

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 7 SEPTEMBER 2017

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL CAR CLUB BAYS, OXFORD

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Introduction

1. This report presents objections and other comments received in the course of a statutory consultation to introduce additional car club bays in Oxford.

Background

2. As part of the joint Oxfordshire County Council/Oxford City Council 'Go Ultra Low Oxford' project (a government funded project to trial electric car charging technologies on street) a number of existing Car Club bays are being converted to be used for electric vehicles. To compensate for this it has been agreed as part of the project to provide alternative Car Club bays for the displaced petrol/diesel vehicles. Following the reporting of proposals to the Cabinet Member Decisions meetings on 3 April and 25 May 2017, proposals for a further four bays have been put forward, in part in response to objections received in respect of previous proposals.
3. The location of these new and alternative bays have been identified in various streets in Oxford as shown at Annexes 1 to 4.

Consultation

4. Formal consultation on the above proposals was carried out between 13 July and 11 August 2017. A public notice was placed in the Oxford Times, and on site in the immediate vicinity of the each of the proposals. Emails were also sent to statutory consultees including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service and the relevant local County & City Councillors. Letters were sent to nearby properties. In total, seven responses were received during the course of the consultations and these are summarised at Annex 5.
5. Thames Valley Police expressed no objection to the proposal with expressions of support received in respect of the proposals for Bevington Road and Leckford Road from an Oxford City Councillor for North Ward and for all the proposals from two members of the public (though not residents adjacent to any of the proposals).

6. Three objections were received. One from the South Jericho Residents' Association in respect of the proposal for Worcester Place and two from members of the public in respect of the proposals for Bevington Road and Leckford Road. The objections primarily relate to the loss of parking for residents and nearby businesses. In the case of Worcester Place a particular concern was that residents in recent years had suffered significant disruption due to a major building project. Additionally, concerns were raised in respect of the proposed electric charging point in Leckford Road on the grounds of its perceived utility, appearance and the risk of vandalism.

Response to objections and concerns

7. Although the concerns of the South Jericho Residents' Association are noted, amendments to the parking provision in Worcester Place – which are due to be implemented in the near future following the completion of the building project – include the removal of disabled persons parking places for three vehicles (which are no longer needed following the closure of a surgery some years ago). The proposed car club bay would occupy one of these spaces, with the remainder being allocated for residents only parking. While it is acknowledged that the building works were disruptive, it is considered that the proposed location of this bay is appropriate taking account of these circumstances and also the significant constraints in other roads in the area.
8. In respect of the objections in relation to the proposals for Bevington Road and Leckford Road, the proposals have a limited effect on the wider parking provision in the area and are similarly considered appropriate taking account of these circumstances and the significant constraints in other roads in the area.
9. The wider concerns raised in respect of the proposal for Leckford Road on on-street charging points are noted but not considered material to this consultation.
10. LTP4 states that the County Council will “work with local research and development partners to scope, design, test, and implement a family of vehicle hire and ride sharing technologies focused on bike hire, car share, car clubs and other on-demand vehicle services” (paragraph 122; Volume 1: Policy & Overall Strategy) and there is therefore a presumption in favour of providing Car Club bays.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

11. The proposals would help support the transition to a low carbon future.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

12. Funding for the consultation and implementation of the bays has been made available through the Government's Office for Low Emissions Vehicles

RECOMMENDATION

- 13. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the implementation of the proposals as as set out in the report.**

