

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 16 JULY 2020**

### **BICESTER – BROWNING DRIVE AND KINGSLEY ROAD - PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

**Report by Interim Director of Community Operations**

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed waiting restrictions on Browning Drive and Kingsley Road as advertised.

#### **Executive summary**

2. Waiting restrictions are reviewed when there are changes to the road layout or usage as a result of development and when requested by the local member or local councils due to concerns over parking obstructing traffic and/or being detrimental to road safety.

#### **Introduction**

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on a proposal to introduce and amend waiting restrictions on Browning Drive, Bicester where parking - in particular by commuters – is resulting in road safety and access problems for residents.

#### **Background**

4. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 were considered at the Cabinet Member for Environment delegated decisions meeting on 21 May as part of a larger group of proposed waiting restrictions in Bicester which had been put forward following discussions and site meetings with officers and the local members. While the other proposals were approved at that meeting, a decision on the proposals for Browning Drive and Kingsley Road was deferred to allow further investigation and investigation.

#### **Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 3 January and 31 January 2020. A public notice was placed in the Bicester Advertiser newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bicester Town Council, Cherwell District Council and local County Councillors. Street notices were

placed on site and letters sent to 40 properties in the immediate vicinity, adjacent to the proposals.

6. Seven responses were received in respect of Browning Drive. Five objections and two expressions of support specifically in relation to Browning Drive (additionally there were three expressions of support for the whole group of waiting restrictions).

### **Response to objections and other representations**

7. The table below summarises the comments received for the road and provides officer comments in response.

<p>Browning Drive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four respondents felt that the parking related to the veterinary practice was an issue and would be worsened by the proposed restrictions</li> <li>• Two residents felt that the proposals would displace parking to other parts of the road</li> <li>• The veterinary practice stated that they are awaiting planning permission to move premises to the new Eco-town in Middleton Stoney</li> </ul> <p><b>More residents were against the proposed DYL than in favour of them. Even some of the supportive comments raised concerns about the displacement of parking. Depending on the future of the vet practice, it may be worth reconsidering these proposals.</b></p>
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8. The above comments were also circulated to the three local members (Cllr Les Sibley) who confirmed that they wished the proposals as advertised to proceed, although noting the responses to the public consultation, also requested that a six month review of the parking scheme be undertaken with the Cabinet Member for the Environment to address any issues that may arise.
9. There is an urgent need for parking restrictions in Browning Drive and Kingsley Road. It is clear that the current parking opposite the junction makes the situation unsafe as the cars and vans affect visibility. There has been further discussion with Councillor Sibley on the points raised and the concerns over parking for the veterinary practice are noted and will be monitored while the business remains in this location, but this should not prevent the removal of unsafe parking. Browning Drive has an ongoing issue with on street parking and the proposed addition of double yellow lines along this road will have a positive impact on safety for local people.

### **How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives**

10. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

### **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

11. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by developer contributions.

