

Divisions: Iffley Fields & St Mary's, St Clement's & Cowley Marsh

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 27 FEBRUARY 2014

MINOR CHANGES TO DIVINITY ROAD AND MAGDALEN ROAD (NORTH) CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES

Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. This report considers objections to a formal consultation on proposals to make minor amendments to the existing Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) in Divinity Road and Magdalen Road (North) areas.

Background

2. These two CPZs were implemented in autumn 2012 following extensive consultation with local residents and businesses over a number of years. Since their introduction several requests for minor changes have been received.
3. In the Divinity Road area, there are 5 locations as follows:
 - (a) Divinity Road – request that a section of double yellow lines (o/s nos 44/46) be converted to a parking bay.
 - (b) Hill Top Road – request from Residents Association for more parking for visitors in the evening (currently all spaces revert to permit holders only at 6.30 pm). This location is indicated on the plan at Annex 1.
 - (c) Minster Road – request for introduction of double yellow lines to better prevent parking across driveway.
 - (d) Tawney Street – request for minor extension to double yellow lines where driveways have recently been altered.
 - (e) Warneford Road (at its junction with Bartlemas Road) – requests from nearby residents to reduce lengths of double yellow lines to provide additional parking.
4. In the Magdalen Road (North) area, the Medina Mosque in Stanley Road has asked for a relaxation of the controls in the evenings to assist visitors to the Mosque (currently all of the spaces in Stanley Road revert to a permit holders only restriction in the evening). To address this matter the proposal is that a parking bay on Iffley Road near the junction with Stanley Road (with space for 4-5 cars) become uncontrolled after 6.30pm each day. This location is indicated on the plan at Annex 2.

Consultation

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5. In December 2013 details of the proposals were sent to properties within the vicinity of the proposed minor amendments and also to statutory consultees. Public notices were also displayed on site and in the Oxford Times. These documents, together with supporting documentation and plans were deposited for public inspection at County Hall and at Cowley Library. They are also available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.
6. A total of 24 responses were received, 12 for each CPZ. These are summarised in Annex 3 (for Divinity Road) and Annex 4 (for Magdalen Road). Prior to the formal consultation a petition, with 269 signatures, was also received from attendees of Medina Mosque, citing difficulties with evening parking in the CPZ near the mosque.
7. The proposed changes in Divinity Road, Tawney Street and Warneford Road received no objections. The request for the change in Minster Road was withdrawn during the formal consultation period; it is now recommended that the scheme remains unaltered in that location. The objections to the changes in Hill Top Road have been carefully considered, in particular the concerns about the possibility of spaces being used by those working at nearby hospitals. However given that other parking opportunities already exist (eg Warneford Lane and in various roads in the Headington West zone where evening restrictions do not apply) this is unlikely to materialise, and the requests expressed through the Residents Association should be acceded to.
8. The proposed change to accommodate the request from the Mosque has received overwhelming objection, not just from residents of Iffley Road and Stanley Road, but also from the Mosque leaders. Officers have previously spent considerable time trying to find a solution to the difficulties faced by visitors to the Mosque in the evenings, without impacting upon the parking needs of local residents; this included extended discussions with Mosque representatives and an informal consultation exercise offering residents a number of options. In the light of this it is recommended that the change to parking on Iffley Road does not proceed.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

9. The costs of the advertising and consultation have been met from the funds provided for the initial implementation of the CPZs in 2012.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to:-**
 - (a) **approve the proposed changes to parking restrictions for the Divinity Road CPZ as advertised and amended as described in this report;**
 - (b) **not approve the proposed parking restrictions for the Magdalen Road (North) CPZ as described in this report.**

