

Divisions affected: *Kidlington South*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 29 JULY 2021

GOSFORD: WATER EATON LANE – PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highways Management is **RECOMMENDED** to approve the proposed waiting restrictions on Water Eaton Lane as advertised.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce no waiting Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm on both sides of Water Eaton Lane south of the existing no waiting at any time restrictions in the vicinity of its junction with Bicester Road.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals has been provided by Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council and from the County Council's Parish Support Budget. If approved the Parish Council will fund implementation.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

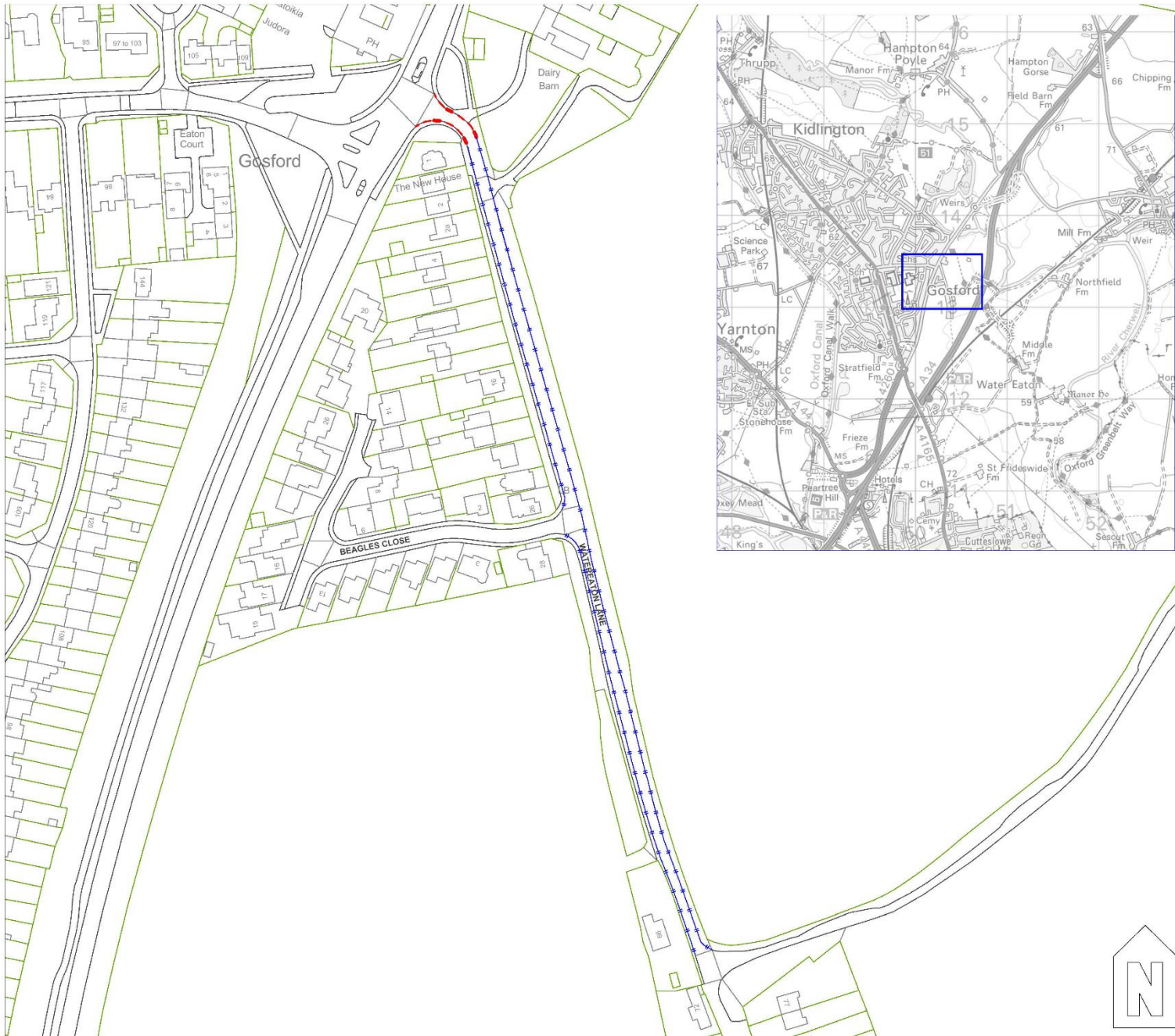
4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

Sustainability Implications

5. The proposals will facilitate the same movement of traffic including cyclists and pedestrians.

Consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 20 May and 18 June 2021. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper and an email sent to statutory consultees including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Cherwell District Council, Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council, and the local County Councillor. Additionally, letters were sent to approximately 75 properties in the immediate vicinity of the proposals and public notices also placed in the area.



