

TRANSPORT DECISIONS COMMITTEE– 3 SEPTEMBER 2009

DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES – CHERWELL DISTRICT

Report by Head of Transport

Introduction

1. This report considers the proposed provision of new Disabled Persons' Parking Places (DPPPs), and the formalisation of existing "advisory" DPPPs in Cherwell following the publication of the draft Oxfordshire County Council (Cherwell District) (Disabled Persons' Parking Places) (Amendment [No.1*]) Order 20**.

Background

2. The increasing demand for parking in Oxfordshire can lead to particular difficulties for disabled people who need to park close to their homes or place of work. The County Council may provide a DPPP on a public road where there is a need.
3. On 7 December 2004 the Executive agreed to rationalise policy with regard to disabled parking which included proposals to adopt a uniform approach to be implemented throughout the County. Previously, in Oxfordshire (as opposed to Oxford City) disabled parking was provided by the use of advisory bays. These bays are marked up on the ground but no disabled sign plate is provided and, as they do not appear in a Traffic Regulation Order, are not enforceable. A review of these DPPPs has been carried out across Oxfordshire to ensure they are still required and those that are, are being formalised. It will then be possible to enforce them. At the same time, new requests for DPPPs are being considered.

Procedure

4. A fact sheet listing the criteria required to qualify for a DPPP is available in the Members' Resource Centre. A primary condition for qualification is that the applicant has to be a Blue Badge holder. Applicants have to complete a detailed application form and provide a copy of their driving licence and vehicle registration documents to prove that both the driver and the vehicle owner are resident at the address where the DPPP is requested.
5. The site is then assessed by a Highways Inspector to see if a DPPP is feasible. If it is, informal consultation is carried out with various authorities, such as the Emergency Services. If no adverse comments are made, formal consultation is commenced. This report considers comments in respect of the DPPPs referred to in paragraph 1 received at the formal stage.

Formal Consultation

6. The Directorate sent a copy of the draft Amendment Order, a Statement of Reasons for the Order and a copy of the Public Notice appearing in the local press to formal Consultees (including local County Councillors) on 7 July, 2009. These documents, together with supporting documentation as required, and plans of all the DPPP's were deposited for public inspection at County Hall, Cherwell District Council offices at Bodicote, and at Banbury, Neithrop (Banbury), Bicester, and Kidlington Libraries. They are also available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.
7. Separately, the Directorate wrote to local residents in each area where the proposed new and formalised DPPP's would be sited asking for their comments. In addition public notices were displayed at each site and in the Oxford Times. A table showing all the bay proposals is shown at Annex 1.
8. The only formal Consultees to respond were Thames Valley Police, Cherwell District Council, and Banbury Town Council, none of which had any objections to the proposals.
9. Comments were received from local residents in respect of the proposed DPPP's in Cheviot Way, Edinburgh Way, Westminster Way, Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury; Chalvey Road, Bicester and Bellenger Way, Kidlington. Comments were also received in respect of the proposed formalisation of a DPPP at Church Street, Bodicote and Charlbury Close, Kidlington.
10. A synopsis of each comment with an officer response is set out at Annex 2. Copies of the comments can be viewed in the Members' Resource Centre.

Recommended Changes to the Proposals

11. The following is a location where it was proposed to provide a new DPPP but as a result of consultation it is recommended it should not now proceed:-

Proposed new DPPP in Westminster Way, Banbury – after discussions with the applicant and other local residents it has been agreed that the applicant does, in fact, have an adjacent hard-standing which forms part of her property. It is therefore recommended that the DPPP proposal does not proceed.

All the other proposals are recommended to go ahead as advertised.

How the Project supports LTP2 Objectives

12. The introduction of new DPPP's and the formalisation of advisory DPPP's will help in Delivering Accessibility by enabling disabled people to park near to their homes and thus access a wider range of services.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

13. The cost of installing the DPPPs is approximately £7,000 and will be met from the existing revenue budget provided for these.