## **Equity Implications**

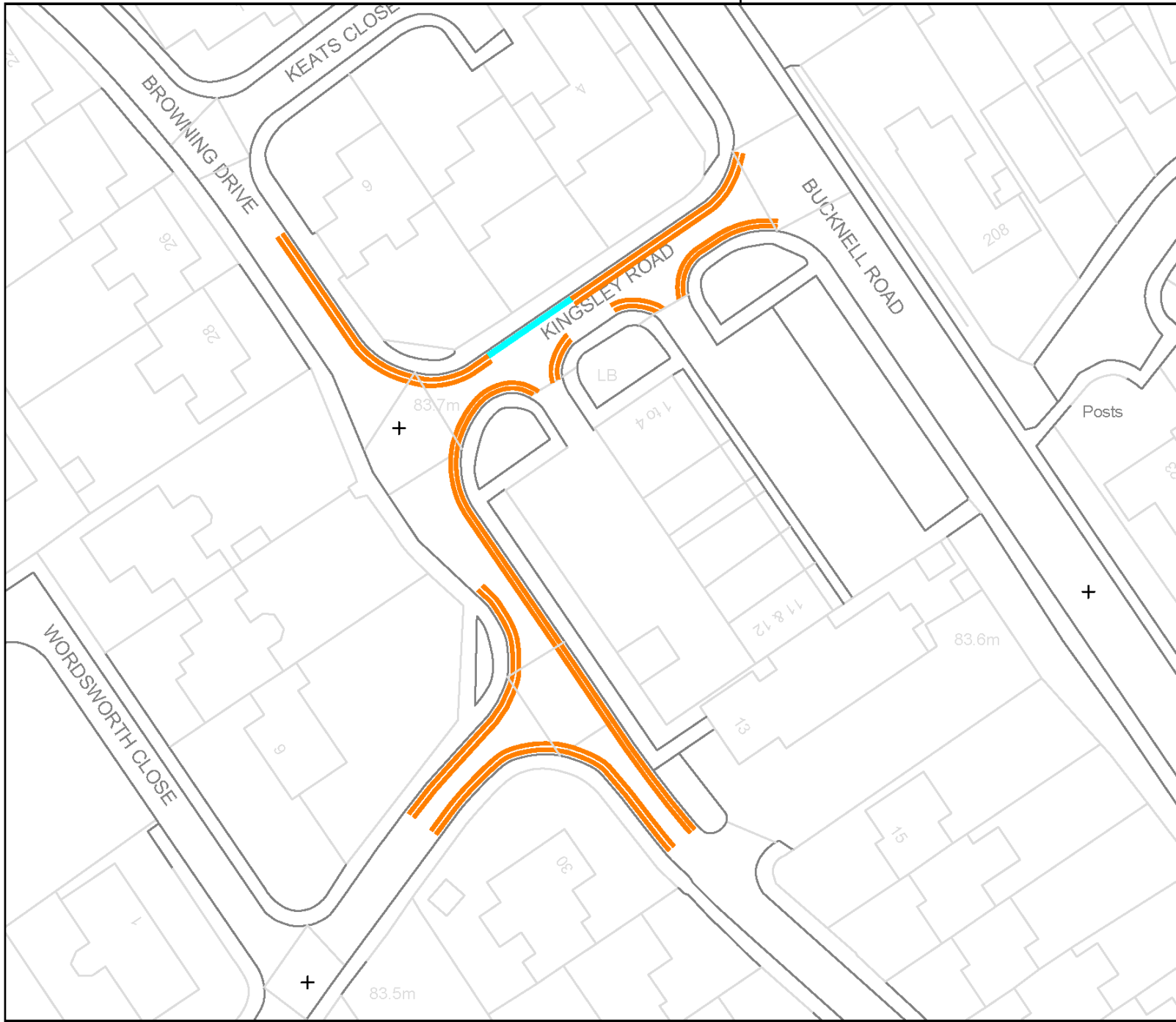
12. No equity implications have been identified in respect of this proposal.

JASON RUSSELL  
Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers:       Plans of proposed waiting restrictions  
                                  Consultation responses

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July 2020



Drawing No.		Revision	
<b>KEY TO RESTRICTION</b>			
		No Waiting 11am - 12 Noon (Single Yellow Line)	
		No Waiting 12 Noon - 1pm (Single Yellow Line)	
		No Waiting (Double Yellow Line)	
		Bus Clearway	
ALL RESTRICTIONS ARE NEW UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED			
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn
Checked	Approved		
<b>OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b> <small>Daren Jenkins Director of Communities &amp; Operations Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0845 310 1111</small>			
Project title			
Proposed Parking Restrictions			
Drawing title			
Browning Drive/ Kingsley Road Bicester			
Drawing Status			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
NTS	LN	MW	MW
Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved	
03/09/2019	03/09/2019	03/09/2019	
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref			
Drawing No.		Revision	

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## Extracted from ANNEX 18 to the May 2020 report