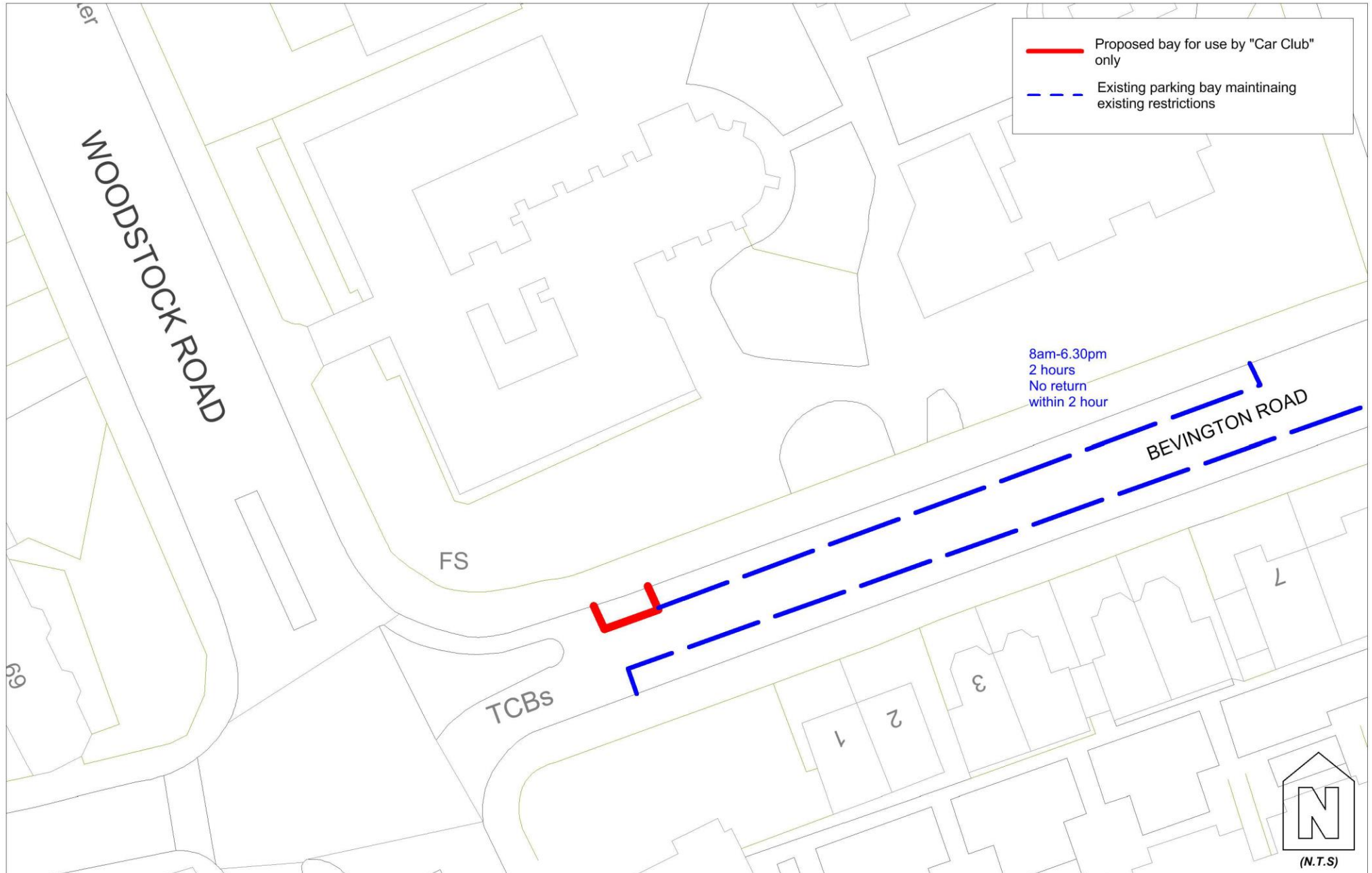
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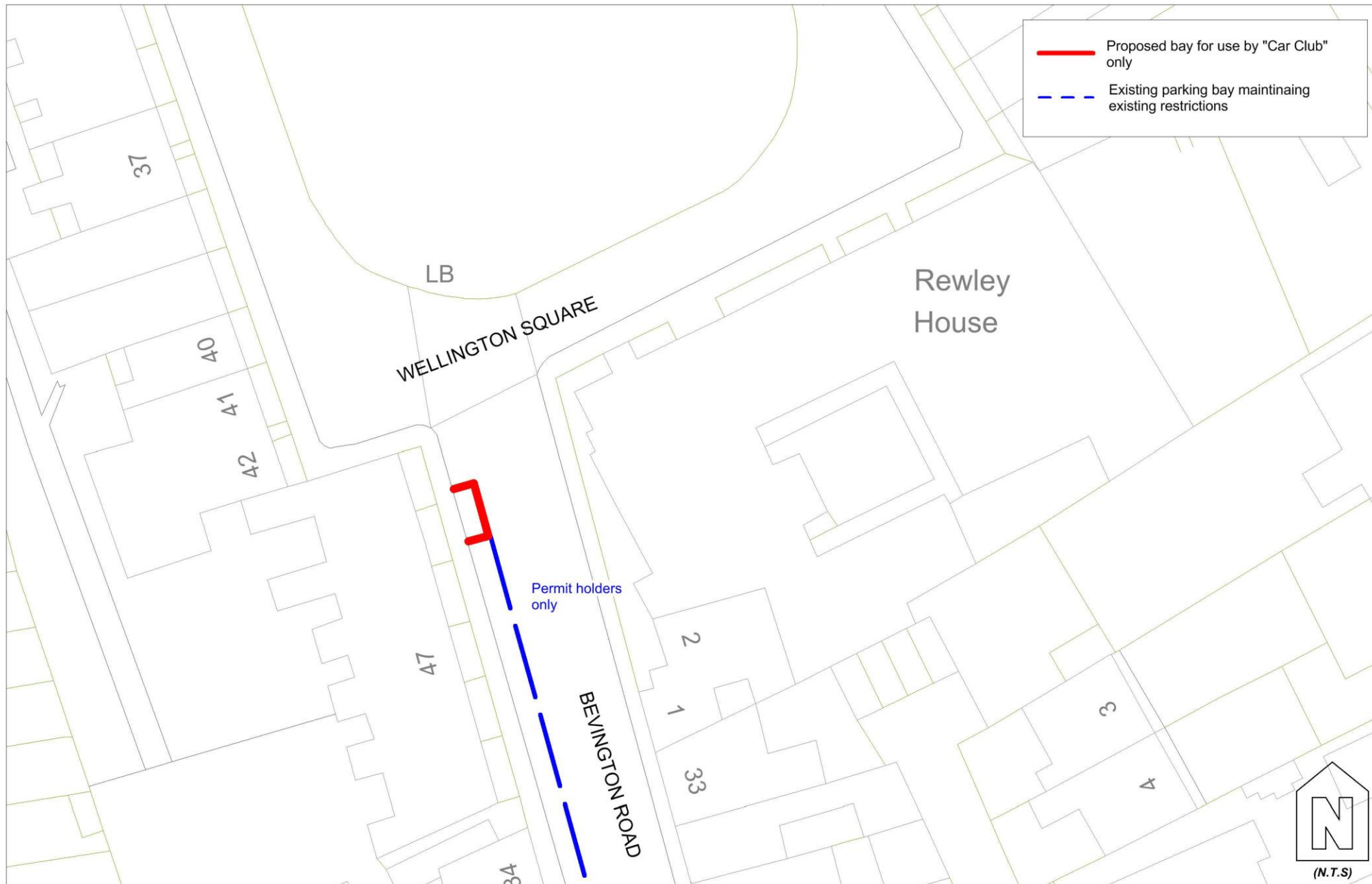
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

