

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 11 JANUARY 2018

WEST STREET OXFORD – PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RESIDENTS PARKING PLACES

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Introduction

1. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on a proposal to extend a residents parking place on the west side of West Street at Osney, Oxford to facilitate the provision of an on-street charging point for an electric vehicle.

Background

2. The above proposal has been put forward as part of a wider project to provide on-street charging points for electric vehicles in Oxford in parts of the city where residents typically do not have off street parking provision. Previous proposals for provision of a charging point in the immediate vicinity reserved for the use of electric vehicles only have been frustrated by a number of local concerns relating to the practicalities of signing such a bay, taking account of the layout of the houses in the immediate vicinity and also concerns over the loss of parking for residents with non-electric vehicles, together with constraints on the siting of the charging point equipment on the footway directly outside the houses here.
3. In response to the above concerns, the proposal comprises the provision of one additional residents parking place available to all residents irrespective of the type of vehicle; although not ideal – in that the availability of the charging point for electric vehicles will not be guaranteed – it is deemed to be the only practical means of providing a charging point in the vicinity. A plan showing the proposals is provided at Annex 1.

Consultation

4. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 16 November and 15 December 2017. A public notice was placed in the Oxford Times and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Oxford City Council and local County & City Councillors. Additionally street notices were placed in the vicinity and letters sent to approximately 40 nearby properties.
5. Four responses were received. Two objections from members of the public (one a resident of West Street) on the grounds that the extension of the

residents parking place could result in difficulties for traffic in the area, noting that the space proposed for the extended bay is regularly used by vehicles waiting for oncoming traffic to pass and that relocating such waiting further to the north would present a risk to all road users given the proximity of the bend. Both objectors also queried why a charging point could not be provided adjacent to the existing bay. A further concern was raised on the potential delay a vehicle parked in the extended bay would cause to the deployment of the removable flood defence barriers used in this part of Oxford.

6. Thames Valley Police expressed no objection and an expression of support was received from a resident of East Street. These responses are summarised at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections.

7. While it is accepted that the proposed extended parking bay will – when occupied by a parked car - be closer to the bend, it is considered that there is still sufficient space for this not to present a significant issue for road users, although the operation of the new layout – should it be approved – will be monitored to confirm this is the case.
8. In respect of the query why the charging point equipment could not be installed adjacent to the existing bay, there are site constraints that would make this inconvenient for the adjacent premises.
9. The fixing point for the removable flood defence barrier is at the north end of the proposed extended bay and so the latter should not impact in any way on the deployment of the barrier.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

10. The proposals would help facilitate the use of low emission vehicles.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

11. Funding for the extended residents parking bay has been provided as part of the joint Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council project for providing on-street charging points.

