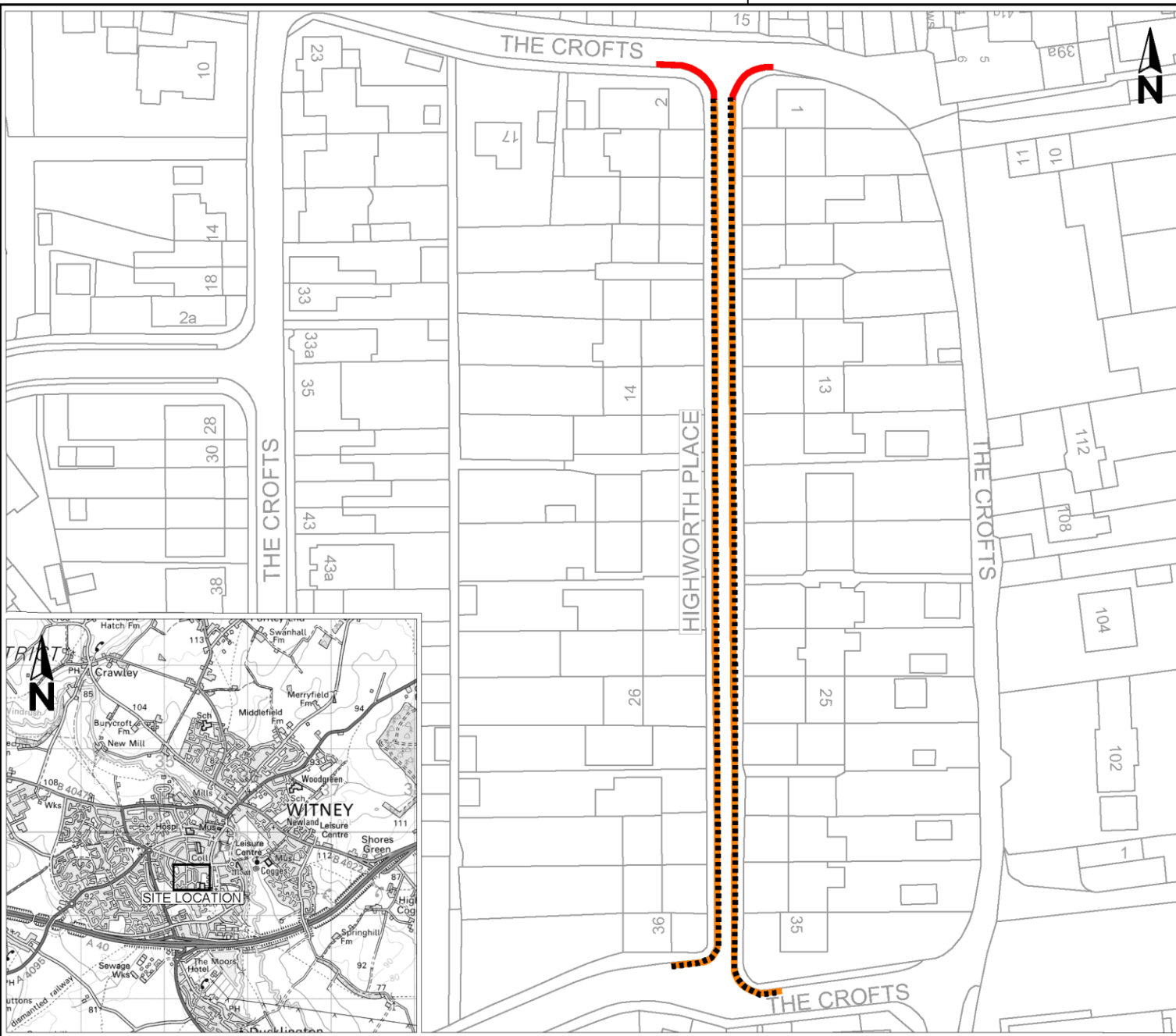
**Drawing title**  
 WITNEY  
 HIGHWORTH PLACE