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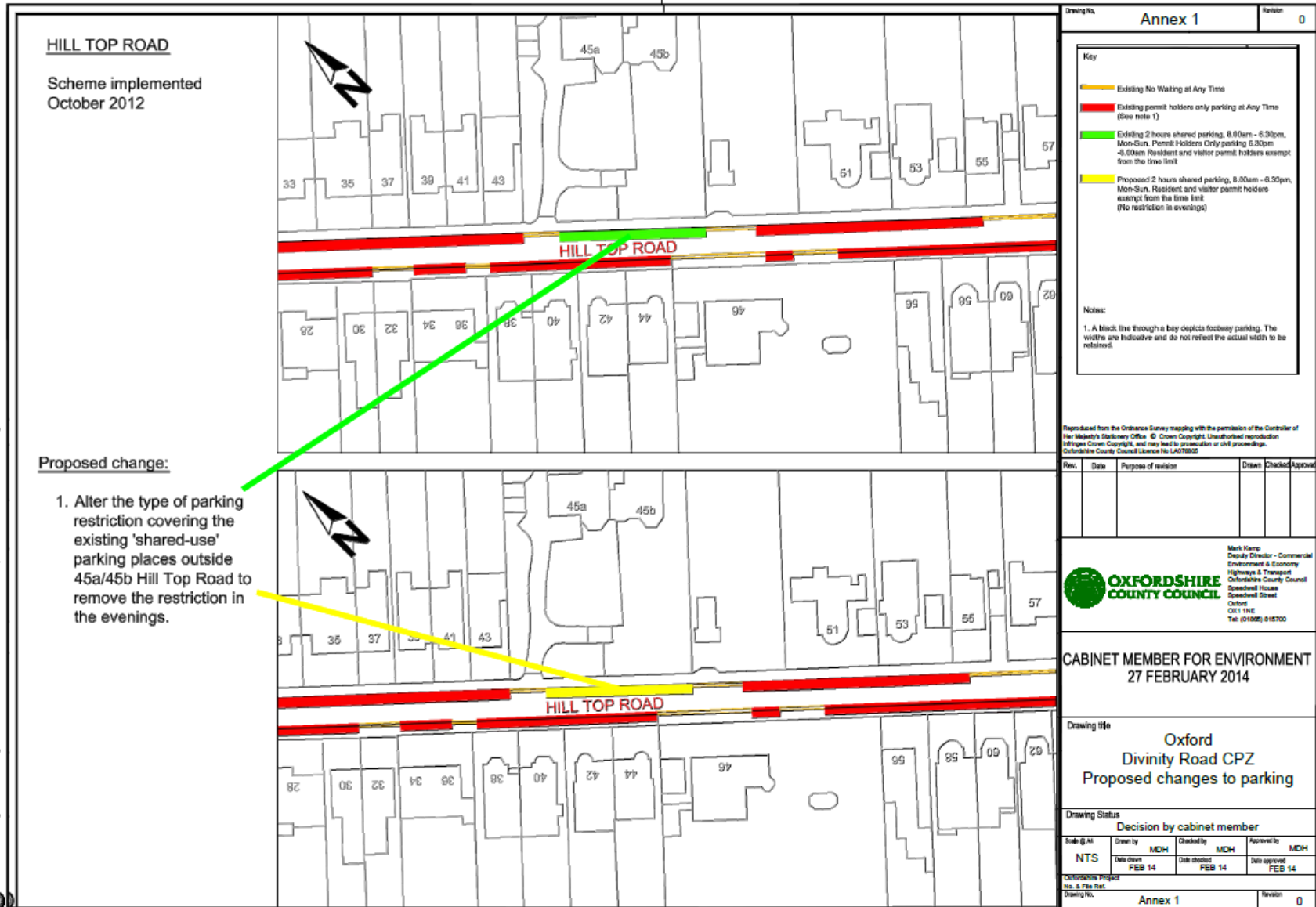
MARK KEMP

Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Background papers: Consultation documentation

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February 2014



P12 - Network Management/Traffic Regulation Orders/CPZ/Review 2013/summary annex plan - DIVINITY Road review 2013.dwg

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION – DIVINITY ROAD CPZ

RESPONDENT	COMMENT	OFFICER RESPONSE
Dr Graham Jones Oxford City Councillor St Clements Ward	The proposed minor changes to the Divinity Road CPZ seem very sensible.	Noted

