

Division(s) affected: *Thame*

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

18 JULY 2024

THAME: EAST STREET & WYKEHAM PARK – PERMIT HOLDERS ONLY PARKING SCHEME

Report by Director of Environment and Highways

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

Approve the proposals for the introduction of permit holders only parking (TH), Monday to Saturday, 8am to 6pm, in Thame as follows:

- a) East Street, north side between the property boundary No. 6/7 and vehicular access to No.17,**
- b) Wykeham Park, whole road, from its junction with East Street,**
- c) To also include the dwelling at The Cross Keys PH in the list of eligible properties.**

Executive Summary

2. In January 2024, officers implemented a number of parking restriction changes in the centre of Thame, which addressed historic anomalies where residents had become accustomed to parking all day in limited waiting bays. New areas of residents parking were also introduced in Park Street, Nelson Street and North Street.
3. Following the implementation of the scheme, residents of East Street have approached officers and councillors to raise concerns about displaced parking in parts of the road where residents have no off-street parking and therefore having to compete with town centre users.
4. In discussions with representatives of the Town Council and with input from the local County Councillor, officers have developed a small scheme for part of East Street and Wykeham Park to be included in the designated areas of permit holder parking, which mirrors the scheme that was implemented in nearby Park Street.

5. Enforcement of the restrictions would be undertaken by the County Council's enforcement contractor Trellint as the town falls within the Civil Enforcement Area for South Oxfordshire.
6. The report presents responses to the statutory consultation on the proposed parking controls as shown in **Annex 1**.

Sustainability Implications

7. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic and alleviate parking stress in the area, and also help encourage the use of sustainable transport modes and help support the delivery of wider transport initiatives.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

8. The parking project for East Street and Wykeham Park is being funded through Community Infrastructure Levee (CIL) contributions, so there are no financial implications to the County Council.

Equalities and Inclusion Implications

9. No equalities on inclusion implications have been identified in respect of the proposals, however it is noted that blue badge holders can park in permit holder/time limited bays without restriction.

Formal Consultation

10. A formal consultation was carried out between 25 April 2024 and 24 May 2024. A notice was published in the Oxford Times, and an email sent to statutory consultees & key-stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport/access & disabled peoples user groups, Thame Town Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, the local District Councillors, and the County Councillor representing the Thame division.
11. A letter was sent directly to approximately 96 properties in the area, which also included a copy of the formal notice of the proposals - providing details on permit eligibility and costs. Additionally, street notices were also placed on site in the immediate vicinity.
12. A total of 22 responses were received via the online survey during the course of the formal consultation, and these are summarised in the table below:

Proposal	Object	Partially support	Support	No opinion/ objection	Total
East Street	7 (32%)	2 (9%)	13 (59%)	-	22
Wykeham Park	7 (32%)	2 (9%)	9 (41%)	4 (18%)	22

* note – all percentages rounded up/down to nearest whole number.

13. Whilst the table above presents the general position of the respondent to each of the proposed elements of the scheme. This is based on the option chosen by the respondent (Object, support etc.) but it should be noted that on reviewing the detail of the responses, in a number of cases a respondent expressing support for the proposal had some qualifications / concerns, and similarly some of the objections related to specific details of the scheme.
14. Additionally, a further 5 emails were received, with Thames Valley not objecting to the proposals and the local County Councillor confirming their support for the proposals.
15. The individual responses are shown in full at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer Response to Objections/Concerns

16. The results of the on-line survey responses showed that there is generally a clear level of support to all elements of the proposals, with the majority in favour for the scheme.
17. The County Councillor and Town Council have also responded in support of the proposals.

General feedback to the proposals:

18. Within the individual responses there were a high number of comments made that were positive towards the proposals. This included statements that there is an issue with residents finding available on street parking, which the restrictions would improve.
19. In contrast, there were a few responses questioning the need for the scheme, with one resident stating that they were unaware of residents raising issues, so the proposals were not driven by a local agenda. Another resident felt the current arrangements worked well and with residents going to work during the day and parking becoming available in the evenings.
20. The proposals were developed in response to requests and complaints from residents living on East Street who have contacted the Town Council, County Councillors, and officers on several occasions to raise their concerns and to request parking controls to be introduced.

