Division: Bicester

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL- 3 JANUARY 2013

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS AROUND BICESTER NORTH STATION

Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. This report considers objections received to a formal consultation on proposals to introduce new parking restrictions in various roads in the vicinity of Bicester North Station. Annex 1 and 2 attached detail the proposals.

Background

- 2. The proposals in this report are a response to local concerns about the danger and congestion caused by parking by rail commuters in the streets either side of Buckingham Road north of Bicester North Station. Following discussions between officers and County Councillor Michael Waine regarding the options for dealing with this issue and informal consultation carried out by Councillor Waine, two particular areas were identified for action.
- 3. To the west of Buckingham Road, the proposed restrictions (no parking Monday to Friday on one side of the road from 11am 12 noon and from 12 noon 1pm on the opposite side) would cover the whole Woodfield Road (apart from the layby in front of Nos 28-32) plus the southern section of Blake Road. On the east side, the same restrictions would apply on the whole of Balliol Drive (apart from the layby in front of Nos 2-12), Cedar Drive, Magdalen Close and part of Bassett Avenue.

Formal Consultation

- 4. Oxfordshire County Council sent a copy of the draft amendment orders, statement of reasons and a copy of the public notice appearing in the local press and containing the proposed changes to formal consultees on 19 October 2012. These documents, together with supporting documentation and plans were deposited for public inspection at County Hall and at Bicester Library. They are also available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.
- 5. At the same time the County Council wrote to local residents affected by the proposed restrictions, asking for their comments. Public notices were also displayed on site and in the Oxford Times.

- 6. A total of 38 responses were received regarding the proposals for the west of Buckingham Road (2 from Blake Road, 14 from Brashfield Road, 17 from Woodfield Road and 4 from Hill View Terrace on Buckingham Road). A further 7 responses were received regarding the proposals on the east side of Buckingham Road (1 from Bassett Avenue, 3 from Balliol Road, 2 from Magdalen Close and 1 from Price Close). These are all summarised at Annex
- 7. It can be seen from the summary that the main issues raised by those commenting from the west side of Buckingham Road are:
 - (a) there is a desire that the issue should be tackled;
 - the advertised proposals would cause even more difficulties for residents (either because they work shifts or don't use their cars to travel to work);
 - (c) if restrictions are applied to Woodfield Road then the commuters will simply move to Brashfield Road which will need to be protected in the same way;
 - (d) a residents parking scheme is needed.

The comments from the east side of Buckingham Road are more mixed with some respondents querying the need for restrictions whilst others welcome them. Some have also asked about the practicality of the restrictions for visitors and residents without off-street parking.

Conclusion

- 8. It is clear from consultation responses that the proposed restrictions in Woodfield Road and Blake Road are not supported by the residents they are intended to help. In addition if they were to be implemented without similar restrictions in Brashfield Road, the residents there believe the current parking problems would simply move to that road from Woodfield Road. The responses to the consultation have been discussed with Councillor Waine (as local member and promoter of the scheme) and as a result it has been suggested that the proposals to the west of Buckingham Road should not pursued but that alternative solutions to ease the congestion caused by commuter parking be explored at a future date.
- 9. The proposed restrictions to the east of Buckingham Road have received significantly less objections. This is to be expected given that the nature of the area is much more suited to the type of restriction being proposed. It is considered that the small number of residents who feel that the proposals will inconvenience them can be accommodated by making suitable adjustments and so the proposals should proceed as advertised.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

 The cost of advertising, consultation and any subsequent works described in this report will be met from County Councillor Waine's Area Stewardship Fund allocation

RECOMMENDATION

- 18. The Deputy Leader of the Council is RECOMMENDED to:-
 - (a) approve the parking restrictions in Balliol Drive, Cedar Drive, Magdalen Close and part of Bassett Avenue as advertised as part of the Oxfordshire County Council (Bicester) (Traffic Regulation) (Amendment No.2*) Order 20**;
 - (b) not approve the parking restrictions in Woodfield Road and Blake Road as advertised.

