

HARWELL: BLENHEIM HILL, BURR STREET, HIGH STREET & WANTAGE ROAD – PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING AND CYCLE PROVISION

Paragraph 21 of the consultation report acknowledges concerns by residents that loss of parking opposite the War Memorial caused by the installation of four bollards will exacerbate an existing issue with parking in this area.

This plan severely disadvantages local residents, does not calm traffic, and confers no benefits to anyone else. There have been two accidents in the last year in this area, one resulting in the complete write off of a car, the other seriously damaging a car and dangerously close to crushing a child. Forcing residents to park on the street will exacerbate this and other problems.

Bollards may reduce parking, but given the shortage of alternatives a more likely outcome will be that they will just be parked further into the street. Contrary to claims made in paragraph 21 this will worsen visibility for vehicles transiting the driveway adjacent to White Cottage, impede cyclists, increase collisions with high street traffic and the parked cars.

Paragraph 21 claims that the area is not designated parking. However the area is de facto designated parking and according to Google Street View has been used as such since at least 2008. The surface is composed of small concrete cobbles with grass growing between them, commonly known as grasscrete, explicitly designed for parking, again visible on Google Street view. According to the revision history on the General Arrangement drawing used in the consultation, version P5 issued on 1/9/2022 removed reference to grasscrete.

I request the cabinet member rejects installation of the bollards opposite the war memorial.