21. The proposals have been developed in discussions with representatives of the Town Council and with input from the County Councillor.

Extent of the scheme:

22. A common theme in the responses received was that the proposals do not extend far enough along East Street and the current number of permit parking bays would be insufficient for the number of residents who may apply for permits. There were calls for the whole of East Street to be covered by permit holder only restrictions to cater for the demand for residents.

23. In developing the proposals officers consulted with representatives of the Town Council and local County Councillor who agreed that the proposals should be limited to the western end of East Street, where residents currently do not have off-street parking to minimise the potential for displacement and the need for additional signs and posts in front of resident's properties.

24. The remaining parking will remain unrestricted, so residents will still have the opportunity to park in these areas, especially in the evenings where there is less demand. They also have the opportunity to park in other areas covered by permit holder restrictions, with use of a permit.

Permit operation:

25. The advertised proposals aim to align with the existing operating policies of the Council for the issue of permits for permit parking areas, including designated streets within Thame. This includes caps on the number of permits issued for a property to 2, with maximum 1 per person, per vehicle.

26. In the responses received to the consultation, a number of residents objected on the basis that rules for the scheme, discriminates against larger families with multiple vehicles in their household. This would lead to residents having to park further away from their homes would impact on younger people who live at home with their parents.

27. Further objections were received around restrictions imposed on properties with off-street parking. Comments were made that some properties have only limited space and therefore there is also a need for some on-street parking.

28. Other general points made related to the charges for the scheme, as residents objected to having to pay for permits, especially the retired and those on low incomes.

29. One resident flagged that the dwelling above the Cross Keys Public House had not been included in the list of properties eligible and there was a need for this to be included as their address is on East Street.

30. The operating policies for permit schemes in Oxfordshire have been in place for a number of years and a cap on the number of permits per property is required to ensure demand for parking is managed and the schemes are fair

to all users. This is especially true in terraced streets where there is limited on-street capacity, but the potential for high demand.

31. There was a small error on the wording on the consultation page of the website that stated that residents with off-street parking would not be able to apply for parking permits. This was incorrect, as documented in the public notice and draft traffic order, there are no exclusions for properties listed as eligible to apply for permits. This applies to both residents and visitor permits.
32. The cost of residents and visitors permits is required to cover the cost of running the scheme. It the policy of most councils in the UK, including Oxfordshire that these costs are passed onto the residents and users that directly benefit from the schemes.
33. The request to include the Cross Keys Public House in the list of eligible properties is noted and it is recommended that the approved scheme is amended to include the dwelling.

Potential for displacement:

