

Divisions affected: *Rose Hill & Littlemore*

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT – 23 FEBRUARY 2023**

### **LITTLEMORE: OXFORD ROAD – PROPOSED BUS STOP CLEARWAY**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised a bus stop clearway on Oxford Road approximately 30 metres north of Dudgeon Drive at Littlemore.

#### **Executive summary**

2. Following concerns being received from Littlemore Parish Council about the obstruction by parked vehicles for buses seeking to use the existing bus stop layby approximately 30 metres north of Dudgeon Drive, it is proposed to introduce a bus stop clearway.

#### **Financial Implications**

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals and their implementation if approved has been provided by Littlemore Parish Council.

#### **Equality and Inclusion Implications**

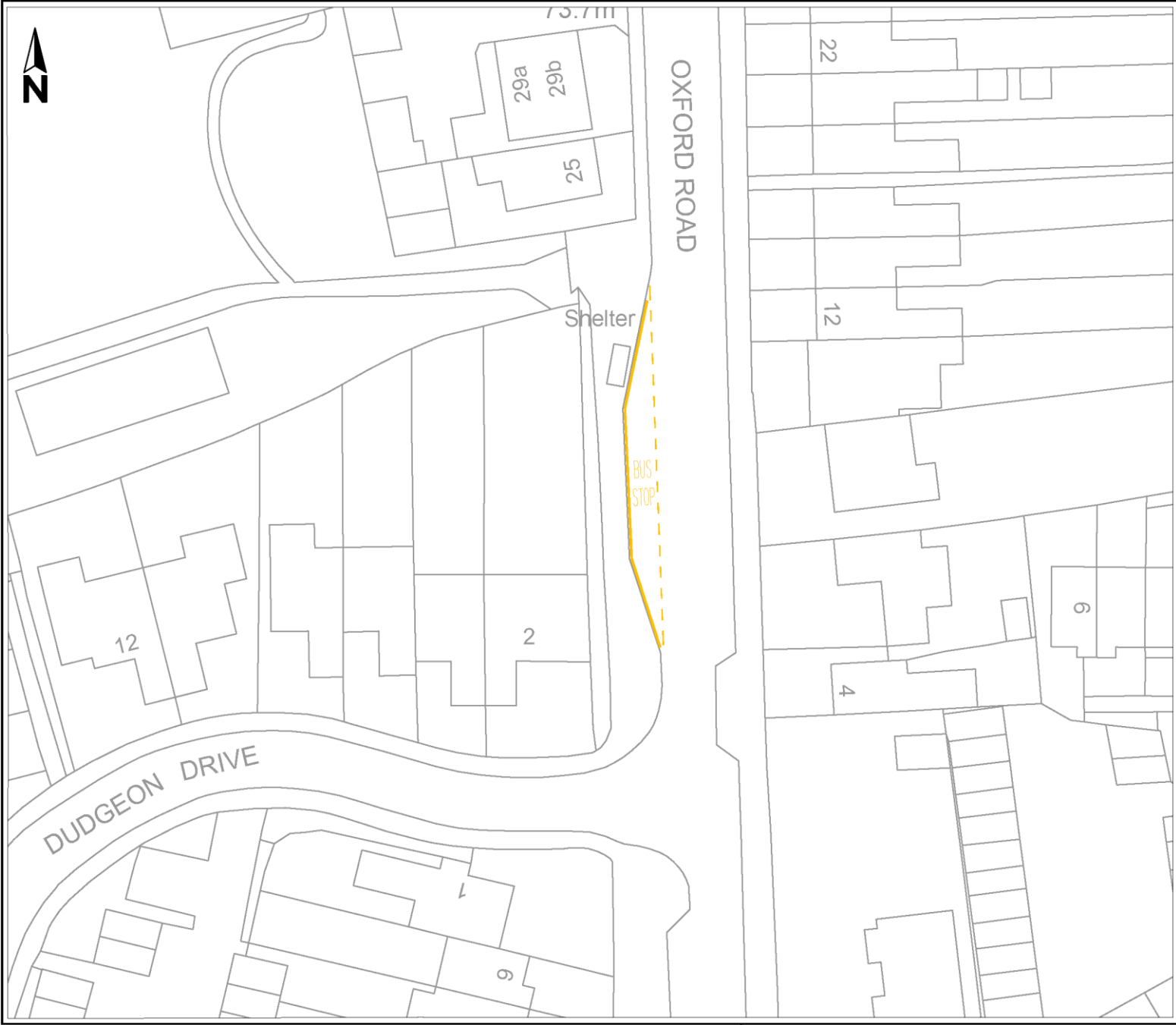
4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.



#### **Sustainability Implications**

5. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of buses & their passengers.



