

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT- 22 APRIL 2010

DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES – SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

Report by Head of Transport

Introduction

1. This report considers the proposed provision of new Disabled Persons' Parking Places (DPPPs), the formalisation of existing "advisory" DPPPs, and the removal of DPPPs no longer required in South Oxfordshire. This follows the publication of the draft Oxfordshire County Council (South Oxfordshire District) (Disabled Persons' Parking Places) (Amendment [No.4]) Order 20**.

Background

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

Procedure

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

Formal Consultation

6. The Directorate sent a copy of the draft Amendment Order, a Statement of Reasons for the Order and a copy of the Public Notice appearing in the local press to formal Consultees (including local County Councillors) on 9 February, 2010. These documents, together with supporting documentation as required, and plans of all the DPPP's were deposited for public inspection at County Hall, South Oxfordshire District Council offices at Crowmarsh, and at Didcot, Henley, Thame, and Wallingford Libraries. They are also available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.
7. Separately, the Directorate wrote to local residents in each area where the proposed new and formalised DPPP's would be sited, as well as the locations where it is proposed to remove existing DPPP's, asking for their comments. In addition public notices were displayed at each site and in the Oxford Times. A table showing all the bay proposals is shown at Annex 1.
8. The formal Consultees to respond were Thames Valley Police, South Oxfordshire District Council, Thame Town Council, and Benson Parish Council, none of which had any objections to the proposals. Dorchester Parish Council objected to the proposed removal of a DPPP in the High Street and that is dealt with at item 15.
9. Comments were received from local residents in respect of the proposed DPPP's in Hamble Road, Didcot; Luker Avenue, New Street and Northfield End, Henley; and Horton Avenue and Park Street, Thame. Comments were received concerning the proposed formalisation of a DPPP at Hop Gardens, Henley. Comments were also received in respect of the proposed removals of DPPP's at Greys Hill, Henley and High Street, Dorchester.
10. A synopsis of each comment with an officer response is set out at Annex 2. Copies of the comments can be viewed in the Members' Resource Centre.

Recommended Changes to the Proposals

11. **Proposed new DPPP in Hamble Road, Didcot** – after further contact with the applicant and other local residents it has been agreed that the applicant does, in fact, have an adjacent hard-standing which forms part of her property. The applicant therefore does not qualify for a DPPP and it is recommended that the DPPP proposal should not proceed.
12. **Proposed new DPPP in Horton Avenue, Thame** – as a result of comments, from residents in the road, and subsequent site visits (one at night) it is agreed that the normal parking pattern on street at night is on the south-west side and therefore the DPPP as originally proposed to be on the opposite side would disrupt this and cause an obstruction to passing traffic. A second consultation has now been carried out with local residents regarding a proposal to provide a DPPP on the south-west side (outside No's 7 & 9) and it is recommended that this revised proposal be approved.

13. **Proposed formalisation of advisory DPPP in Hop Gardens, Henley** – the disabled resident who uses the bay has advised that she will give up driving due to ill health when the vehicle tax disc expires in October 2010. In the circumstances she does not now want the DPPP to be formalised, therefore it is recommended that this proposal should not proceed.
14. **Proposed new DPPP in Park Street, Thame** – the disabled resident and his neighbour were concerned that the proposed site of the DPPP would leave a short gap between the end of the DPPP and the neighbour’s off-street access. Vehicles might park here and obstruct that access. As the road here is heavily parked at all times a new location is proposed with the agreement of both parties for the bay to start adjacent to the “KEEP CLEAR” marking – a shift of approximately 3.5 metres. No other frontages are affected and no other comments have been received. It is recommended that the new proposal be approved.
15. **Proposed removal of DPPP in High Street, Dorchester** – although the disabled resident here has died, both the local County Councillor and the Parish Council have asked that the bay be retained, to continue facilitating disabled visitors to Dorchester Abbey and the adjacent Public House. The Parish Council advises that the property the bay fronts has private off-road parking at the rear so will not be adversely affected. No other comments have been received. It is therefore recommended that the proposed removal should not proceed.