RECOMMENDATION

14. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**

- (a) **authorise variations to the Oxfordshire County Council (Cherwell District) (Disabled Persons' Parking Places) Order 2007 as amended in this report to provide for:**
- (i) **fourteen new DPPPs as set out in Annex 1 to this report;**
 - (ii) **the formalisation of twelve existing advisory DPPPs as specified in Annex 1 to this report;**
- (b) **not to proceed with provision of a new DPPPs outside No 38 and 2 Canterbury Close, Westminster Way, Banbury.**

STEVE HOWELL
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Environment & Economy

Background papers: Consultation documentation

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August 2009

<u>Proposed New Disabled Persons' Parking Places</u>	
Banbury	
1	Balmoral Avenue, outside No 30.
2	Bloxham Road, outside No 18.
3	Cheviot Way, outside No 44.
4	Edinburgh Way, outside No 101.
5	Lennox Gardens, outside No 26.
6	Merton Street, outside No 18.
7	Westminster Way, outside No 38 & 2 Canterbury Close – Not to Proceed
8	Woodfield, 2 bays – outside No's 23 & 63.
9	Woodgreen Avenue, outside No 120.
Bicester	
10	Chalvey Road- extension of existing bay to accommodate 2 vehicles.
11	Kingsclere Road, in lay-by outside No 95.
Fritwell	
12	Fewcott Road, outside No 20.
Kidlington	
13	Bellenger Way, opposite No 33.
14	Charlbury Close, outside No 9.

<u>Proposed Formalisation of Advisory Disabled Persons' Parking Places</u>	
Banbury	
1	Bloxham Road, outside No 16.
2	Bretch Hill, outside No 14.
3	Crouch Hill Road, outside No 27.
4	Edmunds Road, outside No 25.
5	Miller Road, outside No 42.

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6	Penrhyn Close, outside No 10.
7	Ruscote Avenue, outside No 54.
8	Woodgreen Avenue, outside No 6.
Bloxham	
9	High Street, near Post Office
Bodicote	
10	Church Street, outside No 8A.
Kidlington	
11	Charlbury Close, outside No 15.
12	Oxford Road Service Road, outside No 17.

Comments on the Proposed Disabled Persons' Parking Places (DPPPs)

	Commentor	Comments	Response	Recommendation
DPPP at Cheviot Way, Banbury				
1	Resident, Cheviot Way	Worried that DPPP would make it difficult to enter and access the garage and hard-standing area opposite. Suggests moving it.	DPPP is on same side of road as cars habitually park. Its location is designed to protect the access way to the west and is diagonally opposite the northern access way so as not to obstruct that.	Proceed.
2	Resident, Cheviot Way	All the residents here including the applicant have garages so DPPP not needed. The DPPP will lose a car space for other residents and also leave half a space between it and the access way on the west side. Other disabled residents here use the parking they have.	The applicant finds it difficult to get in & out of car in the garage which is at the bottom of the garden. The DPPP is positioned so as to prevent cars obstructing the access way behind. It is also diagonally opposite another access way on other side of road so as to minimise any possible impact here. No other resident has requested a DPPP.	Proceed.
DPPP at Edinburgh Way, Banbury				
3	Resident, Edinburgh Way.	Bay is proposed outside his house. Suggests putting bay in Glamis Place where applicant lives. Believes applicant is partially sighted but otherwise can walk normally. Thinks bay would make it difficult for passing traffic if a car parked opposite. Is thinking of getting a car and putting in a hard-standing for this and his visitors.	The Parking areas in Glamis Place are often double parked and wouldn't be suitable for a DPPP. Applicant has current Blue Badge and receives the Higher Rate Disability Living Allowance for Mobility. He cannot be left alone and the DPPP application is specifically supported by his doctor. Cars normally park on the east side here where the DPPP is proposed and there used to be an advisory DPPP in the same place as the proposed DPPP.	Proceed.

DPPP at Westminster Way, Banbury				
4	Resident, Westminster Way	He and 3 other residents object to the proposal because this is where they park. Says the applicant has a "private car parking space" which is closer to front door than the proposed DPPP and she appears to be in good health. They suggest the DPPP should be further to north on the side of the road relevant to the applicant.	After further discussions with the applicant and other residents, the applicant agrees that there is an adjacent hard-standing that is included with the house. As a result she no longer qualifies for a DPPP.	Not to proceed.
5	Resident, Canterbury Close.	Objects to the proposal as she believes the bay would be too close to the road junction with Westminster Way. Also believes the DPPP would be in the same place as the applicant's hard-standing and equally close to her front door.	The DPPP would actually have been in Westminster Way away from the junction and not Canterbury Close. As above.	As above.
6	Resident, Westminster Way	Objects to the proposal as proposed location is near a junction and applicant already has an off-road parking space.	The DPPP would actually have been in Westminster Way away from the junction and not Canterbury Close. As above.	As above.
DPPP at Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury				
7	Resident, Woodgreen Avenue.	Says applicant parks outside his house without difficulty. Doesn't believe he is disabled.	Woodgreen Avenue is normally fairly well parked which becomes heavily parked as the evening approaches. Applicant has a current Blue Badge and receives the Higher Rate Disability Living Allowance for Mobility.	Proceed.
8	Resident, Woodgreen Avenue	Describes various parking difficulties, and thinks OCC	As above. There is a bus stop clearway and double yellow lines immediately	Proceed.