MARK KEMP

Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Background papers: Consultation documentation

Contact Officers: Jim Daughton 01865 815803

December 2012





RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

Parking Restriction near Bicester North station – west of Buckingham Road

RESPONDENT	COMMENT
Resident of Blake Road	Has sympathy with and agrees that parking could be a problem around these roads. Note not everyone works 9-5. I work shifts and will find the proposals very inconvenient having to move my car TWICE within over an hour. Surely a residents parking system would be a better idea, also if I am ill I would have to get out of bed.
Resident of Blake Rd	I do feel that this is going to transfer problems to Brashfield Road so restrictions need to include Brashfield Road.
Resident of Brashfield Road	Feel the proposal is going to further the problems we already have in Brashfield Road, therefor the restrictions also need to include Brashfield Road. Already significant commuter parking - the local bus comes down our road and sometimes has a real problem getting through so this is also a safety issue, this road is regularly used as a cut through so is getting quite dangerous.
Resident of Brashfield Road	I am concerned that the proposal will simply move the parking problems to Brashfield Road. I therefore request that you should extend the proposal to also include the whole of Brashfield Road.
Resident of Brashfield Road	I am writing to urge most strongly that Brashfield Road should be included in the proposals as otherwise the parking problems would inevitably transfer to Brashfield Road. Over the years Brashfield Road has become more and more of a major route for through traffic entering by the Banbury Road and traffic entering by the Buckingham Road and visibility is broken about half way down by a fairly sharp bend. Obviously it is extremely desirable to deter Bicester North Station passengers from free car parking facilities in Brashfield Road while in London all day!
Resident of Brashfield Road	Brashfield Road is a well-known local rat-run. Cars often speed, during the day and when it is dark, which is particularly dangerous given the nature of the bend in the road, and the long straight stretch towards the Buckingham Road. The volume of traffic has noticeably increased- and not just at peak times. There is little doubt that the proposed parking restrictions near Bicester North will result in a significant increase in parked cars and traffic in Brashfield Road. Requests that measures are taken to reduce traffic speeding in Brashfield Rd. and the parking plans in the area take account of Brashfield Road and put appropriate measures in place to minimise danger and congestion in Brashfield Road.
Resident of Brashfield Road	Concerned that Brashfield Road is the sole omission from the area outlined by your proposals. To omit Brashfield Road will ensure total chaos. The logic attached to Brashfield Road becoming the sole unofficial Bicester North Station Car Park in this particular area beggars belief
Resident of Brashfield Road	The proposed measures should certainly succeed in deterring those commuters who currently choose to leave their cars on these streets every weekday in order to avoid having to pay to leave them on the station car park. Unfortunately, all that your plan in its present form is likely to achieve is to move the problem a few steps further north from the station. It

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	would make no sense whatever to introduce parking restrictions in what are, in the main, fairly quiet residential streets and thereby transfer the problem to Brashfield Road, which is already required to carry a considerable load of through
	traffic each working day.
	The only reasonable solution to these and many other problems would be to include the entire length of Brashfield Road in the list of streets to be covered by the car parking restrictions which you are now proposing.
Desident of	
Resident of	I would like you to consider adding Brashfield Road to the list of roads to be affected by this proposal. If parking
Brashfield Road	restrictions are introduced in Woodfield Road and Blake Road the problem will just move to Brashfield Road.
Residents of	We would appreciate it if the proposed parking restrictions for Woodfield Road and Blake Road could also include
Brashfield Road	Brashfield Road. Brashfield Road forms a link with both ends of Blake Road - so whatever passes along Blake Road has
	to come through Brashfield Road to reach either the main Banbury or Buckingham Roads. There are no other exits for traffic.
Resident of	I am sure the proposal will be of considerable benefit to the residents of the particular roads where restrictions are
Brashfield Road	proposed as there is an obvious problem, particularly in Woodfield Road. However, as a resident of Brashfield Road, I am
	concerned that the displaced parkers will merely move their vehicles onto our road and thus cause the same problems to
	us. Therefore, although not wishing to object to your proposals, I would like to register my concerns about the on-going
	situation and ask that, if these changes go ahead, our situation is monitored for any shift in this problem.
Resident of	I feel your proposals will transfer the parking problem to Brashfield Road that is already suffering from parking and heavy
Brashfield Road	traffic as it is used as a rat run. We also suffer from speeding vehicles and vehicles over 7.5 tons
Resident of	With regards to the proposed parking restrictions we have the following comments:
Brashfield Road	1) We feel the proposed scheme is an excellent idea without having to resort to the issuing of resident's permits.
	2) We feel that the vehicles that currently park in Woodfield Road and Blake Road will merely move around the corner
	into Brashfield Road.
	3) There are already a couple of vehicles that have started to use Brashfield Road for station parking.
	4) Is the council prepared to consider extending the scheme to include Brashfield Road?
	Whilst we are in full agreement with the proposed scheme and the objectives it is trying to achieve it is an absolute
	certainty that all the existing vehicles that park all day for the station will just park around the corner in Brashfield Road,
	which is only a couple of extra minutes from where they already park and does not need them to take alternative turnings
	off of either the Banbury or Buckingham Roads.
Resident of	We have been notified that the above parking restrictions are being considered and are concerned that Brashfield Road
Brashfield Road	is not included in this. As we are now a bus route for the local town service we think that the restrictions should extend to
	our road as we feel the commuters would then use this road as a result of restricting them on the other areas.
Resident of	When I read the list of roads affected I was concerned that Brashfield Road where I live is not included on the list. Blake
Brashfield Road	Road leads into Brashfield Road and we have problems with people parking all day instead of in the station car park too.
	Every time the parking charges increase more cars park here. If these proposals were to go ahead and Brashfield Road
	was not included then all people would do is move their cars to Brashfield Road. In fact we are nearly as close to the
	station as Bassett Avenue, Magdalen Close, Balliol Road so myself and other residents cannot understand why our road
	- Statisti de Bassett / Worlde, Magadieri Giese, Bailler Head de Hiysell and ether residente cambet anderstand why our road