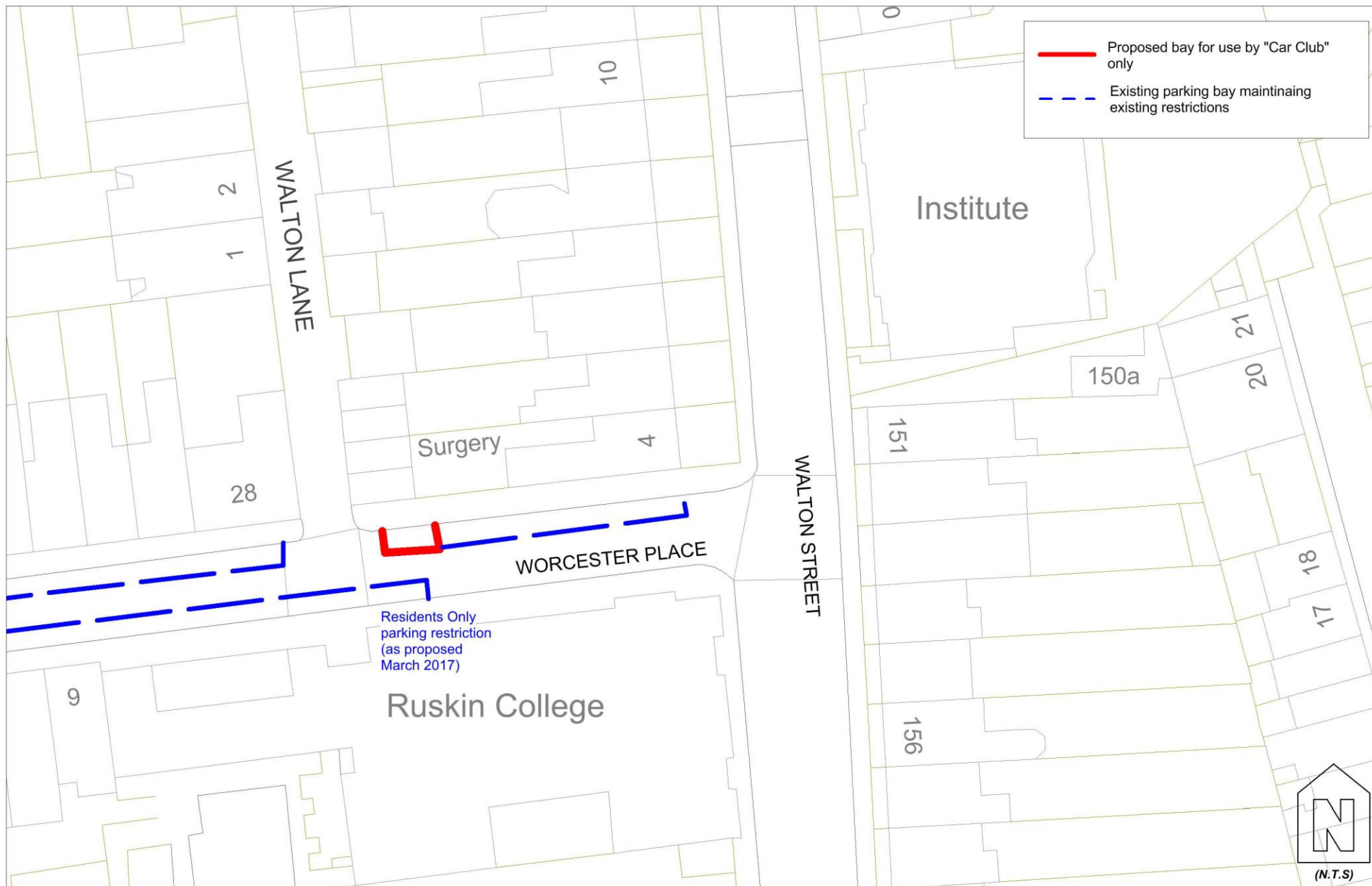
Background papers: Consultation responses