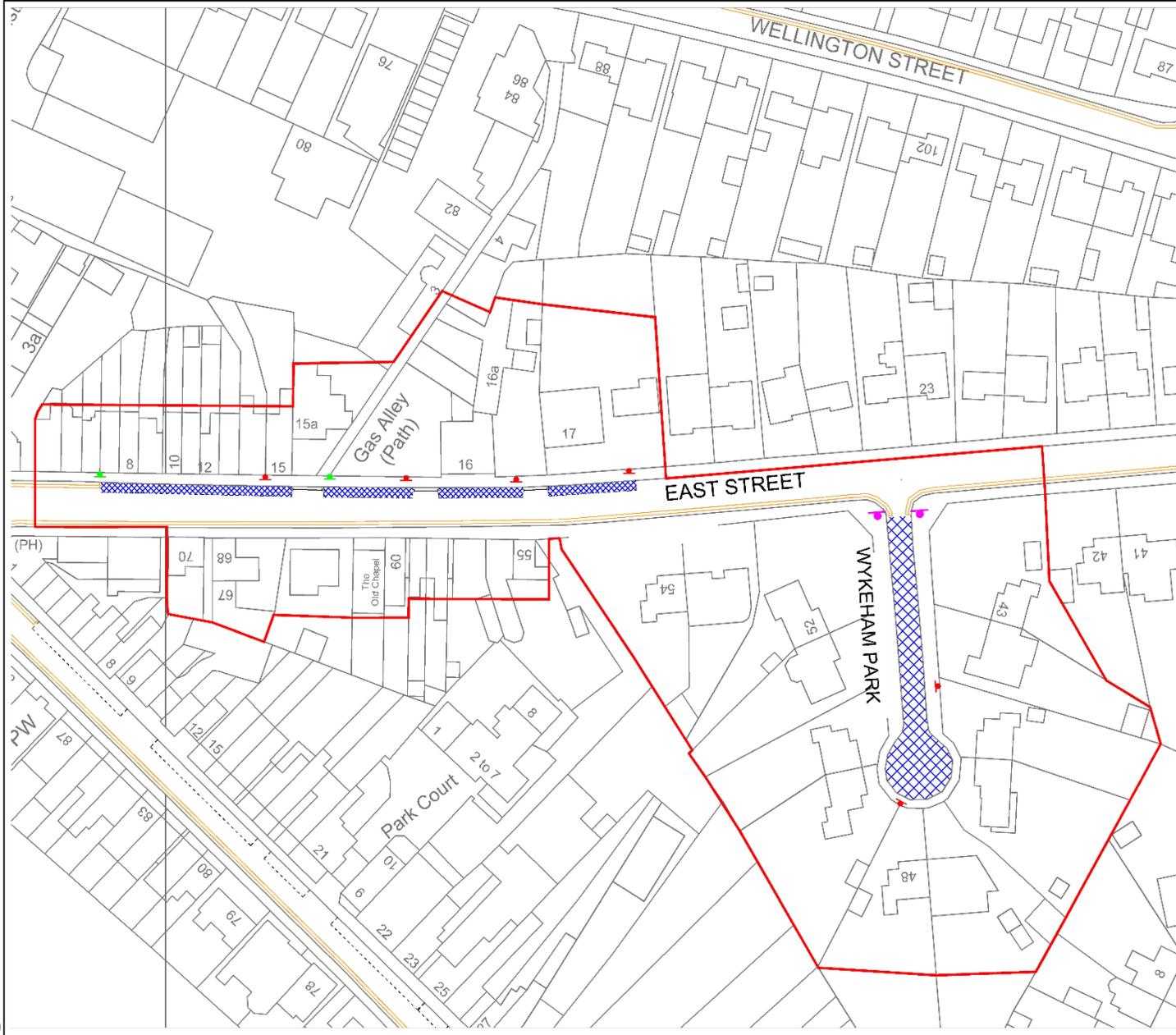
34. The potential for displacement of parking was raised by some residents living locally, including in Kings Road and Wellington Street. The points made were that the introduction of permit holders bays in East Street would necessitate control measures to be considered in wider roads in the area, and these types of schemes simply push problems out, without little benefit.
35. The potential displacement of any new parking control is a legitimate concern, and the proposals have been developed to address local issues whilst trying to minimise the impact on other areas. There is often a balance in trying to manage the impacts of indiscriminate parking whilst allowing flexibility for different types of users.
36. Schemes are kept under review after their implementation and officers will work with elected members to develop changes if they are required.

Other comments/concerns:

37. Specific questions and points were made about the design aesthetics and operation of the scheme which included:
 - will the zone be painted onto the road surface and in what form/design?
 - will drop kerb access be painted?
 - where will parking zone signage be placed? Importantly, we want to ensure this is sensitively located in this conservation area and not aligned to residents front facing windows, so their amenity is not adversely affected or obscured and the protected character of the conservation area is unaffected.
 - Is it £100 per household, so if you have two cars you will get two permits for the fee or £100 per year?

ANNEX 1

Drawing No. revision 0



- KEY TO RESTRICTIONS**
- PROPOSED PERMIT HOLDERS ONLY
PREFIX TH - MON SAT, 8AM TO 6PM
 - PROPOSED BOUNDARY OF ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES FOR TH PERMITS
 - EXISTING DOUBLE YELLOW LINES TO REMAIN UNCHANGED
- KEY TO SYMBOLS**
- NEW POST REQUIRED IN FOOTWAY TO MOUNT A PARKING SIGN
 - NEW SIGN ON EXISTING POST / LAMP COLUMN
 - ZONE ENTRY SIGNS FOR A PERMIT PARKING AREA (PPA)
 - WHITE ACCESS MARKING (ADVISORY)

