

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT– 24 JULY 2014

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – WOLVERCOTE

Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. This report considers objections to a formal consultation on proposals to introduce additional parking restrictions in several parts of Wolvercote village.

Background

2. The proposals in this report arise from concerns expressed by the Oxford Bus Company about the difficulties and delays experienced by buses on service 6 whilst negotiating the route through Wolvercote. The proposals supplement the restrictions which were introduced several years ago around Home Close and Rosamund Road to assist bus movements; since then the introduction of larger vehicles onto the route has brought further problems. Separately, there have been concerns raised with County Councillor Jean Fooks that uncontrolled parking in the vicinity of Jacobs Inn causes congestion along that part of Godstow Road. All the proposed restrictions are shown in the plans at Annex 1.

Formal Consultation

3. In May/June 2014 formal consultation took place on the proposals, with copies of the draft Traffic Regulation Order, statement of reasons, and a copy of the public notice deposited for public inspection at County Hall, and Summertown Library. At the same time, the Council wrote to local residents and businesses affected by the proposed changes and public notices were displayed at each site and in the Oxford Times.
4. Nine responses have been received from local residents objecting to or commenting on various elements of the proposals; raising concerns about the effect the restrictions will have on the parking that will remain and asking for additional restrictions. The responses are summarised at Annex 2 along with officer comments. In addition, the Oxford Bus Company has indicated their support for the measures specifically designed to assist their service and Thames Valley Police have no objections. County Councillor Fooks strongly supports the proposals.
5. A number of respondents are concerned that the proposals will make parking for residents more difficult and will lead to parking occurring in less suitable locations. To address this it is suggested that the length of

CMDE5

the proposed restrictions on Elmthorpe Road and on Godstow Road near the Common (the south side, west of the railway bridge) be reduced to allow some extra parking.

6. Other respondents are unsure that the proposed restrictions in the vicinity of Jacobs Inn address the problems which are occurring. In response it is suggested that the restrictions be implemented but that the situation be monitored.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

7. The cost of all the proposed work under consultation will be met from S106 funds for the area.

RECOMMENDATION

7. **The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed parking restrictions for Wolvercote as advertised but amended as described in this report.**

MARK KEMP

Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

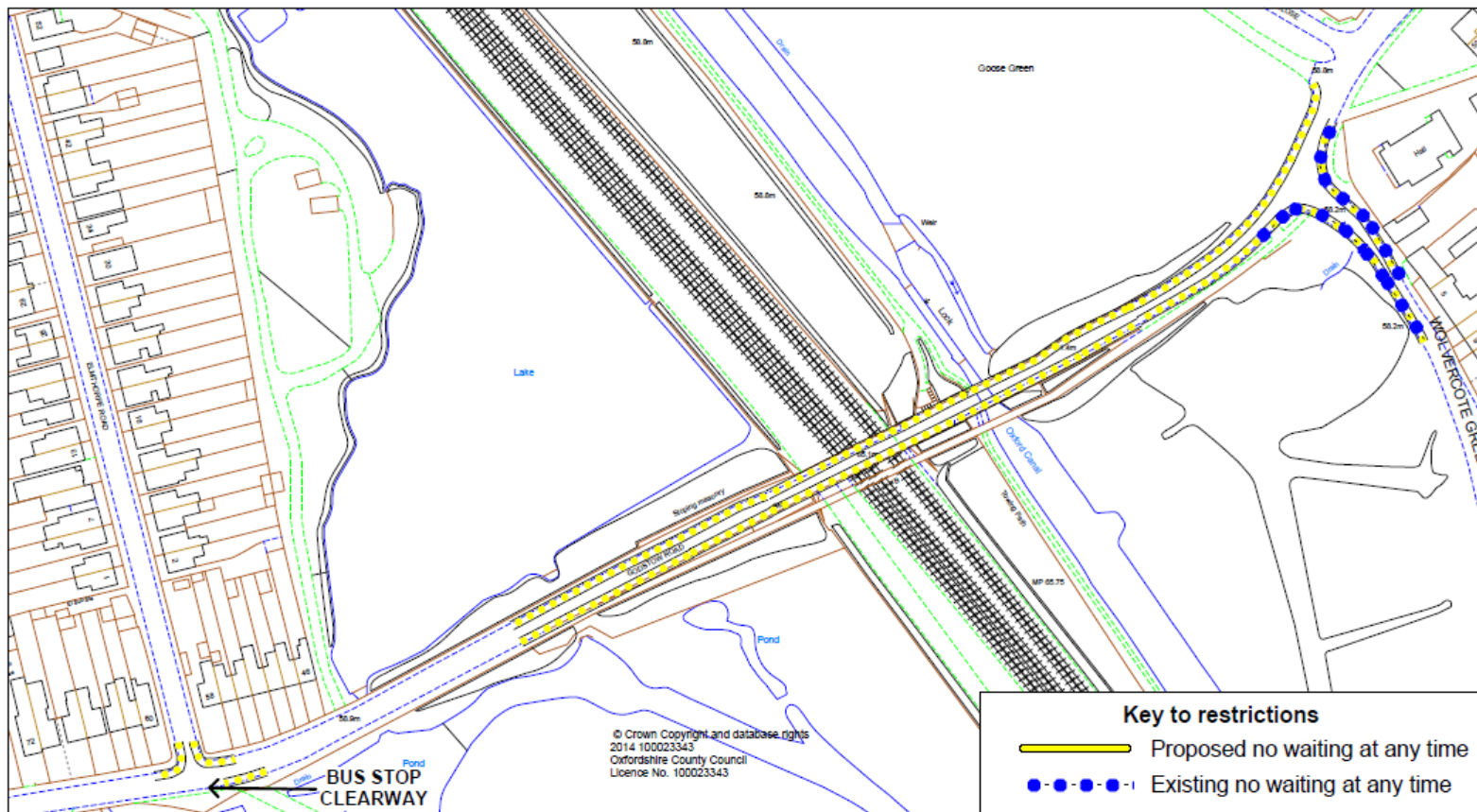
Background papers: Consultation documentation


