

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 8 FEBRUARY 2018

OXFORD- HEADINGTON AREA – BICKERTON, LATIMER AND STAPLETON ROADS - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Introduction

1. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on amendments to waiting restrictions and the relevant Traffic Regulation Order in the above roads. The proposals in respect of Bickerton and Latimer Road comprise the updating of the schedules in the order to better reflect the current situation, with no changes being made on the ground. On Stapleton Road the schedules are similarly amended, except that in the vicinity of house Nos. 19, 25 and 60 Stapleton Road double yellow lines are proposed instead of informal access protection markings to better prevent obstruction to their driveways, at the request of residents.

Background

2. As part of the works relating to the hospitals heat pipe project the marking and signage for the parking restrictions in Bickerton and Stapleton Roads were renewed to ensure that the restrictions would be fully enforceable. During that work it became clear that there were significant discrepancies between the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and the extant markings. Therefore, to ensure enforceability the markings were re-laid in accordance with the TRO.
3. One result of this was that the double yellow lines that had been laid across a number of driveways were no longer retained but replaced with white access protection markings. Several residents were very concerned that this change would not be adequate to guarantee access to their driveways and requested that the TRO be amended to allow the double yellow lines to be reinstated. Subsequently officers wrote to all properties affected by the change in markings in both roads to offer the opportunity to reinstate double yellow lines. Only three (all in Stapleton Road) asked for this and these locations are shown on the plan at Annex 1.
4. Separately, in the course of checking the markings in nearby roads it was observed that the layout of two short bays in Latimer Road (near its junction with The Brambles) did not accord with the TRO and the opportunity has been taken to amend the TRO to align with the restrictions already in place.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 30 November and 5 January 2018. A public notice was placed in the Oxford Times and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance Service, Oxford City Council and local County Councillor. Letters were sent to approximately 20 properties in the immediate vicinity of the proposed parking restrictions.
6. 4 responses were received, comprising an objection from one of the properties in Stapleton Road that originally requested the re-instatement of double yellow lines (asking that these no longer proceed); one from another resident of Stapleton Road on the grounds that double yellow lines reduced the amount of parking available and an objection from a resident of Bickerton Road on the grounds that the opportunity had not been taken to update the times of operation of the TRO to reflect current needs and that the location of the parking bay on Latimer Road (near The Brambles) was unsafe and should be removed. Thames Valley Police did not object to the changes proposed. These responses are summarised at Annex 2. Copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

7. The request from the resident of 60 Stapleton Road to not proceed with the double yellow lines across that driveway is noted and accepted. The objection that the presence of double yellow lines can reduce the overall space for parking is acknowledged but there will now only be two driveways on Stapleton Road where this change will occur which will have very limited effect on the overall capacity in the area for residents parking.
8. The other objections are that changes could have been made but were not part of the proposals. Alteration of the days/times of the restrictions in this part of Headington was incorporated into the zone-wide review that was carried out in 2010. Unfortunately, that review was never implemented, primarily due to the deterioration in Council finances with currently no plans to revive it. With regard to the bays on Latimer Road, the proposed amendment to the TRO merely brings it into line with the markings on the ground so that a loophole is closed which might otherwise be exploited by drivers seeking parking in the area. The bays were in place prior to the development of The Brambles (around 10 years ago) and there are no recorded injury accidents. Also the bays (if occupied) do have a traffic calming effect.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

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

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

10. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided as part of the management of parking TROs.

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposals to amend waiting restrictions and the relevant Traffic Regulation Order in Bickerton, Latimer and Stapleton Roads as advertised and amended as described in this report.