SAFETY, HEALTH- AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK SET OUT TO ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS

CONSTRUCTION
(ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)

MAINTENANCE/CLEANING
(ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)

USE
(ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)

DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION
(ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved



Project title
CPE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE
2024-25

Drawing title
Proposed parking changes
Thame - Central area
East Street & Wykeham Park

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
1:1000	JW	VN	CC
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved
	06.03.24		

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No.	CPE/TH/JW/24/001	Revision	V3
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P:\2. Network Management\Parking Control\SCHEMES & MAINTENANCE\2. District Areas\3. South Oxfordshire\1. Live Projects\Thame P&D\East Street - amendments\Thame P&D v4.dwg

ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(2) Thame Town Council	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Support</p> <p>Support the proposed residents parking permit scheme on East Street and Wykeham Park on the understanding that these have been requested by residents.</p>
(3) Local County Cllr, (Thame & Chinnor division)	Support – I fully support the residents parking in East Street and Wykeham Park.
(4) Local Cllr (Thame Town Council)	<p>Partially support – you have unfortunately omitted one property which I had specifically mentioned in earlier correspondence and in the map that I shared with you.</p> <p>The Cross Keys public house is on the corner of Park Street and East Street but the couple who run the pub were disallowed from applying for a permit under the Park Street scheme because their postal address is East Street. That has always been a source of confusion but the door which gives private access to their living quarters above the pub is indeed in East Street. There should therefore be no question that they are as entitled as anyone else living at the town end of East Street to apply for a permit this time around, yet the details in your consultation document seem to specifically exclude their address, listing only nos. 4 to 17 and nos. 53 to 70.</p>
(5) Local resident, (Thame, Kings Road)	<p>East Street – Object Wykeham Park – Object</p> <p>I live on Kings road in Thame (just at the top of East street)</p>

	<p>This same situation happened to us when we lived in London. The roads around us went to residents parking permits and all it did was push cars onto our road which was non permit parking. The same will happen again here.</p> <p>Households with too many cars for permits will just park the extra cars on wellington street and kings road and then we will be unable to park outside our homes or have visitors find a parking space. Also those visiting the doctors surgery and community hospital, who can't park in the car parks, will park on kings road and wellington street. This will not reduce cars on the roads and is only being brought in because cars that have now been pushed out the high street due to permits have now started to park on surrounding roads.</p> <p>Where does it stop? All that happens is every street parks one over, so the parking permit zones have to be continually extended.</p>
<p>(6) Local resident, (Thame, Wykeham Park)</p>	<p>East Street – Object Wykeham Park – Object</p> <p>creates unnecessary and additional administrative and financial burden on the council to manage permit scheme at limited financial benefit.</p> <p>pushes visitor traffic further out into other residential streets without actually providing adequate parking or transport infrastructure to ensure Thame remains a viable town with business and job opportunities proposal is poorly drafted and contains many ambiguities which negatively impact on residents living in the proposed streets, hence making it difficult to fully assess the proposal</p> <p>It places an additional financial burden on residents to park in the road they already live in and park their vehicles in, residents from East street already park in Wykeham Park.</p> <p>Not aware that local residents have voiced concern about parking so this initiative is not driven by a local agenda The use of permits in the proposal does nothing to "faciliate the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicles and other traffic, as the areas will continue to provide parking spaces - where is the evidence that by paying to park in the roads where we live will have any effect.</p> <p>The proposal to introduce strict permit rules will have a negative effect on residential parking for many of the residents in the road. For example it does not take into affect the number of occupants of a household that may drive, limiting</p>