RECOMMENDATION

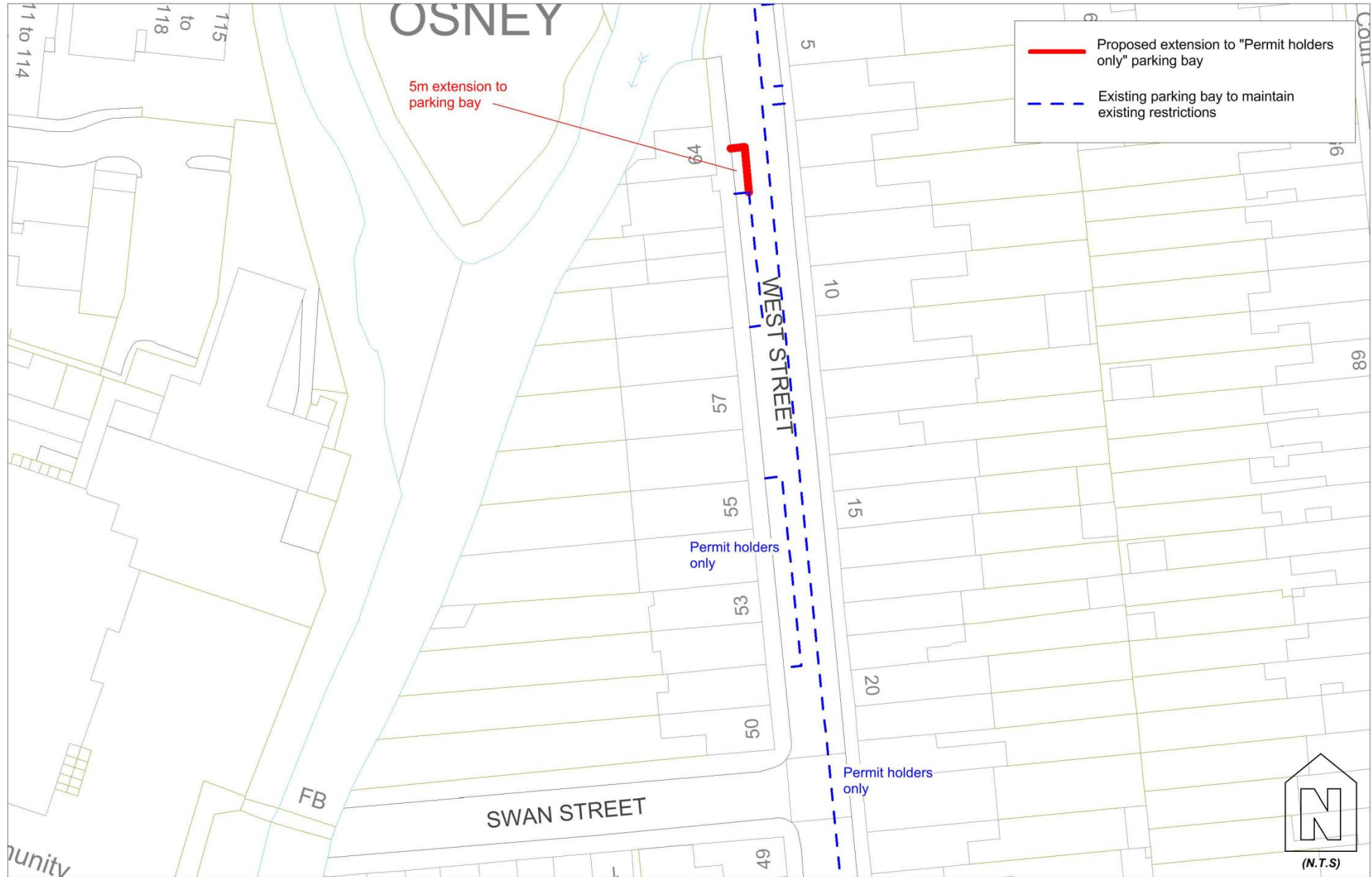
12. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposal to extend a residents parking place on the west side of West Street at Osney, Oxford to facilitate the provision of an on-street charging point for an electric vehicle as advertised.**

OWEN JENKINS
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed additional residents parking place
 Consultation responses

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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection.
(2) Local Resident, (East Street, Oxford)	Support - We have long asked for more parking spaces on Osney - so a new one is welcome. I personally support the car club and I am likely to join and use this as my only car-based transport in the near future.
(3) Local Resident, (Oatlands Road, Oxford)	Object - Why is a new parking spot required? Can't the shared vehicle replace one of the existing spots? This is not clear in the documents. West street in close to the centre of the city and car parking should be discouraged. A car share should remove vehicles from the road, not to add more! The area where this spot is proposed is useful to pull over and allow oncoming vehicles to pass. Without this spot free, drivers would be required to reverse around a bend. The pavement ends near this spot and parking here would restrict visibility of pedestrians to drivers as they cross the roadway. This area is used for the Osney Flood defences and should they may restrict the rapid deployment of the barrier if a car is parked in this spot.
(4) Local Resident, (West Street, Oxford)	Object - The proposed new resident parking space is a good idea but it is going to cause problems. The street bends just after this new space is suggested. The way we have it now allows for one car to park there temporarily, either the one going into West street or the one driving out of it, and wait for the other car coming the other way to pass. I have often been in that situation, and when the vehicle coming the other way is a Tesco delivery van, if it wasn't for that space suggested to be the new resident parking space, we would be completely stuck, one vehicle would have to back up, not easy to do at all on that bend. I suspect there is a reason for the street parking to stop where it stops now, whoever drew this the last time knew exactly the situation. I am very concerned that if we have a new resident parking space there we will congestion at the North end of West street, for cars and vans, and bicycles too! lets not forget the pavement is almost inexistent there! Surely a charger can be installed by the next parking space already in existence?