

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 8 OCTOBER 2015

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – CHURCH ROAD, WHEATLEY

Report by Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. This report presents objections received in the course of the statutory consultation on a proposal to introduce three new lengths of 'no waiting at any time' restrictions along part of Church Road in Wheatley.

Background

2. In response to traffic and road safety concerns raised by Wheatley Parish Council and local residents regarding the central part of Church Road, officers have developed a scheme to introduce some additional lengths of parking restriction designed to help traffic, including buses, move more freely. Details of the proposed restrictions are shown at Annex 1. The Parish Council have agreed to fund these proposals.

Consultation

3. Formal consultation on the proposals was carried out between 9 July and 7 August 2015. Letters were sent to over 50 properties in the immediate area, whilst street notices were also put up at intervals along the street. A public notice was advertised in the Oxford Times, and emails sent to statutory consultees including Thames Valley Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service and local County Councillors. A total of 11 responses were received during the consultation period.
4. Objections were received from five residents of Church Road, and these - along with other comments received as part of the consultation - are summarised at Annex 2. Copies of all the responses are available in the Members' Resources Room.

Objections and concerns

5. The potential decrease in parking for local residents close to their homes, coupled with the high number of commuters parking along Church Road was cited as being a major concern from those that responded. In addition, some respondents felt that the restrictions imposed in the public car park on Church Road (preventing all-day parking) have exasperated the problem.

6. Concerns were also raised about the general safety, primarily of vulnerable pedestrians (i.e. the elderly and school aged children) along Church Road, with a belief that the proposals would lead to an increase in speeding traffic.
7. Issues were raised about the suitability of the road for the high level of traffic, including the size and frequency of local bus services. Respondents felt that re-routing bus services along London Road instead would go a long way to addressing the issues experienced within Church Road.

Response to objections and concerns

8. The proposed restrictions have been designed to minimise the loss of on-street parking as the majority of the new restrictions incorporate existing 'access protection markings' and access to driveways – places where parking is discouraged already – such that only 2 or 3 general parking spaces are lost.
9. Records show that there have been no reported road traffic accidents within the last five years, and only 1 in the last ten. A speed survey carried out in late 2004 showed that the majority of traffic travelled at or below the 30 mph speed limit, with 85th percentile speeds of 26.7mph for eastbound traffic and 31.8mph for westbound.
10. The introduction of staggered restrictions will help avoid potential conflict between both vehicles and pedestrians by allowing vehicles to temporarily pull in and thus safely pass each other without the need to mount footways or block the carriageway.
11. The frequency, timing and routing of bus services is primarily a commercial decision by the operators. If services were removed from Church Road it would increase walking distances for passengers wanting to access the facilities in the village centre.

How the Project supports LTP4 Goals

12. The proposals described in this report would help to reduce the risk of accidents, improve public health, safety and individual wellbeing and increase journey-time reliability for public transport.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

13. Full funding for the proposal has been secured from the Parish Council, whilst the appraisal of the proposals and consultation has been undertaken by officers as part of their normal duties.

RECOMMENDATION

14. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the implementation of proposal as advertised.**

MARK KEMP

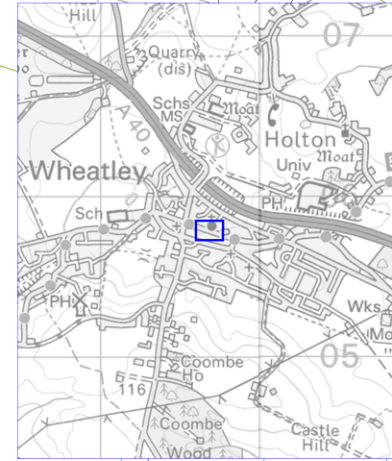
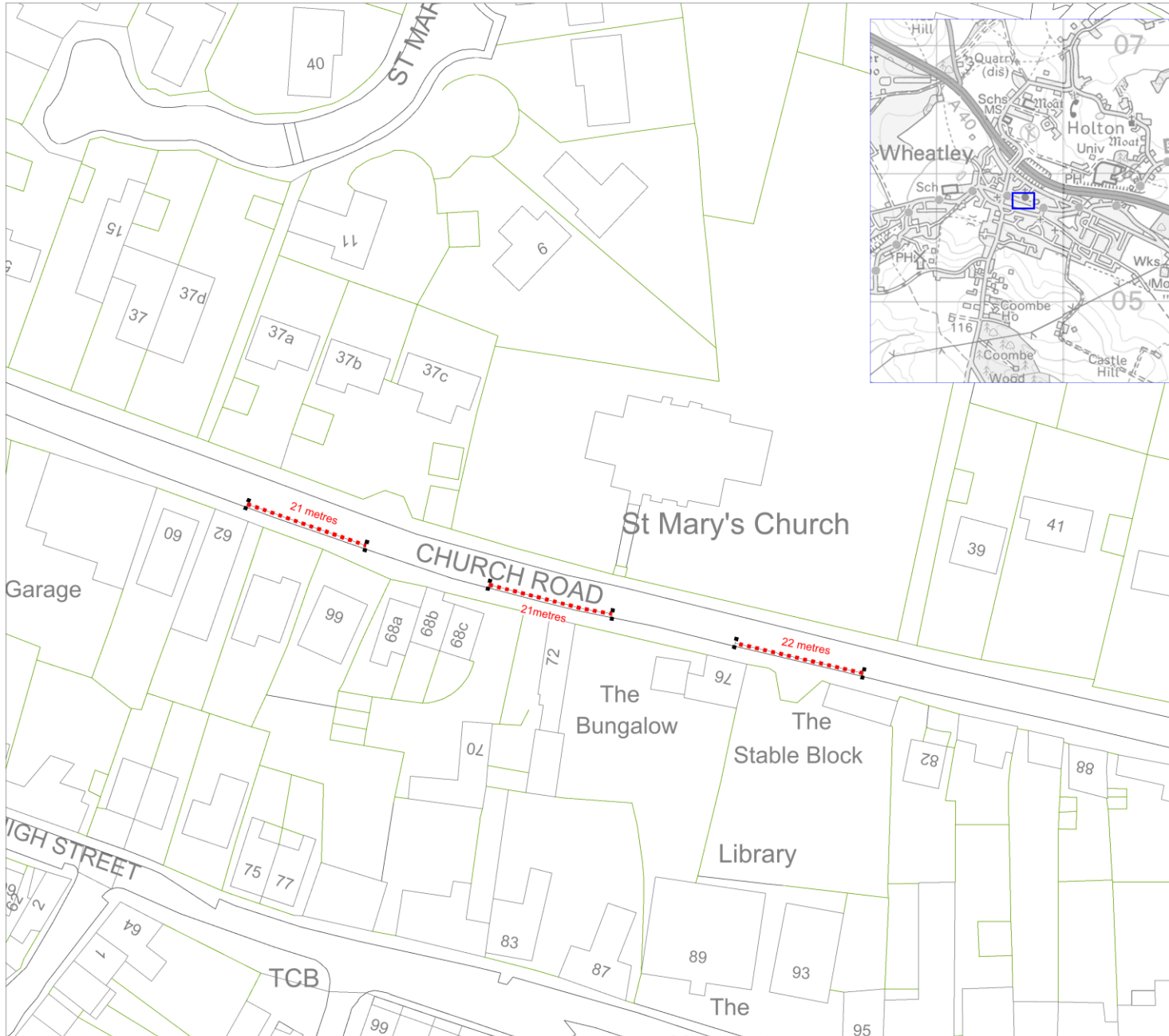
Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Background papers: Plan of proposed restrictions
 Consultation responses