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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>No objection</b> – have visited the location and am aware of the historic problems in these narrow residential roads. Parking and obstruction have come to police notice and these measures could improve access and raise awareness to residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>It is important that residents are aware the restrictions apply to all users without any resident parking allowance or distraction for the enforcement agency which is West Oxon /Glos consortium not Police.</p>
(2) Witney Town Council	<p><b>Support</b> (with concerns) – WTC does not see these restrictions as an ideal solution to the parking issues currently in this area but are supportive of them if, after consultation, the residents of Highworth Place are in agreement. The Council believes a wider review of parking in the town, especially on the number of 8-hour long-stay spaces, is required.</p>
(3) Local Resident, (Witney)	<p><b>Object</b> – We absolutely support a parking restriction along this road. However, while we have our own driveway, we do not feel double yellow lines are fair to residents without one. The issue along this road is people who work in central Witney, or shoppers, who use the road for free parking. We feel it would be better to have a 'residents only/permit holders only' restriction in place.</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Witney)	<p><b>Support</b> – we are totally for having double yellows put down the road. Access to our property can be very difficult when the road is busy with cars parking all over the place especially people that work in town. There is plenty of long stay parking spaces in town now so surely, they should park in them?</p> <p>Also access for emergency services would be very difficult. My nephew requires a school bus to take him to school and sometimes they can't even get through.</p> <p>Something needs to be done about restrictions down this road it's too narrow to be used as a car park.</p>

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<p>(5) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Emergency vehicles find it difficult to get through due to parked vehicles on both sides of a narrow road. Vehicles park on the pavement which makes using pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters very difficult and potentially dangerous.</p>
<p>(6) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Only today, access to my property was completely blocked by an ambulance which was unable to stop outside the casualty’s house. This was because of cars parked on the pavement on both sides of the street. As the ambulance was forced to park opposite the parked cars, the entire road was blocked for 45 minutes.</p> <p>This is not an isolated incident. It is commonplace, and can only be resolved by parking restrictions, PROVIDED that any restrictions are strictly enforced.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – the issues regarding parking have progressively got worst and are now very dangerous for residents and the general public who use the road as a walk way to the Town Centre or children going to their local school.</p> <p>Highworth place is a small road providing access for residents exclusively with its width only just over that of a modern car. Due to our location being close to the town centre it has become a free car park for those who work and shop on Corn Street. There are 2 public pathways either side of the road and the width of the road is small which means when cars park on the road it forces passing cars to mount the pavement OR they park blocking the footpath causing pedestrians into the road OR half and half forcing pedestrians into the road and passing cars to mount the pavement. Parked cars use both sides of the road thus creating a slalom course for pedestrians and passing cars and on regular occasions these parked cars block access for residents to their property and/or leave too small a gap blocking access from one end of the street. The current situation is dangerous for pedestrians, causes damage to the footpath and results in residents not being allowed access to their properties.</p> <p>I have required the emergency services, both Fire and Ambulance and both were delayed in getting to my address due to the parking at either end of the street and therefore I strongly agree with this proposal.</p>

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<p>(8) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Since living here, I have been very distressed to see people struggling to use the pavements on this street, in particular mothers with buggies, wheelchair users, and recently a blind neighbour with a newly-trained dog trying to negotiate the parked cars, forcing her to walk in the middle of the road.</p> <p>A neighbour has a disabled son, and should an ambulance be needed, access is always difficult.</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – There has been a persistent problem for a number of years on Highworth Place. Residents have been unable to easily access driveways and gates due to non-residents and guests not parking considerately. This has been a problem especially for residents with disabilities who have had their gates blocked by people parking directly in front of them. Something as simple as accessing their own properties has been made a consistent struggle.</p> <p>Furthermore, emergency services would be unable to access many parts of the road due to the parking, putting residents' lives in danger. The lack of access for many vehicles down the road has been shown by the fact that residents bins are consistently not being collected due to the bin lorry not being able to access the road.</p> <p>I believe you would struggle to find a single resident of Highworth Place who does not fully support the proposed parking restrictions. We hope that they will be enforced as soon as possible.</p>
<p>(10) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Highworth place is a small road providing access for residents exclusively, its width is only just over that of a modern car and due to its location close to town it's become a free car park for those who work and shop on corn street. There are 2 public pathways either side of the road. Due to the small width of the road parked cars either park on the road forcing passing cars to mount the pavement OR they park blocking the footpath causing pedestrians into the road OR half and half forcing pedestrians into the road and passing cars to mount the pavement. Parked cars use both sides of the road thus creating a slalom course for pedestrians and passing cars and on regular occasions parked cars block access for residents to their property and/or leave too small a gap blocking access from one end of the street. The current situation is dangerous for pedestrians, causes damage to the footpath and results in residents not being allowed access to their properties. <a href="http://www.highworthplace.com">www.highworthplace.com</a> has testimony from residents and photos showing the problems parked cars cause. In a local resident survey 94% of those who responded supported the parking restriction being proposed. I completely support this proposal.</p>