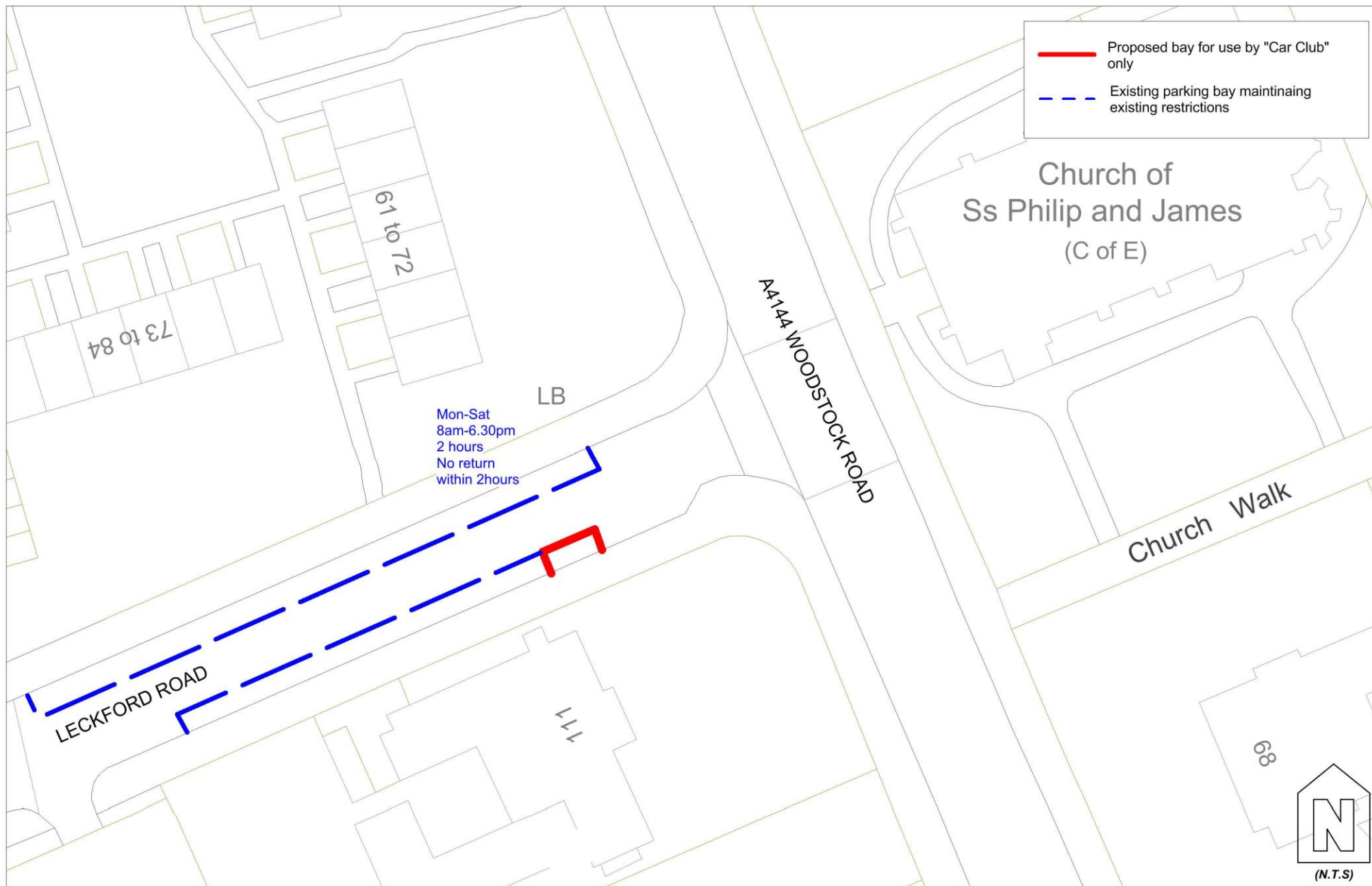
Contact Officers: Anthony Kirkwood 07392 318871