	has been left off. In order for the proposals to work properly the immediate area needs to be covered otherwise the problem will just move elsewhere.
Resident of Brashfield Road	The proposal lists various streets which are to be subject to waiting restrictions. However, Brashfield Road (which adjoins Blake Road and is adjacent to Woodfield Road) has not been included in the list. This is, in my opinion, a serious oversight. All the random parking experienced by Blake and Woodfield Roads will simply be transferred to Brashfield Road (which already experiences parking problems at the Buckingham Road end). Brashfield Road is on the local 'bus route which would be greatly impeded by additional parking, also it is home to a large number of elderly residents many of whom require visits from carers and hospital appointments by ambulance. These services need to be able to park outside the relevant houses - difficult if the spaces are already filled by cars whose owners have gone to Bicester station. Please think again and include Brashfield Road in the restricted area.
Resident of Brashfield Road	As a resident of Brashfield Road, I am already concerned with commuters who choose not to use the more than ample and convenient parking provided at Bicester North Station, who leave their cars parked on Brashfield Road all day. I send hope that you will consider including Brashfield Road in this latest proposal, as any further impact as a result of the neighbouring streets restrictions, will undoubtedly lead to further frustration and anger of residents and drivers using the road, and also will increase the likelihood of a serious accident happening.
Residents of Woodfield Road	We have been in residence just under two years. The blight of all-day parking was evident from day one, when it was difficult to park the removals van outside the property, despite having a 'no parking' marking outside our driveway entrance. Enquiries to various neighbours later, suggested that the problem had previously been raised and that residents had strong objections to expensive resident parking fees from a problem caused by non-residents! In addition to rail commuters there appear to be residents from the Buckingham Road nearby who enjoy the 24 hour parking availability. The kerbside parking space is at its fullest capacity with vehicles now parking half way on the pavement and, occasionally, on the grass, at Woodfield Green. The pinch point on the bend, adjacent to the disabled parking area should be noted, where double parking takes place. Any restriction of road parking in Woodfield Road would be welcome. We have some doubts about the supervision and enforcement of any restrictions imposed. We have never seen any Police or Community Support Officer foot patrols north of Bicester North Station. While the proposed restrictions will no doubt offer improvement, it may prove an irritant to some residents. We believe strongly that parking in Woodfield Road should be dealt with without delay
Resident of Woodfield Road	In broad terms I agree that there has been a long running issue with a number of commuters using Woodfield Road for free parking during the week which impacts on the residents of the street, visitors and deliveries. A few years ago I recall that a permit based scheme was proposed but was not progressed due to the cost of administering the scheme and contribution required from each resident. If the County Council are not able to resurrect such a scheme, which I strongly suggest they do, I have the following concerns regarding the proposed scheme. Woodfield Road acts as a short cut/rat run from Banbury Road for commuters and taxi drivers driving to and from the station. During the day there is a regular stream of traffic using the road, which is reduced to one lane due to parked cars.