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<b>No objection</b> – I have consulted with the local Police regarding the amendments and have no comment or objection to the order.
(2) Bicester Town Council	<p><b>Support</b> – Bicester Town Council’s Planning Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcomes the Consultation and supports the objectives but calls for more County Council support for active planning for walking, cycling and public local transport initiatives.</li> <li>2. Welcome enforcement measures once lines are completed.</li> <li>3. Representation at Bicester Vision Executive meeting from Chiltern Railways confirmed they will have grants available in support of walking and cycling to stations.</li> </ol>
(5) Local Resident, (Bicester)	<p><b>Object - Browning Drive</b> - I am staggered but not surprised at this proposal. Staggered because of its sheer stupidity and not surprised because it is indicative of a council completely inept.</p> <p>I cannot believe any competent professional has suggested this proposal as a viable and effective solution.</p> <p>The chaos and dangers it would bring to a residential area with many young children about is unbelievable.</p> <p>Why has no-one questioned the competence of whoever's suggested this as a problem solving solution?</p>
(20) Local Resident, (Bicester)	<p><b>Object</b> – <u>Browning Drive</u> – I have a concern/objection regarding length of the proposed 'No Waiting - Double Yellow Lines' on Browning Drive opposite the junction to Bunyan Road. This area is frequently used by clients bringing their pets to Harts Vets. Harts Vets car park is not vast and not having somewhere else to park to drop off or collect pets can increase the stress already being experienced by those people and their animals.</p> <p>Many people do not like to use the public car park in front of the Co-op and other stores, in fear of car wheel damage as the condition of the tarmac is awful and at peak times this car park is over-subscribed.</p>

	<p>Perhaps this area could be addressed or expanded to alleviate the congestion when visiting these popular establishments?</p>
<p>(23) Local Resident, (Bicester)</p>	<p><b>Object – Browning Drive</b> – I wish to strongly object to the double yellow lines at Browning Drive/Kinsley road/Bunyan road junction. I have lived at number 17 Browning Drive (2nd house from the vet) for 19 years and for most of those years have been in contact with the vet to try and reduce their customers and staff continually parking outside my and my neighbours homes, often blocking driveways and making it difficult to get on and off our driveways. They have tried very hard to encourage their customers to park in their car park and on the road alongside the vet which is where you are now proposing to put double yellow lines. If you do this then all the vet customers will park outside our homes once again, often inconsiderately, and once again make our lives very difficult...both parking our own cars near our homes and getting on/off driveways. I have attached the map showing the proposals...in blue I have circled the area where there really is no need for double yellow lines and in red when I live and how all these people will then park outside all of my and my neighbours homes.</p> <p>I would urge this to be reconsidered...I cannot see why it has been proposed and would like to see anyone who goes ahead with this to live with the consequences as we will have to do.</p>
<p>(27) Local Business, (Bicester)</p>	<p><b>Object – Browning Drive</b> - We are a huge advocate of responsible parking, caring deeply for the effect that it has on our neighbours, so when we saw the proposals that you have for the restricted parking on the junction of Kingsley Road and Browning Drive we were very pleased, but also quite dismayed.</p> <p>The restrictions in Kingsley Road itself are most welcome and very much needed as the standard of parking there – mostly by lorries delivering to the businesses on the Bucknell Road parade of shops - often blocks the road or pavement completely; reduces visibility markedly for traffic and pedestrians alike and is generally a road safety hazard. Kingsley Road into Bunyan Road is often used as a rat run though the estate and having parked lorries and vans there makes it lethal to pedestrians at times.</p> <p>The Browning Drive restrictions are much more of a concern for us. Our business has been on Browning Drive for the last 27 years. We originally chose a site where we had on site parking, sufficient for clients and staff alike. As you can imagine, in 27 years, we have grown as a business exponentially.</p> <p>We realised that we were going to completely outgrow this site and so about 6 years ago we started plans to move our</p>

site onto the Middleton Stoney Road, about a mile away from our current location. We have been trying to get permission through Cherwell District Council for the last 5 years as part of the new Eco Town development, but have been thus far thwarted by red tape and the perceived snail's pace with which this part of the Eco Town is progressing. We hope we are now in the position where we are beginning to move forward and we very much hope that by this time next year we will be happily ensconced in our new premises.