	<p>the number of permits to 2 is restrictive. Another example could be a household that has off street parking - (how defined?) for one vehicle but 2 residents both requiring vehicles, so that one currently parks in the road, they would be ineligible to apply for a parking permit for the second vehicle, pushing that resident to park further away in another side street, how does that help with managing residential parking in Thame</p> <p>Limiting visitor permits only to households that do meet the eligibility criteria means that those houses that may have some off street parking, but limited - this is not properly defined in the proposal will affect the ability for residents to have visitors which may be essential for them</p> <p>The proposal as far as I could see does not refer to public and bank holidays It takes no account of residents who may do shift work.</p>
(7) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)	<p>East Street – Object Wykeham Park – Object</p> <p>This would not work for our household if 5 adults; 3 of which have a car. We have a drive and are not amongst the numbers eligible for a permit. There is fluctuating availability but as residents we are able to get spots when required.</p>
(8) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)	<p>East Street – Object Wykeham Park – Object</p> <p>I strongly object to this proposal. We moved house for the parking after having parking issues elsewhere in Thame. Due to the number of adults in our household we have insufficient off road parking. Residents in the eligible houses also have more than 1 vehicle, they park on the road outside our house as well as their visitors and town workers. We are forced to hunt for a space further along east street or Wykeham park . It is not a fair proposal, Residents with off road parking at considerable expense and their visitors will be penalised as a result. The chance of a parking space will be vastly reduced whilst Residents in the proposed houses who were aware of the parking situation will have more parking available. This proposal will not manage the demand for residential parking but will push the issue further down the street. This will cause further stress and issues for those who are not eligible under the proposed scheme.</p>
(9) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)	<p>East Street – Object Wykeham Park – Object</p>

	<p>Our household already have difficulty to park near our house. As we are a family of 5, we have multiple cars, this proposal means we would have to park a far distance from our house and would result in having to carry several heavy bags required for work in all weather conditions e.g. rain and extreme heat. My work requires me to work up to 12hr shifts and sometimes resulting in me getting home at midnight or later, this therefore would cause further exhaustion and a lot of added stress. It would also mean it would be near impossible for my girlfriend to visit me and would impact my relationship massively.</p>
<p>(10) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Object Wykeham Park – Object</p> <p>I think this is very unfair as there is already a huge limit in parking spaces as it is. I am deeply concerned about my elderly grandparents who struggle to walk far distances. We are a large household who have 3 cars that we need to use on a daily basis due to work, which means that one of us will not be able to get a parking space anywhere near home.</p>
<p>(11) Local resident, (Thame, Wykeham Park)</p>	<p>East Street – Object Wykeham Park – Object</p> <p>This project is not necessary and will not help residents in any way, just cost money. Can I be guaranteed a parking space near my home in Wykeham Park? I have limited mobility and our house is the only one in Wykeham Park without off-street parking. East Street has many houses without parking space and at present everything works well. Many go out to work and need evening and weekend parking. Only the out of work or retired need residents' daytime parking and cannot afford to pay for a permit. Who would police the scheme? Will it mean OCC has to spend more money to employ someone to do this? What is the use of this scheme?</p> <p>This is just another level of council bureaucracy that will cost residents money for no good reason.</p>
<p>(12) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>Partially support – In general, I support the proposal for residents permit parking in East Street and Wykeham Park.</p> <p>However, I object to the exclusion of properties with some off-street parking without regard to the space available and household requirements for parking close to home.</p>

	<p>We have two adult children living with us who need a car to get to/from their workplace. They presently have to park in the road as we do not have enough space within our boundary without blocking our neighbour's access.</p> <p>It strikes me as wrong to exclude young people starting out in life who are already penalised by the high cost of property ownership/ renting.</p>
<p>(13) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Partially support Wykeham Park – No objection</p> <p>We support plans to 'reserve' areas of East Street for residents parking only. However, the proposal to exclude properties with off-street parking does not take account of the space available to park off-street.</p> <p>We have two adult children living with us who need a car to get to/from their work place. They presently have to park in the road as we do not have enough space within our boundary without blocking our neighbours access.</p> <p>It strikes us as wrong to exclude young people starting out in life who are already penalised by the high cost of property ownership / renting.</p>
<p>(14) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Partially support Wykeham Park – Support</p> <p>We fully support the scheme to introduce residents parking on East Street, however, we feel that not enough consideration has been given to the number of spaces in relation to the number of households that the scheme needs to serve. We ask that this please be reconsidered.</p>
<p>(15) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Partially support</p> <p>I understand why you are proposing to provide residents parking permits at the end of East Street where there are mainly terraced houses with no off road parking.</p>