	If residents are required to move cars from one side of the street to the other between 12pm-1pm this is likely to result in a chicane effect as not all cars will be moved at the same time and in reality some might not be moved at all. Surely this will result in a dangerous route for drivers with a significant increase in the likelihood of a collision with a parked car. You have not made any provision for genuine visitors. Are they expected to move their cars as well when they will be unfamiliar with the parking restrictions unless advised. Likewise what will residents do if they are away for the day or longer? The proposed scheme really feels as though the residents of Woodfield Road are having to take the burden of a problem that is not of their making. Surely the County Council should be approaching Chiltern Railways to obtain a contribution to help fund local parking initiatives for a proper permit based scheme.
Resident of	I have lived in the road since a child and my elderly father lives across the road. Whilst we are over the moon that some
Woodfield Road	attention is finally being given to this situation it is flawed.
Trocumora Troca	My husband and I work in Bicester and while we do very often use our car we don't always. On a day when both of us are working what will happen to our car? Will we be fined? In a time of environmental concern it is good that we have left the car at home surely?
	My father across the road is still able bodied and uses his car frequently. He has a bus pass however so again his car will
	be left for the day too. What will happen to his car?
Resident of	I work for three days each week and use public transport or walk. On those days it would be impossible for me to move
Woodfield Road	my car at the given times.
	I realise that the parking situation is dangerous. Perhaps an alternative solution would be to use the area at the end of Woodfield Road, on the right, for residents 'parking facilities. The central reservation could be reduced and used likewise.
Residents of	We are very supportive of the proposals as we have paid carers supporting us regularly during the week. Do the
Woodfield Road,	proposed restrictions mean that carers will not be able to park outside when working a shift that goes across the 11.00am-12.00pm period?
Resident of	I am strongly against this proposal as I work night shifts.
Woodfield Road	Options I would like the council to consider are;
	1. Residents Parking Only in the street.
	2. The council to offer residents that don't have driveways the option to have one at a subsidised cost.
	3. The lay-by area to be made resident parking only for those without driveways but this would have to be restricted to a
	certain few vehicles.
Resident of	I totally welcome any measure which prevents this area being used as a car park, in particular, by people who use the
Woodfield Road	Bicester North Station trains for their commute to work. Could you please clarify what residents are expected to do
	during their holidays and times when they are not in a position to move their vehicle at these regulated times. Would it
Decident of	not be cheaper and fairer to issue all residents in the affected area with permits which exempt them from any penalties?
Resident of Woodfield Road	Whilst I agree that something needs to be done re the present situation I have a few concerns. Most of the spare spaces in the existing have are taken by rail users as early as fam every morning. Are there any plans to monitor this parking?
vvoodiieid Road	in the existing bay are taken by rail users as early as 6am every morning. Are there any plans to monitor this parking?