At present our staff use this stretch of road to park so that our clients can have unfettered use of the car park on our premises. This is important because:

- Clients often have elderly/sick pets or are carrying cat basket and need very close access to the surgery.
- We can much better control the parking of our team. Clients can not be relied upon to park considerately or even in accordance with the law. By ensuring there is enough room on our premises by limiting team parking, reduced inconvenience to our neighbours can be ensured.
- Our team will only move their cars once a day thereby reducing the comings and goings outside our neighbours houses.
- It allows our own delivery vans sufficient access to our car park so that they are not parking outside our neighbours properties causing inconvenience and at times, distress.

We could ask our team to park elsewhere in order to maintain the status quo, however, we have the following concerns:

- Many of our team travel a long way to come to work. Some travel in excess of 30 miles per day each way. If they could not very park close to the surgery it will make them less inclined to stay employed with us. It would also make recruitment very difficult for us as on-site staff parking is a huge draw when recruiting.
- We have advocated car sharing schemes and salary sacrifice schemes to enable local team members to cycle to work.
- Whilst we can ask our team to park away from our local residents, inevitably they will park outside someone else's house and cause them inconvenience. By parking on this stretch of road, they are responsibly parked and not blocking anyone's drive inadvertently etc.

We are extremely grateful to the residents of Browning Drive who have watched us grow over the years. We have tried to respect their property and the road outside their houses at all times. We have reacted to complaints regarding parking straight away and we hope to maintain this relationship, however, we fear that relationships with our neighbours will suffer as a result of these plans.

Hart Vets has already been contacted by a number of residents who are concerned that the addition of the yellow lines along Browning Drive will mean that clients and indeed our team will end up parking out side their houses,



	<p>blocking their drive ways and generally causing a nuisance. We have temporarily allayed their fears by reassuring them that we would be objecting strenuously to this section of the proposed parking restrictions.</p> <p>So we hope that you can see we are in a very difficult situation. We are desperate to move premises and leave the good people of Browning Drive in peace with the decrease in traffic flow. If we may make the following suggestions for you to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please reduce the length of the double yellow lines on the south east side of the Kingsley Road/Browning Drive junction as shown by the distance represented by the hatched area in the diagram attached, albeit temporarily.</li> <li>• Please wait to enforce these parking regulations for a year to give us the time we need to move premises.</li> <li>• Please wait to enforce these regulations to give us time to find a solution for the staff parking – not an insignificant task.</li> <li>• Perhaps you could assist by chasing up the planners of the Eco Town and ask them the progress all applications for this site as a matter of urgency. We have been very patient and now feel that we are being punished for something beyond our control and it is a the source of a great deal of angst. We could then move much sooner and the parking problem completely alleviated.</li> </ul> <p>We do hope that you will consider our objection to this part of your plan. It will significantly affect our business through no fault of our own.</p>
<p>(30) Local Resident, (Bicester)</p>	<p><b>Object – <u>Browning Drive</u></b> - As residents of Browning Drive, we are writing to express our considerable concern on the proposal to impose parking restrictions in the close vicinity of our address.</p> <p>This will have the consequence of moving what at the absolute most is presently a minor inconvenience from a non-residential area to being a major traffic problem in the middle of a residential zone. Both my wife and I are registered disabled. We rely heavily on the care of others who we require to have ready access to our property. The proposed restrictions will make that access impossible.</p> <p>We strongly object to this imposition that seems to have been given far too little thought and consideration.</p>
<p>(69) Local Resident, (Bicester)</p>	<p><b>Concerns – <u>All Roads</u></b> – some views:</p> <p>a. The situation hasn't much changed since the double yellow lines were put down.</p>