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<p>(11) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Some days it is impossible to get down the road due to people parking in a manner that blocks traffic completely and also a lot of people who work on corn street use the street and a car park. Very frustrating.</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Though I realise that this solution may not suit everyone also my visitors arriving by car will need some planning to ensure legal parking. However, I really feel that in the interests of safety this is the only option and I fully back it.</p> <p>I would be reassured in the case of an emergency that the services could reach any property in Highworth place without any delay. I also feel that pedestrians and vulnerable people of all ages going to and from schools and shops would have a safer passage to their destinations.</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – For safety of pedestrians, access to residents and council operators. Emergency vehicles also need unimpeded access.</p>
<p>(14) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Something needs to be done to address the parking issues on Highworth Place. I am disappointed however that no residents parking scheme has been considered as this will restrict the parking available to residents and their visitors.</p>
<p>(15) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I have lived on Highworth Place for a number of years the parking on the street has become increasingly worse I have four children one of which is disabled trying to get his wheel chair up and down the road is very difficult my son also has transport to a specialist school it's almost daily that the transport is not able to get down the road we have also had incidents where ambulances have been delayed getting to my house due not being able to get down the road enough is enough !!! Very happy with the purposed yellow lines can't come quick enough.</p>
<p>(16) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I think this is needed because so many people park either side of the road that at times it's nearly impossible for residents to access their driveways. It also makes it very difficult for the emergency services to get down the road.</p>



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<p>(17) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I thoroughly support this idea as it's impossible to walk on the path with a pushchair or wheelchair due to cars being parked half on the path both sides of the road</p>
<p>(18) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I am in support of double yellow lines being installed for the whole length of Highworth Place on both sides. This will make access easier for ambulances and other emergency vehicles; will help facilitate deliveries and removals and will make the road much safer for the dozens of people who walk along this road each day.</p>
<p>(19) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I live on the street and find the way people park on pavements dangerous to pedestrians who have to walk in the road and subjected to other road users. People park on both sides meaning both pedestrians and other users have to navigate into the road. People who live here have driveways blocked. Emergency services struggle with the road</p>
<p>(20) Local Resident, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – I'm VERY much in favour of some parking restriction being implemented, but disappointed that residents parking is not being considered.</p> <p>At times mainly, Mon-Fri during office hours Highworth Place can be difficult to navigate, especially for larger vehicles. Only the other week my front fence was damaged by a delivery lorry trying to get down the road. When walking down the road at busy times the only option is to walk down the middle!</p> <p>So if double yellow lines are the only option being offered then I'm in favour.</p>
<p>(21) Resident, (Abingdon)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – We visit family who live in Highworth Place and are often unable to drive down the street safely due to parked cars. I have witnessed mothers with pushchairs have to walk in and out of the road and worry that emergency services would not be able to gain access when needed.</p>
<p>(22) unknown, (Witney)</p>	<p><b>Neither</b> – We are both concerned that as we are the only house without a driveway we are going to have to park even further away once the double yellow lines are in place. Currently the front of our house is constantly occupied by cars of the public people who work in town so it's a struggle to park now. I believe these people will then park in roads off Highworth Place to which we will have to park even further away. We have a child who we have to get out the car with</p>

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	<p>our hazards on and also when bringing shopping home. So it would make things difficult We are asking number 14 if we can have a permit to park.</p>
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