

**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL– 6 SEPTEMBER 2012****PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS, MARSH LANE AREA,  
OXFORD****Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial &  
Delivery)****Introduction**

1. This report considers the responses to a formal consultation on proposals to introduce parking restrictions on Marsh Lane and adjoining streets in Marston, Oxford.

**Background**

2. Planning consent was granted in 2009 by Oxford City Council for the redevelopment of the Court Place Farm site used by (among others) Oxford City Football Club. During the consultation process local residents raised concerns over the possible impact upon parking pressures within the surrounding streets and it was agreed that in order to minimise that risk it was appropriate for a financial contribution to be made towards the introduction of 'no waiting at any time' restrictions in the vicinity of the site.
3. Separately, over a number of years a number of complaints have been received about indiscriminate parking by non-residents in roads adjoining Marsh Lane. More recently, similar complaints had been raised through the Police-led Neighbourhood Action Group (which includes Councillors and representatives of Old Marston Parish Council) where it was agreed that the opportunity provided by the planning requirements of Court Place Farm could be used to deal with the wider issues in a cost-effective way.
4. Officers have visited the area on a number of occasions and discussed draft proposals with the Neighbourhood Action Group which led to the publication of formal proposals in June 2012. This report considers the outcome of that formal consultation.

**Formal Consultation**

5. Oxfordshire County Council sent formal consultees a copy of the published draft amendment orders, statement of reasons and a copy of the public notice appearing in the local press, containing the proposed changes to formal consultees on 21 June 2012. These documents, together with supporting documentation and plans were deposited for public inspection at County Hall and at Old Marston library. They are also available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.

6. At the same time to local residents affected by the proposed restrictions, were asked for their comments and public notices were displayed at each site and in the Oxford Times.
7. 11 responses were received. These are summarised at Annex 1 and relate mainly to the proposals for Horseman Close. Respondents generally agree that some restrictions are required but are divided on whether the proposed extent is too much (creating difficulties for visitors parking) or too little (resulting in any displaced parking not being in the most suitable section of the Close). It is considered that the proposals are a good balance between road safety needs and the convenience for residents and their visitors to park.
8. Two respondents have asked for the proposed restrictions in Dents Close, Elms Drive and Marsh Lane to be extended. However, officers consider that to do so would result in additional parking pressures for residents which, without any wider controls on non-resident parking, would be inappropriate at this time. Finally, one respondent has suggested that enforcement of current restrictions – the 20mph speed limit and the ‘access-only’ restriction in Elms Drive – should be prioritised over the introduction of new measures. These comments have been passed to the Police.

### **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

9. The cost of the works described in this report is estimated to be approximately £3000 funded by developer contributions from the Court Place Farm development

### **RECOMMENDATION**

18. **The Deputy Leader of the Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the parking restrictions as set out in this report and as advertised in the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Streets, Oxford) (Waiting and Loading Restrictions) (Variation No. 3) Order 20\*\*.**

MARK KEMP

Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial & Delivery)

Background papers: Consultation documentation

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July 2012

RESPONDANT	COMMENT	RESPONSE
Resident of Dents Close	In agreement with the proposals but would like double yellow lines to cover the whole of Dents Close to prevent parking by non-residents.	The proposed restrictions are to deal solely with safety by keeping the junction with Marsh Lane clear of parked vehicles. Extending the restrictions to the rest of the Close would be inappropriate at this time.
Resident of Elms Drive	<p>Suggests that all of Marsh Lane should have double yellow line restrictions as it is a key route into the City Centre and the Hospital. Concerned that the current proposals will encourage parking where the double yellow lines will end.</p> <p>Requests that the proposed restrictions at the Marsh Lane junctions with Elms Drive and Ashlong Road should be extended to improve sightlines.</p>	<p>Extending the restriction to the whole of Marsh Lane would penalise residents who need to park off-carriageway. The current proposal is primarily to deal with the potential overflow from the Court Place Farm development.</p> <p>The proposals are considered sufficient to give adequate sightlines – further extension would risk increasing the pressure on parking for residents and their visitors.</p>
Resident of Elms Drive	Disappointed in the proposals. There is no point in adding more restrictions unless they are going to be enforced – the current ‘access only’ and 20mph restrictions are not enforced on Elms road and correcting this should be the first priority.	Parking restrictions are enforced by the County Council’s contractor – the other matters are the responsibility of Thames Valley Police to whom these comments have been passed.
Resident of Marsh Lane	<p>Agrees that some restrictions need to be put in place.</p> <p>Does not have sufficient parking at the front and rear of his property so has to park on the first section of Horseman Close and wishes this to become Residents Parking.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This and neighbouring properties have rear access with parking off Horseman Close. The proposed restrictions are to deal with safety issues and not the issue of Residents Parking.</p>
Resident of Jessops Close	<p>Wishes to congratulate all concerned in this proposal. Has been concerned about the parking on Horseman Close for a long time.</p> <p>Asks if the restrictions will apply to the grass verge on the north side of Horseman Close</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The verge will be protected by the proposals as it forms part of the public highway.</p>
Resident of Horseman Close	Feels the proposed restriction will make the road more congested as the parking problem will simply move further into the estate.	The proposal is designed to deal primarily with safety issues at the Marsh Lane end of Horseman Close and to prevent parking on the verge. If implemented there may be some displacement further along Horseman Close but the road alignment there is more suited to parked vehicles.

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<p>Two residents of Horseman Close</p>	<p>Do not consider that it is necessary for the restrictions to go beyond the entrance to Horseman Close. Object to the lines extending to the first bend as this will make it more difficult for visitors to park.</p>	<p>The extent of the proposed restrictions along Horseman Close is a balance between road safety and the convenience for residents and their visitors to park.</p>
<p>Resident of Horseman Close</p>	<p>Does not consider it necessary for the restrictions to go beyond the entrance to Horseman Close. Objects to the lines extending to the first bend as this will make it more difficult for visitors to park. The inconvenience of weekend parking is more acceptable than the inconvenience that the proposed restrictions would cause at all times.</p>	<p>The extent of the proposed restrictions along Horseman Close is a balance between road safety and the convenience for residents and their visitors to park.</p>
<p>Resident of Horseman Close</p>	<p>Welcomes the proposed restrictions which he has been pressing for over many years. However, would like the restriction on Horseman Close to be extended to cover both bends so that any displaced parking occurs in the more open section of the Close.</p>	<p>The extent of the proposed restrictions along Horseman Close is a balance between road safety and the convenience for residents and their visitors to park.</p>
<p>Resident of Horseman Close</p>	<p>The proposals are a good start but will only lead to non-resident parking further into Horseman Close.</p> <p>The proposals should be extended to cover both bends on Horseman Close.</p>	<p>If implemented there may be some displacement further along Horseman Close but the road alignment there is more suited to parked vehicles.</p> <p>The extent of the proposed restrictions along Horseman Close is a balance between road safety and the convenience for residents and their visitors to park.</p>
<p>Resident of Horseman Close</p>	<p>In favour of the proposals. Notes that this may lead to parking going further into the side roads off Marsh Lane but expects that people will get used to this provided it is not inconsiderate.</p> <p>Wants action taken to prevent damage to the grass verges along Marsh Lane.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Passed to City Council and Area Steward.</p>