September 2017









RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Thames Valley Police	No objection.
(2) Oxford City Councillor for North Ward	Support - I would like to say that I strongly support the designation of the two spaces indicated in my ward (North Ward) for electric vehicle parking bays. Both Bevington Road and Leckford Road have a high ratio of parking spaces to residents meaning that competition for parking spaces is low. Therefore the adoption of one space in each for electric vehicles should not be a problem.
(3) South Jericho Residents' Association	Object - dismayed to see that you propose to designate one Residents' parking space for electric or car club cars. Please bear in mind that for the past four years, since April 2014, we have been required to manage with the loss of 14 parking spaces, because of Exeter College's construction at the corner of Walton Street and Worcester Place, the Cohen Quadrangle. We understand that the spaces for us to park in are about to be re-instated. Please, therefore, put this designated space reserved for car club cars and electric cars into a different street nearby, which has not been so hard pressed in recent years.
(4) Local Resident, (Stapleton Road, Headington)	Support - Providing EV parking pays for the Car Club brings multiple benefits. This will help to increase the number of non-polluting journeys in Oxford in the short term but will also provide users with an opportunity to 'trial' EVs so encouraging uptake by Oxford based car owners as well as Car Club members in the future.
(5) Local Resident, (Burrows Close, Headington)	Support - Car club cars are predominately used for short journeys - adding more car club cars, especially electric cars, can only help improve city air.
(6) Local Resident, (Leckford Road, Headington)	Object: (1) Leckford Road: The space is currently used as a two hour visitor space. These spaces are important to local businesses nearby, and I would be opposed to siting a car club space in Leckford Road. Also does not consider this an appropriate site for an electric charging point, noting the length of time required to fully charge a vehicle and related technical issues, and also on the grounds of street clutter and risk of vandalism, and considers siting of electric charging points would be much better within for example the park and ride car parks. (2) Bevington Road: I am not in favour of making car club spaces available on this road. There is very little chance for a casual user to park in this road, especially given the abuse of the 2 hour parking places by some users.space.
(7) Email Response, (unknown)	Object - The implementation of the proposals will lead to a loss of a number of short term (2hour) parking spaces which are extremely useful for people visiting local businesses and restaurants. Parking in the Walton Street area is at a premium and illegal parking, obstructing footways and on double yellow lines is not infrequent in a number of

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	locations, and this is not being dealt with. Also raises queries about the detailed use of the bay in respect of electric and car club vehicles.
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