Drawing No.	Revision 2	
<p>Proposed any Time (Double approx. 350m in length on both sides) APPROVED Waiting at any Time (Double approx. 350m in length on both sides)</p> <p>Proposed extents of 'No Waiting Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm' parking restriction (Single Yellow Lines) approx. 350m in length on both sides</p>		
<p> Site Location</p>		
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<p>Chris McCarthy (Interim Director) Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: (0345 310 1111)</p>		
<p>CONSULTATION PLAN</p>		
<p>WATER EATON LANE (GOSFORD) PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER</p>		
Drawing Status		
Drawn by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
CJM	ADK	
Date drawn:	Date checked:	Date approved:
26/07/2017	26/07/2017	
Drawing No.		Revision 2



RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>No objection – In line with previous consultation dated 16th November 2017 I have no objection. I must point out such restrictions feature very low in terms of any Policing priorities and these restrictions should be introduced in line with the introduction of future Civil Enforcement throughout Cherwell District.</p> <p>In terms of operational priorities our officers are encouraged to give preference to offences which might directly affect public safety followed by those which have an impact on traffic flow on main traffic routes. However even those priorities must be viewed in the context of the many other more pressing and demanding commitments which our officers face.</p>
(2) Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council	<p>Support</p>
(3) Cherwell District Council	<p>No observations</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Kidlington)	<p>Object –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am a resident on Water Eaton lane and having spent a lot of the day at home as a home based worker, over many years, I do not recognise the picture you paint of "wild-west" parking on the lane blocking emergency vehicles. I have never seen this occur which refutes your claim on this. 2. From time to time visitors to my property need to park on the lane in a harmless way as there is limited space on my driveway, your proposals will make this impossible to accommodate during the proposed day time restrictions. 3. If you insist on acting then having a clear lane for emergency vehicles could be achieved by imposing parking restrictions on only one side of the road instead of both sides. Restricting parking on the side opposite the dwellings

	<p>would win this and still allow parking outside resident's own homes.</p>
<p>(5) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Object - I have lived on Water Eaton Lane for many years and I STRONGLY object to these proposals.</p> <p>There is NO NEED for parking restrictions here. Your letter refers to the 'levels of unregulated parking' on the Lane but that level is, and always has been, very low, with a typical maximum of 2-3 cars parked on the street at any one time.</p> <p>The 'Statement of Reasons' document provides no EVIDENCE that there is a problem with unregulated parking, (such as a survey, with actual facts and figures, comparisons with other streets etc.), merely an assertion. I am appalled that the only arguments made by the Council in favour of this change are entirely opinion-based rather than measured against a recognised standard. I can think of many, many streets in the vicinity that are narrower and regularly have a far higher density of parked vehicles on them and am at a loss as to why Water Eaton Lane has been singled out for this proposed Restriction.</p> <p>The stated reason is "to help prevent parked vehicles obstructing visibility and restricting the safe passage of traffic along the lane, as well as ensuring agricultural & emergency vehicles are able to travel unhindered".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is very little problem with reduced visibility as the road is largely straight. 2. There is a very low overall volume of traffic in total as it is a dead-end road. 3. Agricultural vehicles do use the road, as do caravans/camper vans, but, in general, very infrequently. <p>These are facts from OBSERVATION, as I am at home most of the day and am in an excellent position to see what traffic is on the Lane and how it is flowing. Yes, vehicles sometimes have to wait to let others pass, or very, very occasionally, reverse a little, but it is at a very low level compared to nearby roads, and certainly does not give rise to concern that emergency vehicles would be delayed thereby. It is hugely easier to 'travel unhindered' on Water Eaton Lane than on the section of Bicester Road leading to Oxford Road!</p> <p>There seems to have been a concern when the proposals to restrict parking were first made a few years ago that the opening of Parkway Station would lead to commuter parking. There is no evidence that this has ever happened - in fact the station is at a minimum distance of 1.3 miles, or 25 minute walk, which is simply too far to be tempting to any commuter wishing to avoid parking charges.</p> <p>The drawbacks to this proposal include: visitors to properties on Water Eaton Lane would be displaced to other, often even narrower and more crowded streets in the vicinity. So far from solving this perceived 'problem', it simply moves it</p>