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

How the Project supports LTP2 Objectives

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

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

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

RECOMMENDATION

18. **The Cabinet Member for Transport is RECOMMENDED to authorise variations to the Oxfordshire County Council (South Oxfordshire District) (Disabled Persons’ Parking Places) Order 2006 as amended in this report to provide for:**

- (a) **thirteen new DPPPs as set out in Annex 1 to this report;**

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- (b) the formalisation of five existing advisory DPPPs as set out in Annex 1 to this report;**
- (c) the removal of two existing DPPPs, as set out in Annex 1 to this report.**

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Environment & Economy

Background papers: Consultation documentation

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March 2010

ANNEX 1**Proposed New Disabled Persons' Parking Places****Berinsfield**

1	Fane Drive, outside No 172.
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Cholsey

2	Cross Road, outside 1 Chequers Place.
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Crowmarsh

3	Park View, outside No 58.
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Didcot

4	Hamble Road, outside No 8 * now recommended not to proceed.
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5	North Road, outside No 34.
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Henley

6	Luker Avenue, outside No 60.
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7	New Street, outside No 25.
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8	Northfield End, outside Pyt Cottage.
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9	Station Road, opposite No's 47-49 (development site).
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Sonning Common

10	Ashford Avenue, outside No 13.
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11	Pages Orchard, opposite No 30.
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Thame

12	Horton Avenue, outside No 8 * now proposed outside No's 7 & 9 instead.
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13	North Street, two bays (1 outside No 3 – site of new library) (2 opposite No 59).
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14	Park Street, outside No 25 * now proposed outside No's 25 & 26.
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Proposed Formalisation of Advisory Disabled Persons' Parking Places	
Benson	
1	High Street adjacent to No 29 (parade of shops).
Berinsfield	
2	Colwell Road, outside No 12.
3	Fane Drive in parking bays outside No 21 (parade of shops).
Chinnor	
4	Church Road, in parking bays outside No 20 (parade of shops).
Didcot	
5	Fairacres Road, outside No's 45 & 47.
Henley	
6	Hop Gardens, outside No 16 * now recommended not to proceed.

Proposed Removal of DPPPs no longer required	
Dorchester	
1	High Street, outside No 11 * now recommended not to proceed.
Henley	
1	Greys Hill, outside No 74.
Sonning Common	
1	Lea Road, outside No's 34/36/38/40.

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

	Commentor	Comments	Response	Recommendation
DPPP at High Street, Benson – proposed formalisation				
1	Benson Parish Council	No objections.	Noted.	Proceed
DPPP at Hamble Road, Didcot				
2	Resident, Hamble Road	Does not object to the provision of a DPPP but advises that in the evenings, residents park on the opposite side and as road is not wide enough for parking both sides this could cause difficulties for through traffic. Suggests locating proposed DPPP on opposite side.	Highways inspector has now verified that the applicant has a hard-standing big enough for two cars nearby that forms part of the property so the applicant no longer qualifies for a DPPP. The applicant has been notified by letter and has not appealed.	Recommended not to proceed.
DPPP at Luker Avenue, Henley				
3	Resident, Luker Avenue.	Approves of proposal.	Noted	Proceed.
DPPP at New Street, Henley				
4	Resident, New Street	Objects to proposal because there are already 2 DPPPs in the road which are often left empty. The proposed DPPP would take away a residents' only space and these are usually the only places residents can park. Non-residents and staff at the theatre take up the shared spaces. If the new DPPP goes ahead, could it be done at the same time as the proposed extra residents parking "down the road?"	The existing DPPPs are used by 3 disabled residents with blue badges. The proposed bay is for another badge holder resident here who already parks in the street. The proposed changes to parking arrangements in New Street were authorised by the former Transport Decisions Committee on 10 February so should be implemented before the DPPP is approved.	Proceed.