C:\Users\lane.clark\OneDrive - Oxfordshire County Council\TPO useful info\CAD plans\Littlemore, Oxford Road BSC.dwg



Drawing No.		Revision 0	
<b>Key</b>			
		Proposed Bus Stop Clearway	
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright, and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Oxfordshire County Council Licence No LA070805			
Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn Checked Approved
 <b>OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b> Bill Cutton Corporate Director for Environment and Place Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0345 310 11 11 Fax: (01865) 241577			
Project title			
PROPOSED BUS STOP CLEARWAY			
Drawing title			
LITTLEMORE OXFORD ROAD			
Drawing Status			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
N.T.S.	JaC		
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved
	12/22		
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref			
Drawing No.		Revision 0	

## ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<b>No objection</b>
(2) Head of Strategic Development & the Built Environment (Stagecoach Bus Company)	<p><b>Support</b> – Notwithstanding that Stagecoach has in the recent past ceased to operate services serving this stop, we nevertheless support the proposed Order, in the interests of wider safe and reliable bus operation in the City.</p> <p>It is vital that bus stops are clear to allow buses to pull in close to and parallel to the kerb at the boarding area, and then leave in forward gear without need for extreme or additional manoeuvring.</p> <p>This is in the interest of safety of boarding and alighting passengers for whom a substantial gap between the edge of the bus platform and the kerb represents a significant hazard. This is magnified for the partially sighted. For those in wheelchairs, it is also necessary that the ramp can be safely deployed. To this extent the Order would be entirely justified by the duties binding on the Council under Equalities Act 2010.</p> <p>The proper operation of the lay-by also has other practical benefits for the flow of traffic which also justifies these measures under the Council's Traffic Management Duty under the Traffic Management Act 2004.</p> <p>We trust that this Order will therefore proceed.</p>
(3) Business Development and Partnerships Manager, (Thames Travel)	<p><b>Support</b> – Oxford Road Littlemore is served by the 3A service up to every 30 minutes linking Littlemore with the city centre, Oxford Science Park and Cowley, Templars Square. It is also served by the 45 service which operates up to every hour linking Littlemore Abingdon and via an alternative route to the 3A with Cowley, Templars Square. Finally in the evenings Oxford Road Littlemore is also served by the X40 service and in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings (in effect Friday and Saturday nights) by the NX40 service linking Oxford city centre and south to Wallingford with certain journeys continuing beyond to Reading.</p> <p>We support the introduction of the bus stop clearway for the following reasons:</p>

	<p>It is important that buses are able to pull in close to and parallel to the kerb at bus stops and to depart easily without being impeded by other parked motor vehicles. This is particularly important for passengers with reduced mobility or with a sight impairment where the inability of a bus to pull closely in to the kerb could cause a hazard when boarding or alighting the bus. For those in wheelchairs, it is also necessary that the ramp can be safely deployed. It is also of convenience to parents or others with buggies/pushchairs if they are able to simply roll-on/roll-off a bus which again requires the bus to be able to pull in close to the kerb.</p> <p>Sometimes having a bus stop in a lay-by can be detrimental to a bus service if once the bus has pulled in to the stop it is unable to easily re-join the main traffic flow. In this instance the bus stop lay-by is just after a pinch point where traffic needs to Give Way to on-coming traffic. This will therefore provide gaps in the flow of traffic and so allow buses to depart the stop.</p>
<p>(4) Local group/organisation, (OXTRAG)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – It would be a good move for the layby to be made into a bus stop clearway. It would be helpful not only to buses and to vehicles following buses, but also to drivers coming out of Dudgeon Drive, as visibility to their left would no longer be obstructed by vehicles parked in the layby.</p> <p>Therefore OXTRAG supports this proposal.</p>
<p>(5) Local Cllr, (Littlemore, David Nicholls Close)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Private vehicles are often left parked in this layby for days so this is long overdue.</p>
<p>(6) Local resident, (Littlemore, Oxford Road)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> – I’m a resident of Oxford Road. I live near the bus bay. I can see the bus bay out of the window.</p> <p>I’m writing on behalf of myself, and on behalf of a house near to the bus bay: who occasionally uses the bus bay to park his vehicle. Since the matter became controversial last year they try to park it as far away from the bus shelter as possible.</p> <p>Both of us feel that if the Bus Companies think that this is a serious problem warranting the use of public funds, parking should be made illegal. However, if it were only up to us, both of us would oppose the plan, because</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) it doesn't seem to us to be a serious or frequent enough problem to require the use of public funds to control it</li> <li>2) banning parking altogether may cause knock on problems in the road, which is narrow, and often busy</li> <li>3) the Parish Council who suggested it has gone about it in the wrong way.</li> </ol>