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	<p>elsewhere.</p> <p>Also, it would be hard for legitimate workmen who need immediate access to tools and machinery in their vehicles to provide services to residents (some properties have multiple parking spaces in driveways, but many others, such as my own, do not). I experienced both these issues during the temporary imposition of yellow lines during the construction of the railway - but accepted them as a necessary evil at the time and was utterly relieved when it ended.</p> <p>In conclusion - this proposal is totally unwelcome, presented entirely without evidence, and its downsides far outweigh the spurious benefits assigned to it.</p>
<p>(6) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Object - I live on Water Eaton Lane. I have worked from home for the last 10 years from my office facing out onto Water Eaton Lane. I really am at a loss trying to understand what problem that parking restrictions from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm will solve.</p> <p>As a resident of Water Eaton Lane, my experiences have not been sought regarding the existence of the 'issue'. A quick poll of some residents has led me to believe that there has been no research undertaken at all from the residents on the street - the apparent beneficiaries of this solution.</p> <p>The fact is that parked cars do not obstruct visibility or hinder the safe passage of traffic. Cars have only ever been parked on one side and the road is wide enough for all vehicles to pass when they are parked - including farm traffic and emergency services vehicles.</p> <p>I'm glad that farm vehicles are mentioned in the submission because when cars are parked in the street, it forces them to slow down to an appropriate speed for the road. When there are no cars parked, these noisy vehicles speed down Water Eaton Lane, like it is their private driveway at all times of the day and night. I have seen more than one person scared and intimidated by the size and speed of these oversize vehicles as they are driving too fast for the residential street.</p> <p>If there is a problem, please provide some supporting evidence. The blanket statements offered in the 'statement of reasons' do not apply and suggest that this is being pushed through by someone with some influence and a vested interest.</p> <p>In summary, this is a solution to a problem that doesn't exist.</p>

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<p>(7) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Object - There has never been an issue with unsafe parking or obstruction and I've lived in the Lane for eleven years. There is no evidence of parking restrictions being required therefore I believe this is a waste of council time and money.</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Object - It is necessary for the residents to be able to park on the street. As a resident, I have never been aware of any problems with visibility or problems driving past. The land must serve the residents and occupiers of the property first that live on water Eaton Lane. Not being able to park on the street would stop residents from reasonably using their property.</p> <p>The cars force the agricultural equipment to slow down as otherwise they drive too fast down the road which is not only unsafe but scary especially for residents with young children. This also happens at all hours of the day. The agricultural equipment drives at an inappropriate speed for the road which is dangerous, erodes the road, incredibly loud contributing to noise pollution and ruins the nature of the area.</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Object - I think it is a ridiculous suggestion to have two-sided parking on a rural road. There's no traffic down there, there are houses only one side of the road. Nobody's ever parked on the other side of the road, it's a ridiculous bureaucratic nonsense. I will speak to my County Councillor, to express my views as well. It is ridiculous to think of putting double yellow lines on a rural lane. The house owners only park one side of the road, ever. If the cars were parked nose to tail on one side, the road would be perfectly acceptable up the other side. I think it's a waste of the County Council's time, it's so ridiculous it's laughable.</p>
<p>(10) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Object - I live on Water Eaton Lane and I am opposed to the No Waiting single yellow lines proposal. This proposal will reduce the safety of the lane. Cars parked on the edges reduce width which reduces speed. Studies in the Netherlands and elsewhere have shown that residential roads with kerbside parking have fewer pedestrian accidents than clear roads. This road is extensively used by walkers, dog walkers and families as because it is not a through route it is quieter than many surrounding walks.</p> <p>The housing along this road is diverse and a number of properties including mine have very short drives. My drive is only one car length.and restricting waiting would make it very difficult for anyone to visit during the day. Small traders and handymen requiring access to their vans would find it very difficult to provide service during working hours. Because my house it at the end and the living area looks over the road I am very aware of the agricultural and</p>