HILL TOP ROAD

Secretary Hill Top Road Residents Association.	I fully support proposed change to Hill Top Road.	Noted
Resident, Hill Top Road	Objects to the proposed changes in Hill Top Road. Since the implementation of the CPZ, there has been a gradual increase in the number of non-permit holding vehicles parking in the street at night, presumably night shift workers at the Churchill Hospital. The CPZ does not appear to be regularly monitored at night. The rationale given by the local Residents Association for these changes is to facilitate parking for dinner parties in the neighbourhood. Considering most houses in this street have off street parking and everyone is issued with visitors permits I feel that the proposed change is absolutely unnecessary and it is a waste of the Council's time and money to have to entertain this through this consultation.	The proposal to change affects a short length of parking, in the middle section of Hill Top Road, and is considered to be a very minor and localised relaxation of the night time restrictions, such that any major influx of parking by non-residents at night is unlikely to have a significant impact on the availability of parking for permit holders generally.
Resident, Hill Top Road	Objects to the proposed changes in Hill Top Road. If any changes should be made to the CPZ, it should be to allow residents who are emergency service or key service workers (example, NHS frontline clinical staff) to have more than 2 resident permits per household, to allow these vital workers to get to work 24/7, 365 days per year, when public transport or bicycles do not allow	This proposal only considers minor changes to the layout and type of controls. It has not been possible to review the rules for permit eligibility and/or the

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	<p>or facilitate for this. Several households, in this area, have at least 2 of these workers, plus additional household members. Allowing them to purchase extra permits for the year, would easily be compensated for if the CPZ was properly enforced.</p> <p>At present there are 8-9 building sites on Hill Top Rd, and builders/tradespeople have regularly been parking illegally, flouting the rules and taking up spaces for legitimate users with no adequate enforcement.</p>	<p>number of permits per household.</p> <p>The parking by builders' vehicles etc, is managed by the Council's enforcement contractor, with weekly permits available.</p>
Two residents of Hill Top Road	We think the new proposals are minimal and sensible and have no objection to them.	Noted.
Resident, Hill Top Road	Entirely in agreement with the proposal and look forward to seeing the change implemented.	Noted.
Resident, Hill Top Road	I am not in favour of any relaxation of the current restrictions. In the evenings parking spaces in Hill Top Road are generally fairly well utilised by residents and the shared spaces provide additional spaces for either residents or visitors using a visitor's pass. If restrictions on shared spaces were removed I have no doubt that these would start to be used by those working nights at the Churchill or elsewhere thereby depriving residents and their visitors of parking.	The proposal to change a short length of parking, in the middle section of Hill Top Road, is considered to be a very minor and localised relaxation of the night time restrictions, such that any major influx of parking by non-residents at night is unlikely to have a significant impact on the availability of parking for permit holders generally.
Two residents of the same address in Hill Top Rd	The Hill Top Road changes are completely sensible and welcome; they will be helpful to many of us in the evenings.	Noted.

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MINSTER ROAD

Resident, Minster Road	Having had a chance now to review the situation with the single white line outside my garage and the other dropped kerb opposite my house, I prefer that the situation with the white line now remains unchanged, i	In the light of this response, officers are therefore recommending that this proposal does not proceed
Two residents of Minster Road.	Object to the proposals in Minster Road	In the light of a response from the resident, officers are now recommending that this proposal does not proceed

**ANNEX 4
RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION – MAGDALEN ROAD (NORTH) CPZ**

RESPONDENT	COMMENT	OFFICER RESPONSE
<p>The Imam at Madina Mosque, 2 Stanley Road</p>	<p>The changes made are basically no changes as far as the Mosque is concerned; these are not acceptable to us. We are disappointed with these changes, which do not bring any ease to the mosque users which include the non-Muslim visitors to our mosque. You have stated that you received 37 replies to your consultation with the residents and that majority were not in favour of any changes, but have not mentioned the 269 signatures on the petition from the mosque users.</p> <p>The parking spaces on both sides on front of 2a Stanley Road close to Iffley Road have no residential frontage within Stanley Road, only Iffley Road. We request you to remove these restrictions after 6:30pm to 8am, as our respected neighbours on Stanley Road use their driveways for parking.</p> <p>We note that the houses belonging to Exeter College and Rusty Bicycle pub have been favoured by not having night restriction on the parking spaces on Iffley Road.</p>	<p>The petition with 269 signatures was received in September, some 6 months after the closing date for the informal consultation. Until then, there had been no response from the Mosque about the preliminary (informal) proposals.</p> <p>Officers have worked hard to design and consult upon a series of options to help ease the night time parking restrictions for the benefit of mosque users, but all of these have proved unpopular amongst the majority of local residents; this includes the suggestions for the spaces outside 2a Stanley Road.</p> <p>The locations outside Exeter College and the Rusty Bicycle PH (corner of Hurst Street / Magdalen Road) were the subject of alterations during the development of the CPZ that led to overnight restrictions being removed. If the Mosque had requested this change in Stanley</p>