	Otherwise we are still going to have the same situation.
Resident of	I own a car but do not have any off-road parking. I often do not use my car for work and it is left in the proposed
Woodfield Road	restriction area. I cannot come home to move my car from one side of the road to the other.
	One solution would be to issue residents of Woodfield road with a free parking permit but I understand this is not an option. Why?
Resident of	I park my cars on the lay-by front of my home. I understand, from the plans, there will be no restrictions applied in order to
Woodfield Road	prevent commuters using this lay-by parking. I am, as a house owner, concerned about this as we already have issues with commuters leaving their vehicles all day long.
Residents of	Woodfield Road Bicester is being used as a car park by inconsiderate motorists commuting from Bicester North Station
Woodfield Road	daily, also at times for whole weekends. We have seen this problem escalate to the point of being dangerous, especially on the bends parked both sides of the road leaving one lane only for two way traffic. Should there be a fire to attend this would be I fear a far more serious issue.
	Unfortunately although we are glad notice has been drawn to resolve this issue, we cannot see how this proposal will
	work, without being a great inconvenience to residents. We for one would have to move our car twice a day to
	accommodate the new ruling. Any resident walking to work in the town would not be home to do this. Any nightshift
	worker could not be expected to get up half way through their sleep to move their car from one side of the road to the
Decident of	other.
Resident of Woodfield Road	I would like to formally object to the proposal. I am in agreement that a parking solution for the residents of Woodfield needs to be found however I feel that this solution is not the correct one, unless resident permits are issued especially for those residents who do not have off road parking.
Resident of	I agree that the parking in this area is getting beyond ridiculous. However the answer for this is not by moving cars from
Woodfield Road	one side of the road to the other, especially in the middle of the day. Unless residents have an exemption card. I go to work all day, sometimes leaving my car at home, it is not possible to 'pop' home to move my car.
Resident of	The proposed solution to the issue of commuter parking would create a greater problem for residents than the one that
Woodfield Road	already exists. It does not take into consideration the need for on-road parking by residents themselves. It also assumes that each household will have someone available in the middle of the day to move cars around from A to B.
	Please consider residents with no private driveway and there are many; residents with more than one vehicle that need to
	park on the road; visitors; parking needed during extended periods away from home.
Residents of	We do appreciate your efforts at trying to resolve our problem of commuters parking in our road but are not sure that your
Woodfield Road	proposed parking restrictions are the answer. What happens when we go to work, are on holiday, sick in bed, have no
	driveway or are out for the day leaving our car or visitors car on the road and cannot possibly get back to move across
	the road? It seems that although the proposed restrictions should work as far as commuter parking is concerned, it does
	not work for residents
Resident of	I applaud the fact that the council are trying to clear up the problem of rail users parking in our streets. However, I have a
Woodfield Road	concern as I park outside my house and go to work each day leaving my car parked outside my property and I am unable

Bicester	to comply with the regulations that state I have to move it for 1 hour a day. Can you tell me will the council be doing
Oxfordshire	
	anything to help the innocent residents in this matter or will we be faced with paying parking fines each day as we have
OX263HN	no other means to move our fully taxed and insured vehicles?
Resident of	For my family this proposal would not work as my partner works nights so I would have to wake him up twice to move his
Woodfield Rd	car as I don't drive and think this would be unreasonable to make him do this and so his only choice would be to park on
	another street which also wouldn't be fair as he couldn't park outside our home.
Resident of Hill View	I live just around the corner from Woodfield Road, one of the roads affected by the amendment. As I have no off road
Terrace,	parking and parking on the Buckingham Road itself is impractical, I have, for the twenty years I have lived at this address,
Buckingham Road	relied on Woodfield Road.
J G	I work in London and travel by public transport so it would not be possible for me to move my car for the planned
	prohibited period each weekday. If these amendments are implemented the only solution for me would be to park some
	significant distance from my home. This would be particularly inconvenient as my daughter is disabled.
	I am not wholly in opposition to this proposal as commuter parking has always caused problems and seems to be getting
	worse. I would like to propose therefore that an exception to the prohibition be made for local residents such as me.
Resident of Hill View	
	I am writing to express my concerns about the practicalities of the scheme.
Terrace,	We have no drive and no parking facilities belonging to our property. We rely on being able to park on Woodfield Road,
Buckingham Road	as the main Buckingham Road is far too busy and both unsuitable and unsafe to park on. I am a stay at home mother and
	carer to my disabled daughter (who has cerebral palsy and is only able to walk very short distances). I rely being able to
	park reasonably close to our house.
	I am writing to ask that you consider amending the proposal to make allowances for residents who have no off-road
	parking. I am hoping that it might be possible to issue 'Residents Only' parking permits or exclusions which will exempt us
	from having to move our vehicles from one side of the road to the other every lunchtime. I am concerned about the
	practicalities of the proposed time limits, which I find not only restrictive and inconvenient but feel would also be quite
	difficult to uphold.
Resident of Hill View	I am writing to express my objection to the proposed parking restrictions to Balliol Road, Bassett Avenue, Blake Road,
Terrace.	Cedar Drive, Magdalen Close and Woodfield Road in Bicester. Having reviewed the proposals in depth I strongly believe
Buckingham Road	that whilst they will limit the parking associated with Bicester North rail station they will in no way 'preserve the ability for
Buckingham Road	residents and visitors to park'. I am a resident of 3 Hill View Terrace; we have 2 cars in our household and have used
	Woodfield Road to park for two and a half years. My partner works from home at least two days a week. If we lose this
Terrace,	station is a good idea. However, this does create a problem for those of us who live at Hill View Terraces as we have
Buckingham Road	nowhere else to park. My husband does not always use his car for work and with this time span of Mon to Fri 11.00am to
•	parking we will have nowhere to put our cars when he is at home or when we have leave of absence from our jobs. A permit option should be considered and feel that the current plan to implement 'No waiting 11am to 12 noon Monday to Friday inclusive' and 'No waiting 12pm — 1pm Monday to Friday inclusive' will cause huge inconvenience to all of the residents. The idea of restricting the parking of people who use Woodfield Road so they do not pay to park their cars at the train station is a good idea. However, this does create a problem for those of us who live at Hill View Terraces as we have nowhere else to park. My husband does not always use his car for work and with this time span of Mon to Fri 11.00am to

