

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 12 APRIL 2018

DIDCOT: COLLETT AND HAWKSWORTH - PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Introduction

1. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce waiting restrictions on Collett and Hawksworth roads within the Southmead Industrial Estate at Didcot.

Background

2. The above proposals have been put forward as part of a proposed commercial development at Hawksworth and in response to concerns over road safety and traffic delays arising from parking on roads within the Southmead Industrial Estate Station Road. A plan showing the proposal is provided at Annex 1.

Consultation

3. An informal local consultation was carried out between 26 July and 25 August 2017 seeking views on the proposals to introduce parking restrictions on Hawksworth, Collett and Gooch within the Southmead Industrial Estate. Letters were sent to approximately 130 properties/units within the estate.
4. Following analysis by the Area Traffic Officers of the comments received (approximately 30) during the informal consultation, the proposals were refined after which it was decided not to progress most of the restrictions for Collett and Gooch to formal consultation.

Formal consultation on the amended proposal was then carried out between 15 February and 16 March 2018. A public notice was placed in the Oxford Times newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, South Oxfordshire District Council, Didcot Town Council and the local County Councillor. Street notices were also placed in the vicinity of the proposed waiting restrictions and letters sent to adjacent properties.

5. Eight responses were received. 3 in support (37%), 3 objectiing (37%) and 2 not objecting but submitting comments These responses are summarised at Annex 2. Copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objection and other comments

6. Thames Valley Police did not object to the proposals but felt more emphasis should be placed on good driver behaviour, noting that potential enforcement within the Hawksworth area would be an extremely low priority.
7. Didcot Town Council and South Oxfordshire District Council support the proposals with a further expression of support received from a local business.
8. Three objections were received from local businesses. All raised concerns about the danger and obstruction caused by current parking in the area, particularly by HGV's, and requested that the waiting restrictions should be extended in scope, particularly in view of the likelihood of problems being locally intensified by the displacement of parking if the current proposals were introduced. Similar concerns were raised by a respondent who did not, however, express them as an objection.
9. It is accepted that the implementation of the proposed restrictions will not fully resolve the parking issues in this area and that the concerns over the potential displacement of parking to other areas is a risk. However, the responses to the informal consultation highlighted that it is likely to be very difficult to fully cater for the competing demands in this area but it is considered that the proposals as advertised will be a helpful step in managing parking in the area. If approved, the effect to the restrictions will be monitored and consideration given to introducing additional restrictions (subject to a further consultation) if such a need is identified.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

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

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

11. Funding for the proposed waiting restrictions has been provided from the developers of land at Hawksworth and from Oxfordshire County Councils revenue budget.

RECOMMENDATION

12. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve proposals to introduce waiting restrictions on Collett and Hawksworth roads within the Southmead Industrial Estate at Didcot as advertised.**