	<p>However, I do not understand why you are planning to do the same in Wykeham Park, as most of the houses have off road parking. Have the residents of Wykeham Park requested this?</p>
<p>(16) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Partially support</p> <p>I support the parking scheme, since it has been bought in by the war memorial and other car parks it has become nearly impossible to park on east street at peak times. Please consider including the parking permit holders only along the entirety of east street, all of the other houses that aren't terraced have off road parking so don't require the on road parking.</p>
<p>(17) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – No objection</p> <p>We are in our seventies and I suffer from COPD. My husband has cancer so it is difficult to have to keep moving the car. It is very seldom we can get a parking space throughout the day.</p>
<p>(18) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – No objection</p> <p>Parking is very difficult in Thame and with more housing and businesses opening, a parking permit in the street I live in would be precious.</p>
<p>(19) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – No objection</p> <p>As a local resident living in the part of East Street nearest the town centre, and in the knowledge that other streets near by are about to become permit-holder parking areas, I think introducing permits for residents in East Street will be the only way to enable us to have a chance of parking near our homes on a daily basis.</p>

(20) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Support</p> <p>I live in one of the terraced properties in East Street which at present has no designated parking. It is hit and miss whether you are able to park anywhere near your property, if you live in a house without a driveway. A parking permit would make life so much easier for the residents of the terraced properties. At the moment people from outside Thame park in East Street to shop, or for work, and this is unfair for residents.</p>
(21) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Support</p> <p>I am supporting the proposals as a local resident. I am having to park further and further from my house each time I come home in the evening and weekends.</p>
(22) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Support</p> <p>'Fully support this scheme, as East Street was entirely overlooked in the previous scheme and a clear mistake was made in excluding East Street, which the council now acknowledge. We have had detailed exchanges with Jim Whiting on this point, with the vocal support of multiple Thame Town Councillors. Although it's welcomed to see this proposal come through, it doesn't provide sufficient spaces for those without off-road parking on East Street.</p> <p>The current scheme only provides circa 18 spaces for c50 residences in scope of the zone highlighted in the plan, 20 residences of which have no off road parking at all.</p> <p>Taking into account that the average car ownership is x2 per household on East Street (or the SODC statistic of 1.5 cars per household), this would necessitate that the designated proposed permit holder parking zone should be extended for the full length of East Street, as between 30-40 spaces would be required just to meet the needs of the residents without off road parking.</p>

	<p>We would also like to understand what physical form the parking designation will take? For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - will the zone be painted onto the road surface and in what form/design? - will drop kerb access be painted? - where will parking zone signage be placed? <p>Importantly, we want to ensure this is sensitively located in this conservation area and not aligned to residents front facing windows, so their amenity is not adversely affected or obscured and the protected character of the conservation area is unaffected.</p> <p>We would also like clarification of the charges for this scheme. Is it £100 per household, so if you have two cars you will get two permits for the fee or £100 per year?</p>
<p>(23) Local resident, (Thame, Wykeham Park)</p>	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Support</p> <p>Our road can become very congested and I think it is difficult for those who don't have off-street parking.</p>
<p>(24) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Support</p> <p>I am a resident on East Street and struggle to park on the road most days. I am an NHS nurse and often struggle to park near my house when I return from shift.</p> <p>Most residents who live in the area on east street included in the plan for permits have 2 cars so I think the zone for residents only should be extended further down east street</p>
<p>(25) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Support</p>

	<p>As a resident of the terraced houses in East Street, parking is an every day problem. Anything to make this easier for residents has to be supported, especially if there are enough parking spaces for everyone in East Street, who does not have a driveway.</p>
<p>(26) Local resident, (Thame, East Street)</p>	<p>East Street – Support Wykeham Park – Support</p> <p>We support the proposal to bring in the parking permits as the parking has become near impossible since they were bought in for the surrounding areas. It would be good to see the permits widened to allow for more parking on East Street as the proposal currently does not have enough spaces for the residents it is proposed to cover, it would be good to see this extended to the whole of East Street.</p>
<p>(27) Local resident, (Thame, Wykeham Park)</p>	<p>Support – I think it is an excellent idea. However there is no number 54 Wykeham Park as in your plan. My house, number 52, is located on the junction with East Street, and all other houses in the road have lower numbers.</p>