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	<p>emergency vehicles that access the road. I have never observed them being blocked. Waiting vehicles park along the Western side of the lane and allow for access. The benefit to agricultural vehicle speed seems disproportionate to the inconvenience caused to residents by imposing these restrictions.</p>
<p>(11) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Object – From 2017 we've been waiting for these yellow lines to appear along Water Eaten Lane. I read with dismay you don't mention beagles close is where there is even more danger of accidents happen.</p> <p>The turn from Water Eaten Lane into Beagles Close it is always surrounded by cars parked right in the corner along Beagles Close.</p> <p>There are elderly people are including a gentleman in a wheelchair having to come into the middle of the Road. The cars from Water Eaten Lane have two were the wrong side of the road to avoid the cars parked along beagles close.</p> <p>Are you all waiting for an accident to happen for you do something about? Beagles Close is more urgent than Water Eaten Lane. I do hope you resolve it before long.</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Object – I would dispute the need for any more restrictions. I am at home most of the time and have not noticed any regular increase in parking. Apart from the two cars belonging to the residents which are usually parked on the road. (more cars than drive space), there is minimal parking - usually people who park while walking dogs in the field. There is rarely any commuter parking.</p> <p>Please consider the needs of residents who may have visitors during the day, and the need for workmen of all sorts who need access to our homes.</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Concerns - Please note that Water Eaton Lane is quite a long Lane and it goes beyond the bridleway. Restrictions one end will impact on residents at the other end. However, people want to park up to use the bridleway - and this should be allowed (this is a relatively traffic free bridleway so safe for young families, is wheelchair friendly, safe for lone walkers, favourite spot for local dog walkers etc). Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People will just park elsewhere in order to access the bridleway - People should be allowed to use the bridleway - Signage down the road needs to improve: - narrow lane (give access to oncoming traffic)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no footpath - drive slowly - as the path is narrow allow room for emergency vehicles - don't block entrances and exits to residents driveways - pick up your litter
<p>(14) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Concerns - I live close to the lane on Bicester Road, Gosford. The only parking available to me and my neighbours is the layby that is on Bicester Road next to my house. With the proposed work I can see that this will encourage more people to use the layby for daily parking. Currently, the available space is being reduced by new housing being built directly next to the layby taking away about half the available parking space. Also residents from Bramley Close use it as an overflow and commuters use it as an easy park and ride to take the bus or cycle from there in to work in the city every day.</p> <p>The proposed work may cause further congestion resulting in me having to park in the road / on the pavement outside of my house next to the traffic lights which is obviously not safe for me, pedestrians or other road users. I have written previously in response to the planning application for a new house that is in the beginnings of being built to request consideration for resident parking restrictions but have been told there were no funds for this. Please could it have further consideration within the work you are planning for Water Eaton Lane?</p>
<p>(15) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Concerns - I am a resident in Beagles Close, which as you know is just off Water Eaton Lane, Gosford. I received your letter outlining the proposed parking restrictions in Water Eaton Lane.</p> <p>I am in favour of them, having got friends who live on Water Eaton Lane and since the farmer understandably prevented parking at the entrance to the Bridleway I have seen how this has resulted in so many cars blocking access for residents. And I have witnessed emergency service vehicles struggling to attend to one of the properties at the end of the lane.</p> <p>I am however concerned about the impact of imposing parking restrictions on Water Eaton Lane (which I fully support) without also including Beagles Close. I am very worried that the people who would have previously parked on Water Eaton Lane, will instead park on Beagles Close. In fact, I saw this happen yesterday, having recognised a car who parks on Water Eaton Lane regularly to take their dog for a walk.</p>