OWEN JENKINS

Director for Infrastructure Delivery

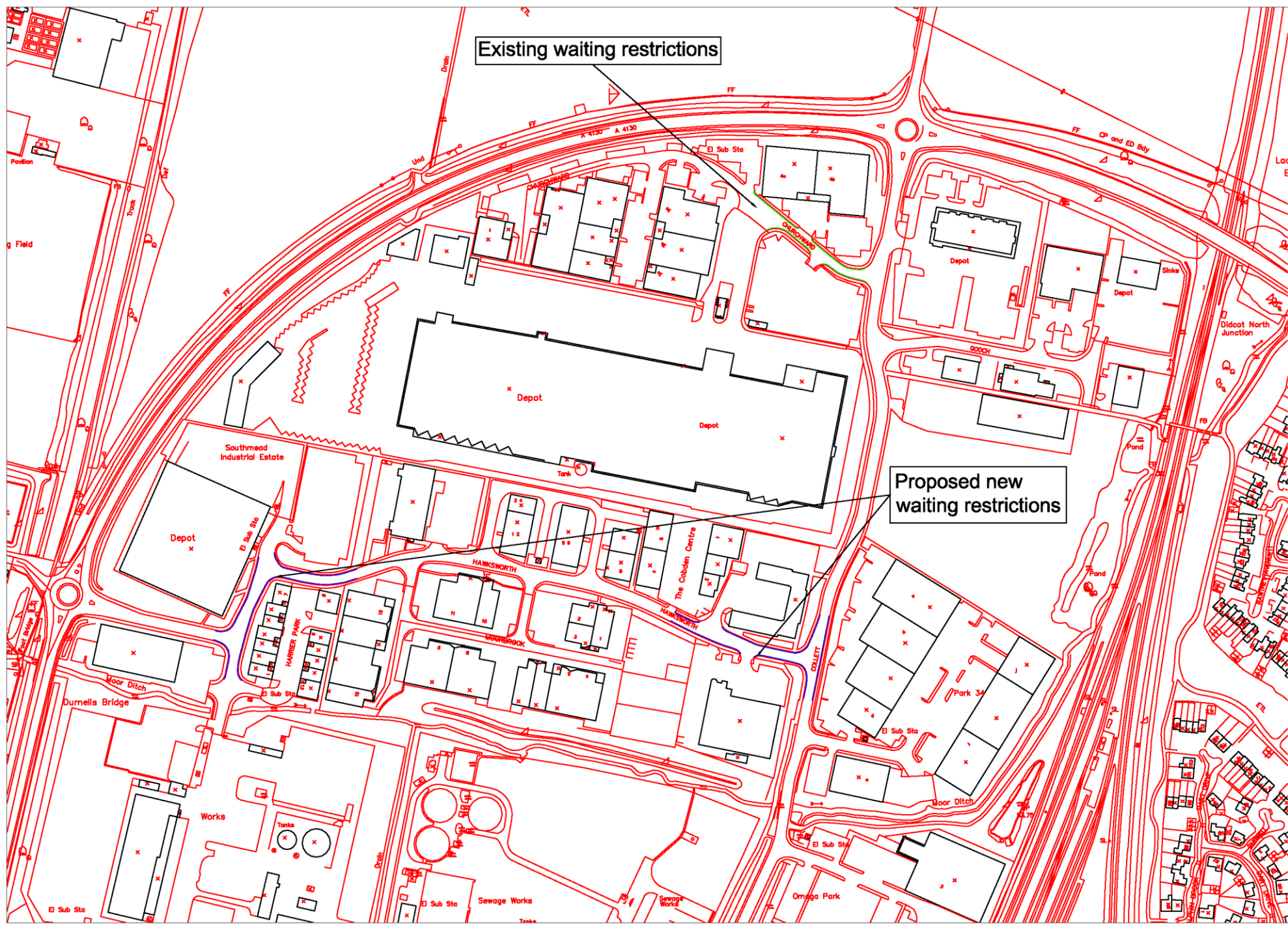
Background papers: Plan of proposed restrictions & Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Hugh Potter 07766 998704

April 2018

Existing waiting restrictions

Proposed new waiting restrictions



RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>No objection - should be reliant on good driver behaviour. Any action by the Police in response to this kind of parking is governed by many factors. These include the seriousness of the offence, the road and traffic conditions at the time and the existence of other more pressing commitments for local police officers.</p> <p>In terms of operational priorities our officers are encouraged to give preference to offences which might directly affect public safety followed by those which have an impact on traffic flow on main traffic routes. However even those priorities must be viewed in the context of the many other more pressing and demanding commitments which our officers face.</p>
(2) Didcot Town Council	<p>Support - Didcot Town Council supports the proposed parking restrictions but feels that they do not go far enough to address the parking issues on Southmead Industrial Estate. The Town Council also questions the enforcement capabilities relating to these proposals.</p> <p>The Town Council would also like to see measures taken to address parking on nearby roads, such as Collett. Unfortunately, the parking of lorries in unsuitable locations is becoming a problem for the whole town and specific HGV parking should be considered as an aspiration for the future.</p>
(3) South Oxfordshire District Council	<p>Support - Further to my comments below, I would also recommend that the proposed 'No waiting at any time' (double-yellow lines) are extended further down Collett and Hawksworth than the proposed consultation plan indicates.</p> <p>Since 21 June 2017 we have been investigating complaints relating to overnight sleeping in vehicles along Collett and Hawksworth, Southmead Industrial Estate, Didcot. The encampments formed as part of these complaints have been prejudicial to health as a result of a lack of suitable sanitary accommodation with human faeces in close proximity to the encampments. There is therefore a risk to the health of the persons responsible and the health of persons who may work in or visit the area. I understand that historically Oxfordshire County Council have also undertaken enforcement against the occupants of motorhomes acting in a similar manner in the same location.</p> <p>This can be considered a potential statutory nuisance under the provisions of Part III, Sections 79 - 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as enacted by the Part XI, Sections 268-269 of the Public Health Act 1936. However due to the transient nature of the persons responsible and the vehicles involved enforcement under Part VIII of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 would be more efficient and effective in remedying the issue.</p>