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DPPP at Northfield End, Henley				
5	Business in Northfield End	Objects to any more DPPPs because too many are provided already, especially in car parks. Believes it is now too easy to obtain a Blue Badge. Believes position of proposed bay will block passing traffic.	Proposed DPPP is for a disabled resident. Car Parks are not usually public highway and subject to different guidance on the provision of disabled bays. Cannot comment on Blue Badge provision. Highways Inspector does not consider proposed DPPP will block passing traffic.	Proceed.
DPPP at Horton Avenue, Thame				
6	Resident, Horton Avenue	No objection to proposed DPPP but believes it should be located on opposite side of road because this is the side residents park, otherwise they would lose 3 car spaces to enable passing traffic to manoeuvre round the DPPP.	Further site visits including at night verify this statement is correct. New 2 week consultation carried out on revised position of DPPP on opposite side outside No's 7 & 9. No further comment from this resident.	Proceed with revised proposal.
7	Resident, Horton Avenue	No objection to proposed DPPP but believes it should be sited on other side of road, where people park on street otherwise would lose 2/3 on-street parking spaces.	As above.	As above.
8	Resident, Horton Avenue.	Does not object to proposal but as vehicles park on other side of road, thinks proposed DPPP should be on that side.	As above.	As above.
9	Resident, Horton Avenue	Does not object to DPPP in its original proposed position. Would object to it if it were re-located. Expects OCC to install parking restrictions opposite	As above. There are no plans to provide parking restrictions opposite the proposed DPPP. Thames Valley Police advise it would be an offence to park opposite a formal DPPP if this prevented	As above.

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		<p>the proposed bay. Also wants OCC to re-instate the grass verge and install drainage to address flooding problems.</p> <p>Objects to the revised proposal (as slightly modified as a result of his telephone comments) and expects OCC to advise the other residents of the minor repositioning of DPPP. Says DPPP should be outside applicant's home as no parking restrictions to prevent this. Expects OCC to provide parking restrictions on opposite side of road to proposed DPPP to prevent obstructive parking. Says residents choose to park close to their houses and proposed DPPP would not prevent this. Expects OCC to provide a dropped kerb and tarmac the adjacent grass verge to conform to "Government legal guidelines for DPPP's to allow for wheelchair access." Failure to do so would deem the DPPP, non-compliant."</p>	<p>vehicles passing. Re-instatement of grass verges and drainage issues passed to Area Office to deal.</p> <p>As above. Legal Services advise the modification is minor and does not adversely affect the other residents therefore no need to re-consult or notify them. The current parking practice in this part of the road is to park on the south-west side and the re-positioning of the proposed DPPP is to reflect that practice. Department for Transport (DfT) regulations do not require road authorities to provide dropped kerbs or tarmac grassed areas adjacent to on-street DPPPs therefore this is not proposed.</p>	
DPPPs at North Street, Thame				
10	Resident, North Street	Why are the 2 proposed DPPP's separate? Why not level off area on the	One of the DPPPs is to serve visitors to the new Library – the other one is for a disabled resident	Proceed.

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		Wellington Street side and put parking bays there with one disabled bay? Various other comments unrelated to DPPP.	living further up North Street. Disabled resident did not want DPPP on his side because the ground slopes here and he wouldn't be able to use it. He is happy with the location of proposed DPPP. All other comments referred to Area office to respond.	
DPPP at Park Street, Thame				
11	Resident, Park Street.	Supports proposal but could the bay be located a metre or so to the south-east so it sits next to the "Keep Clear" marking which protects his drive. Otherwise cars will squeeze in between the two markings to park and partially block them.	Further inspection and revised location agreed with both disabled resident and his neighbour.	Proceed with revised location.

Comments on Proposed Formalisations of Advisory Disabled Persons' Parking Places (DPPP)

	Commentator	Comments	Response	Recommendation
Advisory DPPP at Hop Gardens, Henley				
1	Resident, Hop Gardens	Uses the bay and will be giving up car in October 2010. Won't need DPPP.	DPPP no longer required.	Not to proceed with formalisation.

Comments on Proposed Removal of existing Disabled Persons' Parking Places (DPPP)

	Commentator	Comments	Response	Recommendation
DPPP at High Street, Dorchester				
1	Dorchester Parish Council	Objects to proposal to remove DPPP outside 11 High Street – although	Noted – happy to recommend that DPPP stays.	Not to proceed with removal.

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		the disabled resident has died, the bay is also of use to visitors to the adjacent Public House as well as Dorchester Abbey. No 11 has off-street parking at rear. It is one of only 4 DPPPs in Dorchester.		
2	Local County Councillor	Thinks proposal is unnecessary.	As above.	As above.
DPPP at Greys Hill, Henley				
3	Resident, Greys Hill	Has no objection to removal of DPPP	Noted.	Proceed.
4	Resident, Greys Hill	Confirms the bay is no longer required.	Noted.	Proceed.
5	Resident, Greys Hill	Supports proposal. Bay no longer needed.	Noted.	Proceed.