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		should have put the proposed DPPP on the end of existing bay not in it. Says the applicant can walk, “do” the garden, and carry shopping from the car to the home. If a DPPP is provided only badge holders can use it and if the applicant is “elsewhere” no other resident could park there.	to the north-west of the end of the parking bay so the proposed DPPP needs to be sited as shown on the plan.	
DPPP at Chalvey Road, Bicester (extension of existing bay to two cars)				
9	Resident, Chalvey Road	Says he needs to park outside his house as he now has arthritis and can't walk far. Says the applicant walks her dog at night and therefore ought to be able to walk a little further to her car.	Social & Community Service confirms this objector is not a Badge Holder. DPPP is planned to cover half his frontage. The objector confirms that his neighbour further away from the bay doesn't drive - so he could still park adjacent to the new bay.	Proceed.
10	Resident, Chalvey Road	Objects to proposal because it would leave only 1 car space outside No's 49 & 51 instead of 2. Says there is less of a parking problem further down the road.	The extended bay would cover half the frontage of No 49. The other option was to propose another separate DPPP but this would take away more vehicle parking space than a combined solution. If there are less problems with parking further down – able bodied drivers could park there.	Proceed.
DPPP at Bellenger Way, Kidlington				
11	Resident, Bellenger Way.	In favour of proposed DPPP – residents in other streets park here as well as carers and visitors. There are no pavements here.	Noted.	Proceed.

12	Son of resident, Bellenger Way	His mother lives at end of pathway and concerned that proposed DPPP will block the access to the path for her wheelchair. There is a tarmac build up here to form a ramp to the kerb & path. Could we do something to protect this area?	Discussed with Highways Inspector – planned DPPP will not cover access to path. If bay approved we will ask contractor to provide a Private Access Protection Marking across the access when they line the bay. The commentor is happy that this resolves the problem.	Proceed.
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Comments on Proposed Formalisation of existing Disabled Persons' Parking Place (DPPP)

	Commentor	Comments	Response	Recommendation
DPPP at Church Street, Bodicote				
1	Resident, Church Street who uses the bay	He understands that bay needs lengthening to the regulation 6.6 metres. Would prefer that it is extended to the south rather than the north to avoid a neighbours access. Also his gas service is under footway here and if a post was installed for the sign plate it must avoid that.	Will arrange to extend bay to south and make sure all utility plans are used before installing any post.	Proceed.
2	Resident, Church Street	Objects to the proposed formalisation because the bay is rarely used to take the disabled person out or back, but is used by the resident able bodied driver and others. Doesn't think it would be dangerous to set	Discussed further with the users of the bay and consulted with Social and Community Service and am satisfied that it would be unsafe to leave the disabled person while the driver parked elsewhere. The disabled person receives the Higher Rate of Disability Living Allowance for Mobility. They are now aware of the correct usage of a formal	Proceed.

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		the disabled person down while the driver parked elsewhere.	DPPP.	
3	Resident, Church Street	Believes the DPPP is not required as it has been used purely as a private parking place for the family and rarely to take the Badge Holder out or back. Has never seen a Blue Badge displayed in vehicles parked here.	Discussed further with users of the bay and consulted with Social & Community Service and satisfied that bay is needed. The disabled person receives the Higher Rate Disability Living Allowance for Mobility. The users are aware of the correct use of a formal DPPP and that the Blue Badge needs to be displayed in the car whenever it is in the bay.	Proceed.
DPPP at Charlbury Close, Kidlington				
4	Resident, Charlbury Close	Has used the advisory bay for last 12 years and counts it as her space. Can she still leave her car in the DPPP when she goes out in another vehicle and takes her badge with her – will her tax disc indicating disabled be sufficient?	DPPP can be used by any vehicle correctly displaying a blue badge. The tax disc cannot be used to park in a DPPP. If she goes out in another vehicle with her Blue Badge she should move her car out of DPPP to avoid a possible parking fine and to allow other badge holders to use it.	Proceed.