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<p>(4) Local Business, (Hawksworth)</p>	<p>Object - I would like to ensure that the parking restriction is extended to include the link between Air Products plc and the roundabout onto Hawksworth. We have had repeated near misses due to lorries parked on this road forcing vehicles to the wrong side of the road. The current proposal will displace parked vehicle to this section of road and exacerbate the safety issue.</p> <p>I have issue with leaving the section of road on Hawksworth between the current blue section and the roundabout as unrestricted parking. Frequently HGVs are parked there and as reported our company has had a number of near misses with oncoming traffic on the wrong side of the road as a result. Could this section be included in the restricted parking zones?</p>
<p>(5) Local Business, (Hawksworth)</p>	<p>Object – We are of the firm opinion that the Council's proposals will simply displace the existing parking issues to other parts of the estate leading to acute health and safety issues in certain areas. Air Products is most concerned about the displacement of parking issues to the areas highlighted in yellow on the attached plan at Appendix 1, marked 1 and 2, as follows: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This section of road leading to the roundabout is frequently used by HGVs for parking. As reported to the Council, Air Products has experienced a number of near misses resulting from parked HGV's forcing oncoming traffic on to the wrong side of the road. The proposals will exacerbate the issue in this area, heightening the potential for a serious incident. 2. The land directly in front of Air Products entrance - this is clearly a sensitive area for vehicles, including gas tankers, accessing and egressing the Air Products site. As above, the proposals will simply displace parking issues to this area, leading to additional health and safety concerns. Indeed, it should be noted that it is a critical responsibility of the Council to provide clear access and egress for emergency services to reach Lower tier CoMAH sites such as ours. By way of a solution, we propose and recommend that the parking restrictions are extended to include the two areas as detailed above. If parking restrictions were extended to these two areas, Air Products would lend its support to the proposals.
<p>(6) Local Business, (Hawksworth)</p>	<p>Object – When I had my building built I had to provide enough parking spaces for my employees, the new proposal is totally unacceptable and the way vehicles park ignores the Highway code rule 242 & 243.</p> <p>Cars parked on the corner of Gooch make it very difficult to see when trying to pull out and I am sure there will be a serious accident soon, double yellow lines should be put on both corners and single yellow lines down Gooch</p> <p>Vehicle parking at Gooch makes vision very poor, as parking is on both sides of the road it also makes it difficult for delivery vehicles. As I have previously advised it is an accident waiting to happen, you have been advised in writing on more than one occasion!</p>
<p>(7) Local Business, (Hawksworth)</p>	<p>Neither – It seems that the two extreme potential accident spots have not been considered.</p> <p>Parking trucks and often uncoupled trailers opposite the two entrances to Moorbrook present a very great hazard, I and every member of staff had have near misses, pulling into and out of our estate, as this results in blind spot on Hawkesworth, worse at the Volvo service building as the road is also on a bend.</p>

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<p>(8) Local Business, (Hawksworth)</p>	<p>Support – Could the council also consider some parking restrictions in Gooch, off Collett? The top of the road at the junction with Collett is full of parked cars, not only on the road but also on the grass verges. This looks unsightly but, more importantly it is a hazard as it restricts views at the junction.</p>
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