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	<p>We feel that we are not being listened to and are being ignored; the attendees have lost patience and are urging us to demonstrate or to challenge these parking restrictions in a Court of Law. The Mosque is a legitimate organisation and has planning approval. By having these parking restrictions the right to pray is snatched away from the local Muslim community.</p>	<p>Road at that early stage, it may have been included in the draft proposals at that time.</p> <p>There can never be any guarantee of a parking space on the public highway for an individual to attend a particular building or location for any purpose. The proposed change would have opened up slightly more spaces to visitors at night (whether to the Mosque or other premises) but has not been accepted by the Mosque.</p>
<p>Resident, Iffley Road</p>	<p>I object to the proposed changes to the shared use parking area on Iffley Road, outside 225-227 Iffley Road. In order for there to be sufficient space for residents to park overnight I regard it as important that this parking area remains residents only at that time. There is minimal street parking for residents at the moment, and I think they should be given priority.</p>	<p>This objector lives directly outside the location of the parking bay that is the subject of the proposed change. This would slightly decrease the amount of parking that is reserved for permit holders in the evenings, allowing unrestricted parking instead. Officers consider this would not have a significant impact upon residents parking needs, partly as many of the properties here have a good supply of off-road parking.</p>
<p>Resident, Iffley Road.</p>	<p>I do not own a car and any of my visitors arrive on foot, public transport or bike; therefore, any comment of mine on the subject matter is of no practical value to this matter.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

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<p>Resident, Stanley Road</p>	<p>Objects to any changes to the parking restrictions in Stanley Road or Iffley Road. The decision to introduce the original CPZ was made after much debating on the subject of the Mosque. We live in a residential area, the Mosque is we agree part of the community but there are other members of the community i.e. local businesses that would ideally need more parking as to.</p> <p>We do not feel that we should make any exceptions to the Mosque, especially as in our residential area the coming and going of the volume of people from the Mosque is inappropriate for the size of the building in our residential area. The agreement was that visitors to the Mosque should come by foot or bicycle.</p>	<p>The advertised proposal would make no change in Stanley Road itself, but would change a single parking bay (of 4-5 spaces in length) in Iffley Road near the junction with Stanley Road. This would slightly decrease the amount of parking that is reserved for permit holders-only in the evenings, allowing unrestricted parking instead. All the parking spaces in Stanley Road would remain reserved for permit holders-only in the evenings. This change is not an exception for Mosque visitors as such, rather a relaxation of the rules for everyone, for a short length in Iffley Road (in the evenings only), which of course would benefit Mosque visitors too.</p>
<p>Resident, Stanley Road</p>	<p>I am not in favour of any changes to the existing parking restrictions in the Iffley Road/Stanley Road area. We were told that once these parking restrictions were in place they could not be changed. If the revisions were made in favour of the Mosque it would set precedent for other changes to the restrictions. You would expect that the members of the community coming to the Mosque would be within walking distance.</p>	<p>The advertised proposal would make no change in Stanley Road itself, but would change a single parking bay (of 4-5 spaces in length) in Iffley Road near the junction with Stanley Road. This would slightly decrease the amount of parking that is reserved for permit holders-only in the evenings, allowing unrestricted parking instead. All the parking spaces in Stanley</p>

