

Division(s): Didcot West; Hendreds and Harwell

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 12 JANUARY 2017

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS GREAT WESTERN PARK, DIDCOT

Report by Interim Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. This report presents the outcome of a further local consultation relating to proposed parking restrictions on Sir Frank Williams Avenue, the spine road at Great Western Park that links the A4130 (Didcot to A34 Road) and the B4493 (Didcot to Harwell Road).

Background

2. The consultation responses for proposals for parking and loading restrictions and a 20mph speed limit zone were reported to the Decisions meeting on 21 July 2016 (a copy of that report is attached at Annex 1). Following consideration of these responses and further representations made verbally at that meeting, the Cabinet Member approved the general principle of parking restrictions during the day but instructed officers to undertake further consultation with the Great Western Park Residents Association and local Members to see if the proposed restrictions could be relaxed to allow some evening parking.

Consultation

3. In advance of carrying out the further consultation, officers met with representatives of the developer including their engineering consultants to review the layout of the spine road, taking account of the width of the road, its alignment and the location of junctions and bus stops. This included a detailed analysis of the swept paths of buses and larger vehicles to establish if there were locations where parking could be permitted outside the working day (taking account of the lower traffic flows) that would not present either a hazard or an obstruction to the passage of traffic.
4. Following this, a meeting was held on Wednesday 9 November at the Community Centre at Great Western Park which was attended by representatives of the developers, including their engineering consultants, officers from the County Council's Road Agreements Team and Traffic and Road Safety Team and the chair of the Great Western Park Residents Association.
5. The results of the technical assessment were presented at the meeting, when it was emphasised that a key design parameter - the width of the spine road,

- had been approved when planning permission for the development was granted, and that while it was now acknowledged that the narrow width of the road may in retrospect have been an error, there was now no possibility of that being amended. The effect of the narrow width of the road on the tracking of vehicles was judged by both County Council officers and the representatives of the developer to confirm the appropriateness of the proposed no waiting at any time restriction on the entire length of the spine road.

6. The Chair of the Great Western Park Residents Association expressed significant regret over the design parameters used for the spine road and also that traffic calming measures currently in place were insufficient to achieve acceptable levels of compliance with the 20mph speed limit zone. That presented a significant risk to residents, in particular to pedestrians crossing the road, and that additional traffic calming measures and a formal pedestrian crossing facility (such as a zebra crossing) were required.
7. The developer has provided a written summary of the matters discussed at the meeting, and these are shown in Annex 2.
8. The Residents Association continue to express disappointment over the design parameters used for the spine road, but acknowledged receipt of the confirmation requested that the waiting restrictions do not prohibit residents vehicles stopping to load and unload vehicles.
9. County Councillor Hards agreed after reviewing the further technical assessment of the possibility of relaxing the waiting restrictions that it is not practical to permit evening parking on parts of the road, with the understanding that stopping for the purposes of loading is permitted at all times. However, he shared the concerns of the residents association over speeding and their wish to see additional measures to address this problem.
10. County Councillor Lilly also expressed agreement on the matter of the parking but also raised concerns relating to wider planning issues in respect of the development.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

11. The proposed waiting restrictions would help facilitate safe movement of traffic.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

12. Funding for the waiting restrictions has been provided by the developer of the Great Western Park

RECOMMENDATION

13. **The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to:-**

- (a) **note that the outcome of the further consultation as described in paragraph 2 above was that no amendment to the proposals as advertised is considered appropriate on the grounds of the safe movement of traffic; and**
- (b) **confirm approval of the parking restrictions as advertised.**

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Background papers: Plan of proposed restrictions
 Consultation responses

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