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September 2015

ANNEX 1



Drawing No.	Revision 1	
<p>Proposed "No waiting at any time" parking restriction (Double Yellow Lines)</p> <p>End point of proposed restriction</p> <p>Site Location</p>		
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<p>CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT 08 OCTOBER 2015</p>		
<p>CHURCH ROAD, WHEATLEY PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS</p>		
Drawing Status		
Drawn by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
CJM		
Date drawn:	Date checked:	Date approved:
18/09/2015		
Drawing No.	Revision 1	

ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
Thames Valley Police	No objection but comment that the restriction will feature extremely low in terms of any enforcement activity by Thames Valley Police.
Fire & Rescue Service	No objection.
Resident, (Church Road)	Objects. There is already limited parking for residents, the restrictions will cause frustration and disruption within the community.
Resident, (Church Road)	<p>Objects – due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restrictions would further encourage the road as a ‘rat-run’, ▪ Proper consideration needs to be given to safety of vulnerable pedestrians who already find it difficult to cross, ▪ Kerbs on the north side need to be raised to ensure vehicles cannot mount the pavement putting pedestrians at risk, ▪ Church Road is highly residential and not suitable for through-traffic, with London Road being a better alternative, ▪ Bus timings could be changed to ensure that buses do not meet each other along this stretch of road.
Residents, (Church Road)	Objects. Concerned that vehicular egress from property will be compromised. Feels parking restrictions in Church Road car park contributes to the parking problems along Church Road itself.

CMDE7

<p>Resident, (Church Road)</p>	<p>Objects. Believes that re-routing the buses along London Road would be a more sensible solution. Considers that introducing the restrictions will create an increase in speeding and accidents.</p>
<p>Residents, (Church Road)</p>	<p>Objects – due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parking restrictions have been tried before and did not work, ▪ Believes the road is too narrow to accommodate the buses and a better solution would be to re-route them along London Road, ▪ Feels that local residents are being penalised because of the high number of commuters who park along the road, ▪ Believes that the bus timings and routings are more of a problem, ▪ Introducing the restrictions will create an increase in speeding and accidents.
<p>Resident, (Church Road)</p>	<p>No objection – but has the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concerned that vehicular access to property will be compromised, ▪ Feels that the increase in large buses using the road has had an impact, ▪ Would like to see a residents/business only parking scheme to reduce problems.
<p>Resident, (Church Road)</p>	<p>No objection but comments that the lack of parking for villagers and commuters within the village is the main underlying problem. Would rather see a one-way restriction along Church Road with accompanying parking restrictions along the length of one side.</p>
<p>Resident, (Church Road)</p>	<p>Supports - for road safety reasons.</p>

CMDE7

Resident, (Church Road)	<p>No objection – but has the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Proposal does not address the issue of the road being used as a ‘rat-run’,▪ Speed of traffic at peak times is already fast, by removing parked vehicles will lessen the ‘chicane’ features and increase speeds,▪ Local residents will find it harder to park near to their homes, coupled with the restrictions at the local car park,▪ Feels that additional measures such as removing the restrictions within the car park and traffic calming along Church Road need to be considered to make the proposal effective.
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