<p>(16) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Concerns - As a resident of Beagles Close which is just off Water Eaton Lane I do not have any objections to the proposal and fully understand the rationale for these restrictions.</p> <p>However, the situation over the last few months has changed regarding the parking in Water Eaton Lane. The farmer has planted shrubs and hedging along the sides of the roadway that leads the private land owned by the farmer together with no parking signs. (I am sure this has arisen due to the volume of vehicles parked there which made it difficult for farm vehicles and other vehicles to access and pass through entrance road).</p> <p>The net effect of this is to move the parking from that end of Water Eaton Lane to the further along the road with cars parked half on the road and half on the pavement. This has also resulted in motorists parking dangerously on the corner of Water Eaton Lane and Beagles Close, plus people parking in the close itself.</p> <p>Whilst we cannot prohibit anyone parking in the Beagles Close it makes it difficult at times for delivery vehicles and residents to traverse the road due to the inconsiderate parking of vehicle owners who walk their dogs and/or walk across the footpaths and land surrounding Water Eaton Lane.</p> <p>This can be particularly difficult where vehicles are parked half on the road half on the footpath and even more so for those residents who have disabilities and find walking problematic. Also our elderly neighbour has careers attending 6 occasions per which in itself means there are extra vehicles needing to park, yet this may not always be easy to do so.</p> <p>I have a particular problem in that my house was built in 1969 when cars were much smaller and shorter and I cannot park my car off the road. So I can find some days when I return home a vehicle has been parked across the road or carelessly parked limiting how others can park, not just for myself but visitors to other residents in Beagles Close.</p> <p>I would therefore wish to raise this as a matter of concern and wonder whether the yellow lines could be extended round into Beagles Close and perhaps to have residents only parking signs displayed to deter those inconsiderate motorists who park haphazardly and cause problems to the residents?</p>
<p>(17) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Concerns - I am a resident at Beagles Close, which joins Water Eaton Lane. We regularly see cars parked in Beagles Close that are non-residents. Often cars are parked very close to the junction where Beagles meets Water Eaton Lane. This is dangerous and I believe in breach of the highway code. My concern with regards introducing double yellow lines on Water Eaton will be to encourage more cars to park in Beagles Close. I have attached a picture to indicate where many cars park. Often we see four cars in a row, right up to where the road meets Water Eaton Lane</p>

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	<p>making it dangerous when Beagles Close residents are turning into the close. Can a solution be proposed that will avoid additional cars using Beagles Close as a car park. Perhaps residents only parking.</p>
<p>(18) Local Resident, (Gosford)</p>	<p>Concerns - I fully support this but would like to draw your attention to a request from residents of Beagles Close asking that the lines be extended 30mtrs into Beagles Close. Our request is made because of the number of cars that now park on the corner, and beyond. People use the close so they can walk the bridle path.</p> <p>Parking causes great concern to us, in particular, as my husband uses a mobility scooter and he has found himself in dangerous situations where cars entering and exiting the Close have not seen him! This is an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>Our request is also made because there are already a number of cars parked on driveways and in front of properties where there are multiple drivers in a household. We cannot afford additional cars, who normally park in WEL during the day, to use the close as additional parking. On a personal note, I would urge you to consider extending the yellow line.</p>
<p>(19) Local OCC member (Kidlington)</p>	<p>Support - As a Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Councillor and local Oxfordshire County Councillor I fully support the plans to add parking restrictions on Water Eaton Lane.</p> <p>I regularly walk and cycle along this route and have noticed a significant increase in unacceptable parking over the last 2 years.</p> <p>I would also suggest extending the period of no parking to beyond 9am to 5pm as Farm vehicles use this route at all times of day and not just office hours!!</p>
<p>(20) Local Resident, (Kidlington)</p>	<p>Support - I fully support this but would like to draw your attention to a request from residents of Beagles Close asking that the lines be extended 30mtrs into Beagles Close. Our request is made because of the number of cars that now park on the corner, and beyond. People use the close so they can walk the bridlepath.</p> <p>Parking causes great concern to us, in particular, as my husband uses a mobility scooter and he has found himself in dangerous situations where cars entering and exiting the Close have not seen him! This is an accident waiting to happen!</p>

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