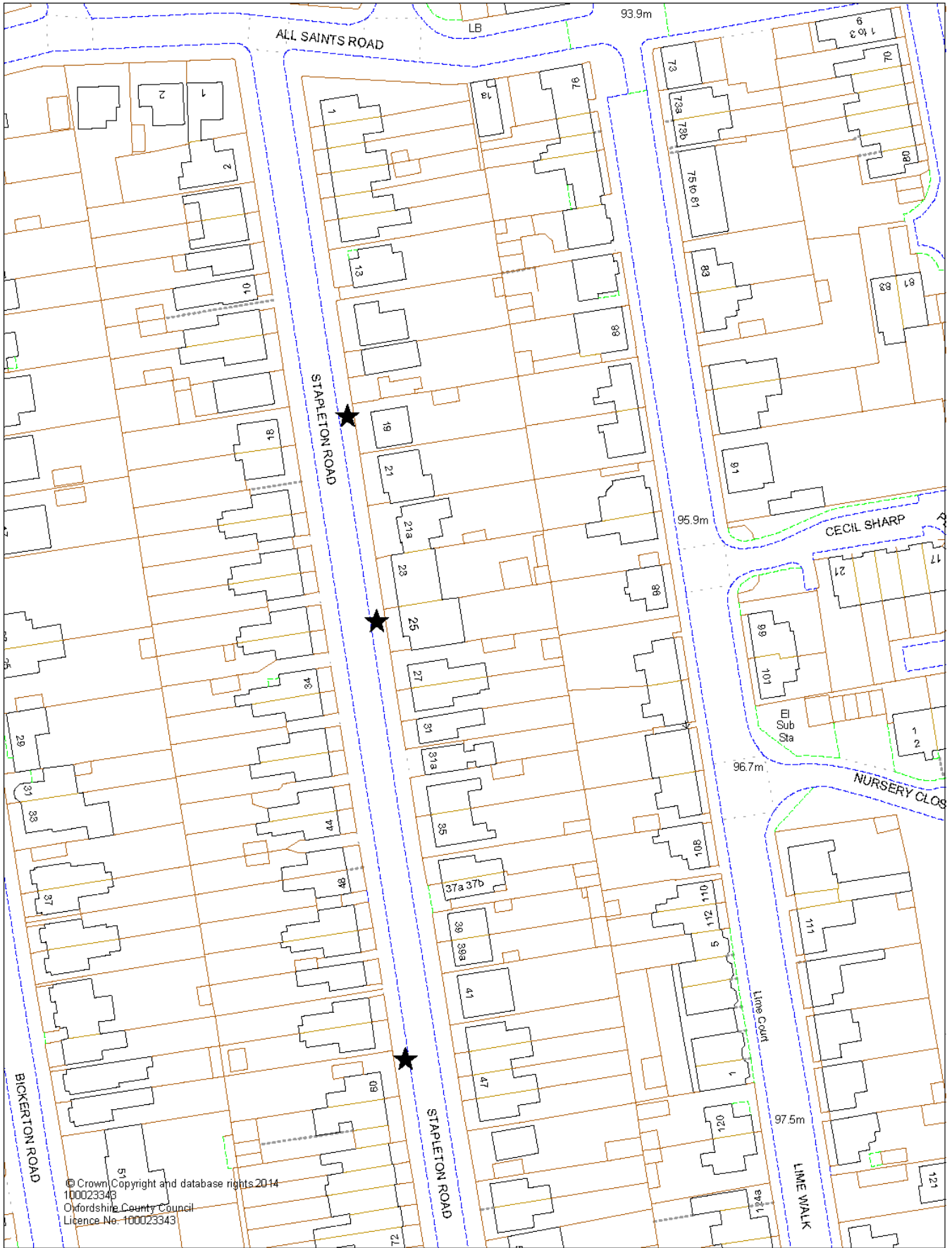
OWEN JENKINS

Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed double yellow lines.
 Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Hugh Potter 07766 998704

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
 ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY
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STAPLETON ROAD
HEADINGTON WEST CPZ
 Locations of proposed double yellow lines across driveways

SCALE	1 : 1000
DATE	11/2017
DRAWING No.	
DRAWN BY	

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection.
(2) Local Resident, (Stapleton Road, Oxford)	<p>Object - The Council previously replaced the double yellow lines outside 60 Stapleton Road with a single white line, this action caused car to be blocked both in and out of the off road drive on a number of occasions due to cars parked across the access point that was previously protected by the double yellow lines.</p> <p>I therefore reasonably asked the Council two years ago that the original double yellow lines were put back so that people would not park across the driveway access point. In the recent intervening period however, as far and I'm aware, the driveway has not been blocked with parked cars. I believe therefore that the Council's funds will be better spent elsewhere rather than re-applying the double yellow lines that were original present outside 60 Stapleton Road. I therefore respectfully request that the double yellow lines that were originally present outside 60 Stapleton Road, and that were removed by the Council, are not put back.</p>
(3) Local Resident, (Stapleton Road, Oxford)	<p>Object – Any decision should take into account the substantial pressure on parking spaces in Stapleton Road from late afternoon onwards and at weekends.</p> <p>Double yellow lines are unnecessary to protect driveways. Single white lines provide the same protection, but with the added benefits of flexibility should circumstances change. If unwelcome vehicles blocking driveways really is a problem, then a word with neighbours and maybe a small sign may well achieve results.</p> <p>Once they are down, it is a very bureaucratic and lengthy process to get double yellow lines removed. Should a resident, current or future, decide not to use their garage or driveway for parking then in effect a parking space is lost. Accordingly, if double yellow lines are installed, it should be a condition that a resident's vehicle will normally be parked in the appropriate garage or driveway and not on the road.</p>

<p>(4) Local Resident, (Bickerton Road, Oxford)</p>	<p>Object – I object to this on two grounds:-</p> <p>i) The parking restrictions in this area on Saturdays between 2pm and 4pm have been un-necessary since the closure of the Manor Ground football stadium. They impose an un-necessary and unwelcome restriction on visitor parking in an area where there are very few visitor parking spaces. I believe that the removal of this Saturday afternoon restriction was promised previously and never implemented. This order could easily be amended to include this change. New signage would not be necessary as suitable stickers could be applied over the relevant part of the existing signs.</p> <p>ii) For a residential side road, Latimer Road has become extremely busy in recent years. One particularly bad part is caused by the location of the short parking space on the west side, just to the south of the junction with The Brambles. If this space is occupied at the same time as the nearby space on the east side and slightly to the south there is insufficient space for two cars to pass. This often causes confrontations and near misses and in motorists driving on the pavement or to reverse aggressively. This, short, parking space should be removed for safety reasons.</p>
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