	<p>One member of the Council has persuaded the majority that ‘as a matter of courtesy to the residents of Littlemore’ parking should be made illegal. However the Parish Council has not done residents of Oxford Road the courtesy of discussing the problem with them. Instead the one councillor has used meetings to describe the offenders using vulgar terminology, glued ‘illegal parking’ notices on windscreens, and overseen some residents getting letters from the Police which accused them of ‘antisocial behaviour’ toward their neighbours. Those who received Police letters suspect one of their neighbours is the source of them. The whole thing has caused upset, anxiety, resentment, and inconvenience.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident/Member of public, (Littlemore, Oxford Road)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - Parking is already difficult for residents on Oxford Road and this would takeaway parking spaces. Traffic is already fast and busy on Oxford Road. When the bus has to stop in the middle of the road, this slows down traffic. It also puts people off from using Oxford Road as a throughfare rather than using the ring road</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident/Member of public, (Littlemore, Oxford Road)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - This would add and put pressure on residential parking in an area where we are already impacted by the volume of traffic preventing residents to park safely. There are many families with babies and small children who need the parking that will be removed, to park close to home.</p> <p>It seems the current system is working so why change it?</p> <p>Please do not add anymore pressure to this street that already suffered with speeding cars and excessive delays getting on and off the roundabout during rush hour.</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident/Member of public, (Littlemore, Oxford Road)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> - As a resident who lives opposite the lay by in question, I oppose this plan.</p> <p>As few of the houses on the street have driveways most people have to park their cars on the road. When residents have visitors, there are events at the local churches or schools, or visitors to the park - the limited spaces can be easily filled. Therefore the option to park in the lay by comes in very useful and is often used.</p> <p>In my experience of 5+ years of living on the road the residents are conscientious with parking in the lay by and leave adequate room for buses to stop. Only 1 car tends to use it at any time.</p> <p>Introducing a clearway would force more cars to park on the road, and given the chicanes and traffic calming already</p>

	<p>in place it would arguably create more obstacles for through traffic to navigate and increase congestion and delays.</p> <p>If the bus company feel the current arrangements cause issues for their drivers I would encourage the council to see whether some of the large pavement space could be adapted to allow cars to be parked safely without obstructing the buses.</p>
(10) Local Resident/Member of public, (Littlemore, Oxford Road)	<p><b>Object</b> - This lay-by has not been a bus Clearwater for over 25+ years and does not cause any problems - it's only the opinion of a local resident who has raised this point - who has no evidence of a problem but wants to cause one of the residents of the road</p>
(11) Local Resident/Member of public, (Littlemore, Oxford Road)	<p><b>Object</b> - The bus stop allows for occasional overspill parking for residents primarily at weekends when non-resident cars appear. Given that there is very little parking in the area, this can be very useful.</p> <p>On the relatively few occasions where a car is parked and prevents a bus entering the clearway, there is no obstacle to buses stopping on the road as they do at the majority of bus stops. This causes a short delay to those who then need to wait behind.</p> <p>I have lived opposite the bus stop for 15 years and it is hard to see why there is any need to change the status quo; there would be no clear benefit and inconvenience for residents.</p>
(12) Local Resident/Member of public, (Littlemore, Alice Smith Square)	<p><b>Support</b> - more spaces for buses and less for private cars. In my opinion all the bus routes should be free from car parking</p>
(13) Local Resident/Member of public, (Littlemore, Oxford Road)	<p><b>Support</b> - I'd like to see less traffic on Oxford Rd, know there will be vocal objections but also the combination of random parking and unpredictable traffic is not great. Want to facilitate bus use.</p>
(14) Local Resident/Member of public, (Littlemore, Oxford Road)	<p><b>Support</b> - I live on Oxford Road. Although I don't use the bus very much since I prefer to cycle, I've noticed that buses sometimes struggle to manoeuvre in and out of the bus stop when cars are parked there. I want to encourage better public transport into the city which is why I support this proposal.</p>

(15) Local Resident/Member of public, (Oxford, Cowley Road)	<b>Support</b> - It's crazy that this even has to be consulted on. It's a bus stop. Cars should not be left there. Strong support. Please add instant tow and crush to penalties available for bus stop parking.
(16) Local Resident/Member of public, (Oxford, Maidcroft Road)	<b>Support</b> - It is important that this stop is kept clear for buses.
(17) Local Resident/Member of public, (Oxford, Monmouth Road)	<b>Support</b> - Please do what's necessary to stop obstructive parking where the bus needs to be.
(18) Local Resident/Member of public, (Oxford, Rymers Lane)	<b>Support</b> - This needs to happen.
(19) Local Resident/Member of public, (Oxford, Rymers Lane)	<b>Support</b> - People frequently park in the bus bay and make it difficult for the bus users and other road users.
(20) Local Resident/Member of public, (Oxford, Swinburne Road)	<b>Support</b> - People are always parking in the bus stop - need to keep it clear for buses!