12.00noon and 12.00 noon to 13.00pm we and our neighbours will not be able to leave our place of work and move the
cars back & forth. We of Hill View just want to be able to park our cars and go to our homes without all the worry.

Parking Restriction near Bicester North station – east of Buckingham Road

RESPONDENT	COMMENT
Resident of	I have just received your letter and would like to add my objection. Firstly is it not rather coincidental that
Bassett Avenue	Councillor Waine's address just happens to be within the zone, he has off road parking and would not be
	affected? Secondly not everyone has off road parking for visitors and what of those residents who have more
	than one car? Are they really expected to have to move their cars twice a day even though they are parked
	outside their own home? I personally do not see any excess vehicles parked at this end of Bassett Avenue and
	fail to see why we need these restrictions at all. This matter is a mountain made out of a mole hill and all it will
	achieve is to make things a pain for visitors and residents.
Resident of Balliol	I live in Balliol Road where cars for the station also park all day in the parking area set back from the road. This
Road	causes difficult parking for residents in these houses and those that lead off through Ruskin way.
	I appreciate that this area is part of the public highway but I am concerned that restrictions elsewhere will just
	move the problem further down rather than enforcing correct use of parking facilities at the station.
	How will you ensure that this will be guarded against?
	How will the proposed changes be reviewed re: success or otherwise?
	What will be the time frame around reviewing the proposed changes?
	How will you measure the impact of the changes on the surrounding areas - including this off-set parking area
	in front of the houses 2-12 Balliol Road?
Resident of Balliol	What a stupid idea from somebody totally out of touch with reality and I'm sure that Councillor Waine could
Road	easily find a better solution to this problem. I can see that this would inconvenience night workers and people
	who are on call who get to sleep in the next day who quite legally park on the street having to get up and move
	their vehicle. As I have only ever seen 1 person who walks to the train station and leave their car all day I
	suggest that this is only a problem because Councillor Waine lives in Cedar Drive and if you implement these
	restrictions it would merely move his and his neighbours problem elsewhere. A better solution would be that
	Chiltern railways provide ample free parking at the train station or if there is not enough space they build a new
	station and call it Bicester parkway.
Resident of Balliol	I am very pleased with these proposals and am thankful to Councillor Waine for his help. The same vehicles
Road,	arrive early mornings Mondays to Fridays and many are parked until mid-evening making it difficult for
	residents and their visitors to park their cars. It is obvious that the owners of these vehicles are commuters

	using the trains from Bicester North Station where Chiltern Railways have provided massive car parking facilities.
Residents of	In favour of proposals as have had lots of problems with commuters for many years
Magdalen Close	
Resident of Magdalen Close	I fail to see how this will solve the current parking problems. They mostly happen between Friday afternoon and Monday morning, and with residents from the multiple occupancy house parking their cars in the turning area outside their own gates.
	It will however cause problems for residents such as myself as the only place I have to park my car is outside the family house. I work shifts and during the proposed times of "musical cars" I am eating lunch and getting ready for work.
	If we have to have parking restrictions surely residents only parking would make more sense
Residents of	Believe that there should be no parking at any time in parts of Price Close as this restricts turning and visibility
Price Close	at junctions which has proved to be problematic over the last couple of years.