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		<p>Road would remain reserved for permit holders-only in the evenings. This change is not an exception for Mosque visitors as such, rather a relaxation of the rules for everyone, for a short length in Iffley Road (in the evenings only), which of course would benefit Mosque visitors to. No other requests for changes in this zone have been received.</p>
<p>A resident of Stanley Road</p>	<p>Objects to the proposal. There is a serious enforcement issue. It was my impression, shared by the police I believe, that the civil enforcement officers were simply overwhelmed at certain times in the summer, both here and elsewhere in the city. The Medina Mosque made no contribution to the two discussions/consultations that led to the implementation of the existing CPZ, although they had exactly the same opportunity as everyone else to do so.</p> <p>1. I understood that the Cabinet Member for Transport knew nothing of this proposal. I am grateful for the opportunity of reminding him of the background to the traffic problems we have here.</p> <p>2. The mosque elders, with whom we often talk, have made it clear that</p>	<p>The enforcement of the restrictions in Stanley Road has been a priority for the Council's contractor, but there have been verbal confrontations in the evenings that have made their task problematic. It is hoped that this issue will improve once a decision is made on the proposed changes. The Mosque made no representation during the formal consultation before the CPZ was introduced.</p> <p>1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment (including Transport) and the local County Councillor for this division have both been briefed on the background to this issue in the CPZ, and received copies of this latest consultation document.</p> <p>2. The proposed change in the</p>

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	<p>worshippers at the mosque stay there for about half an hour at prayer-times. Why is there a need to extend the two hour waiting period from two to three hours?</p> <p>3. Like other property owners, the mosque elders have visitors. As is the case with other properties, some visitors stay overnight. Are the mosque elders unable to buy visitor day and night parking permits, just as everyone else does?</p> <p>4. Why does the mosque ask for help with overnight parking? Do prayers not end at dusk? Local residents in the Iffley Road/Stanley Road area made many complaints before the CPZ was implemented, about noise nuisance. We have invited officers to come to see this situation. Did they come? These vehicles are often taxis. Since the CPZ was implemented, this situation has improved, so why change it?</p>	<p>time limit in the proposal (from 2 to 3 hours) is a 'quirk' of the mixture of parking space types in the CPZ generally. There are currently no 2-hour shared spaces that are unrestricted in the evenings, whereas there are already 3-hour spaces of this type, and some are located close by in Iffley Road. Officers are keen to minimise the variety of different parking restriction types within the scheme which can otherwise confuse drivers.</p> <p>3. The residents of the Mosque are indeed eligible for visitor permits and they have received some. However there is a limit to the number available (a maximum of 50 days' per resident per year).</p> <p>4. When representatives from the Mosque first met with Council officers to request changes, they explained that prayers can continue into the evenings, and particularly during the festival of Ramadan. Officers have visited the CPZ during the daytime and in early evenings, both before and after the CPZ was introduced.</p>
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	<p>5. You received 37 replies to your consultation in February 2013. That proposal made no mention of 'no change' as an option. This was never explained. Nevertheless, the majority of those who replied asked for 'no change'. Why then, go ahead and propose changes when the majority of those who replied are against any?</p> <p>6. By comparison, the Pegasus Theatre is not asking for a relaxation of the existing CPZ (although not in the CPZ, the theatre is nearby and has an interest in having good parking for their visitors).</p>	<p>5. The informal consultation exercise in March 2012 was a means of 'taking soundings' from the local community about the issue before proceeding further. It may have been better to offer an option of 'no change' as well as the other 3 options that were put forward. However the results showed that 73% of respondents wished to see 'no change'. Notwithstanding that overwhelming response, in discussion with the Cabinet Member and the local County Councillor, officers agreed to take forward this formal consultation of a much reduced change in the restrictions, in order to offer one final opportunity for all parties to make representations.</p> <p>6. The Pegasus Theatre is located in Magdalen Road (South) area for which the CPZ has not proceeded. Officers consider that the opportunity to comment upon parking for visitors to that theatre would have been at the stage when that CPZ was advertised.</p>
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	<p>7. Traffic congestion is the main issue. There is frequently severe traffic congestion in the area, and our local police officer has expressed concern about the danger to children in the street, particularly at prayer-times. Our concerns about this are being ignored. Disabled parking badges are clearly being mis-used. Have you consulted local police and have you also visited the area yourself to see what actually happens during these times, and to talk with us then?</p> <p>9. We often now talk with the mosque elders. They say that they are aware of the problems we cite in favour of keeping more traffic control here - in favour of the CPZ as it is now - and seeking much better enforcement, even police intervention. It must now be much better monitored and enforced.</p>	<p>7. Officers do not consider that parking problems are causing severe traffic congestion in the area. Stanley Road may be an alternative route at times of peak delays due to the volume of traffic using Iffley Road, but no other complaints about parking in Stanley Road contributing to congestion have been received.</p> <p>9. Enforcement of the CPZ remains a priority for the Council's contractor.</p>
<p>Two residents of Stanley Road</p>	<p>Do not object to the changes in view of the fact that the proposals are small and should not have any impact on the parking arrangements in Stanley Road itself and assuming that there have been no objections from the adjacent residents in Iffley Road. However, the parking restrictions on the corners of Stanley Road and Iffley Road should be strictly enforced at all times to prevent any vehicles obstructing the view to and from the junction</p>	<p>Noted. Enforcement of the CPZ remains a priority for the Council's contractor.</p>
<p>Resident, Stanley Road</p>	<p>I have experienced several extremely dangerous situations due to parking on double yellow lines and lack of visibility. Although we sometimes do see enforcement activity, there are still too many occasions when this illegal practice continues, to our peril.</p>	<p>Enforcement of the CPZ remains a priority for the Council's contractor.</p>
<p>Resident, Stanley Road</p>	<p>I don't support the proposed change. I have complained a number of times about people attending the Mosque that flout the parking restrictions. Visitors to the mosque could walk instead of driving. I have photos showing cars parked all over the yellow lines during the operating hours of the CPZ. Providing a few additional spaces for people to park while attending the Mosque will do nothing to solve the problem. Instead enforcement of the rules that are already in place might be a good idea.</p>	<p>Enforcement of the CPZ remains a priority for the Council's contractor.</p>