	<p>There is just lesser areas for locals to park than before.</p> <p>b. Commuters going to the station still use these roads were they can, it saves them £8.00 a day doesn't it?. If you came down this area in the week there are cars everywhere, all up Blake Rd, Brashfield Road and Woodfield Road.. At weekends it's not too bad. At the moment in Blake Road there is less demand for spaces, but I'm sure that will not last.</p> <p>c. I heard that the emergency services complained they couldn't get through the western end of Blake Road, between Taylor Close and Brashfield Road, not sure if that is correct, but.....the lorries coming from the Co-op don't seem to have much of a problem.</p> <p>d. One of the emails from Ben Smith indicated that a permit scheme wasn't feasible due to low resources, but Cedar Drive seems to manage ok.</p> <p>e. Before the yellow line were put in place we all muddled through ok around here. We all had our "unofficial" space and we could have visitors and workmen around with no real issues. These yellow line have just created more problems for us who have to live here.</p> <p>f. I believe that, unless you know something I don't, having no yellow lines made for a more harmonious neighbourhood....and I've been here thirty-three years.</p>
<p>(74) Local Resident, (Bicester)</p>	<p><b>Support - <u>All Roads</u></b> - No comments on the proposals already made.</p>
<p>(75) Resident, (Didcot)</p>	<p><b>Support - <u>All Roads</u></b> - These restrictions do not directly affect our current 250 bus service in Bicester however we are supportive of the principle and thank you for consulting us.</p>
<p>(117) Local Resident, (Bicester)</p>	<p><b>Support - <u>Browning Drive</u></b> – I very much welcome that something is being proposed re the current parking in Kingsley Road and Browning Drive. I live on Browning Drive, we sometimes have great difficulty navigating this area as with all the parked cars you just cannot see if anything is coming towards you when you pull out to go down the road. This is also a bus route with a stop in the middle.</p> <p>I feel much of the problem is caused by 2 and sometimes 3 DPD vans, plus and a green mini which are always parked</p>

	<p>in the lay-by or in Browning Drive. I believe the owners live in flats above the shops, but these vehicles are rarely parked behind the actual shops in the spaces provided. These vans are long and take up potentially two car parking spaces each, they are a nuisance and sometimes they also park half on the pavement all of this restricts everyone's views. This area is an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>However, I feel the other biggest cause of traffic congestion is the vets. This building was originally a residential bungalow before permission was granted for it to be changed into a commercial premise. As a resident at this time we were told that permission was being granted for it to be changed from residential to commercial 'as long as this didn't cause any disruption to the surrounding residences. This is no longer the case. The number of appointments, Pet training courses and facilities that are now held there have increased and this facility has outgrown this site and it just seems to continue to expand. Clients struggle to park in the limited car parking spaces offered at the facility, so they park in the road. Many don't even bother to see if there is a space available, they just park in the road. I have been told that their staff can't park in there and that their employers the vets, say they must park in the road.</p> <p>If double yellow lines are put along Browning Drive as far as the Bunyan Road junction then what is going to happen to the cars and DPD vans that currently park there.? What will happen is that all these vehicles will then have to park further along into Browning Drive. This means that we will have cars permanently packed outside our property or opposite making it hard to get onto our drive. It seems to me the problem will be moved further along Browning Drive causing myself and my family difficulty accessing our property.</p> <p>Can you confirm that these measures will not just move the congestion further down Browning Drive causing access problems for those of us living there?</p>
<p>(124) Local Resident, (Bicester)</p>	<p><b>Support - <u>Browning Drive</u></b> – I feel relieved about the proposed DYLS on Browning Drive/ Bunyan Road junction which has become difficult for navigate into and out of Bunyan Road where I live, due to cars parked outside and up to Kingsley Road for the Veterinary Clinic on Browning Drive. Two or three courier vans DFD also often park there or in the lay-by overnight too.</p> <p>I notice their traffic cones around the kerbs and grass verges at the moment, so when the DYLS are painted on Kingsley Road where will the delivery lorries park to deliver to the Co-op store there. A delivery lorry was parked on Bunyan Road yesterday for some time and it does pose the question as to where it will push the vehicles to.</p> <p>The bus route goes along Bunyan Road and onto Kingsley Road on its way to Bicester. Hopefully this will continue to serve the same route as several older people and others do depend on the service.</p>

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