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<p>Resident, Stanley Road</p>	<p>In my view there should be no change. What did the Mosque ask for during the two earlier consultations? I understand that nobody else has asked for changes to the CPZ. It appears to be working quite well, except at certain times during the week and during Ramadan when there is congestion which our local County Councillor is aware of.</p> <p>The mosque elders can apply for visitor parking permits just as we all can in the street. Perhaps the council officers could have pointed that out to them before embarking on yet another costly consultation.</p>	<p>The Mosque made no representation during the formal consultation before the CPZ was introduced.</p> <p>At meetings with Mosque representatives and in subsequent correspondence with them, it has been pointed out that there were opportunities to comment on the CPZ before it was introduced and that they are eligible for visitor permits, which indeed some of the Mosque residents have taken up.</p>
<p>Resident, Stanley Road</p>	<p>I oppose the proposed changes to the CPZ. I believe you have taken the trouble to inspect for yourself the traffic congestion that still occurs at certain times during the week and during Ramadan, in spite of the new CPZ arrangements, and I thank you for doing that. This congestion is likely to increase as the mosque congregation grows.</p> <p>Our local police officer has recorded her view that during these times, there is a real danger to children darting in and out of badly-parked vehicles, especially at dusk.</p> <p>The mosque elders say that they wish to have more parking for their visitors. This is a problem we all face in a busy city. I regularly attend St Mary's in the High Street and the congregation has no expectation of being able to park close by, but recognises the need to use public transport or to come by bicycle. Attendees at the Mosque should do the same. Visitor parking permits are also available to the Mosque, just as they are to Stanley Road residents.</p>	<p>The enforcement of the restrictions in Stanley Road has been a priority for the Council's contractor, but there have been security issues in the evenings that have made their task difficult. It is hoped that this issue will improve once a decision is made on the proposed changes.</p> <p>The residents of the Mosque are eligible for visitor permits and they have received some. However there is a limit to the number available (a maximum of 50 days' per resident per year).</p>