Contact Officers: Jim Daughton 01865 815803

July 2014

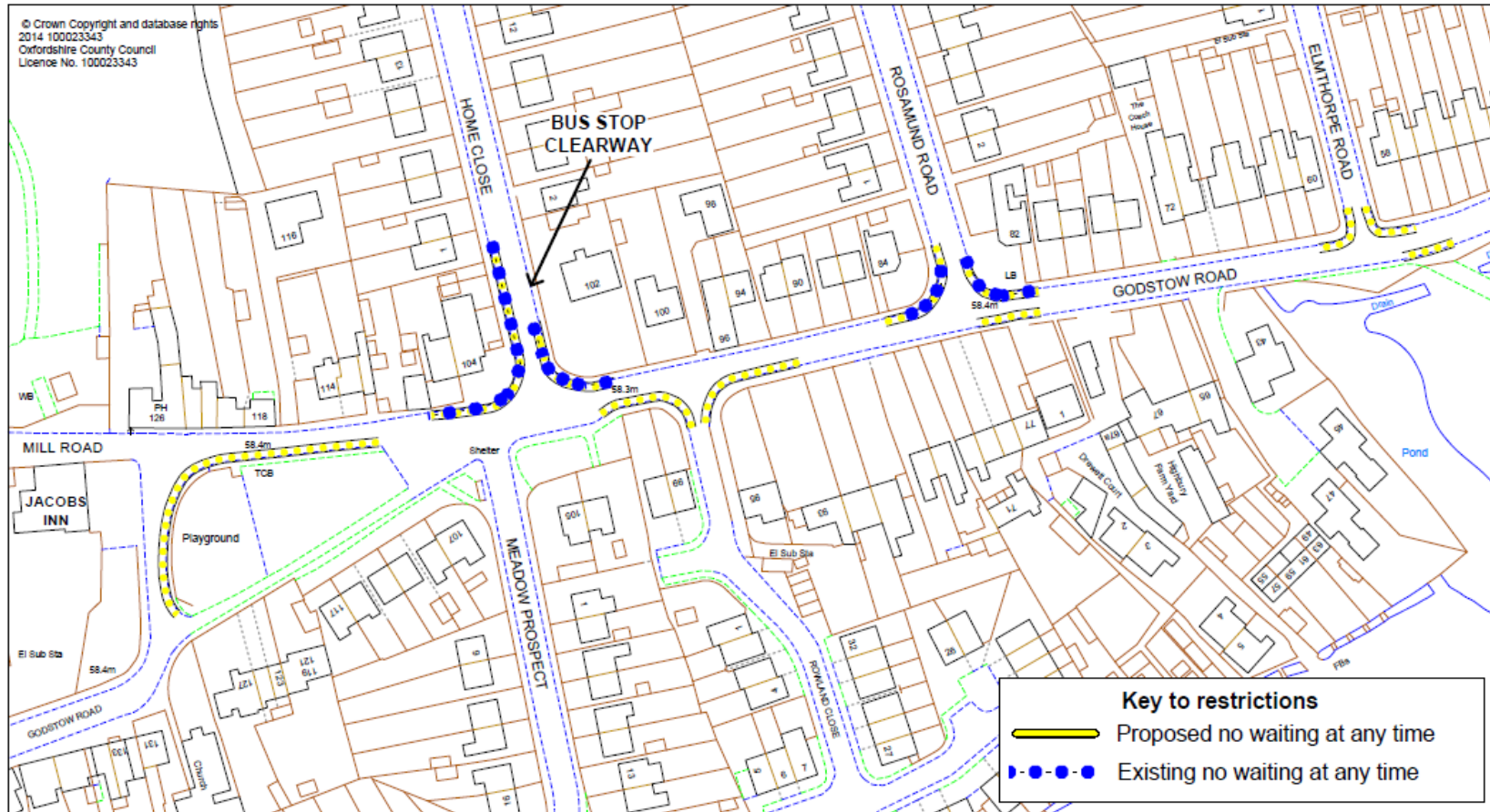
CMDE5

ANNEX 1



 <p>OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>PROPOSED ADDITIONAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS GODSTOW ROAD, WOLVERCOTE</p>	SCALE	1 : 1500
		DATE	April 2014
		DRAWING No.	Sheet 1 of 2
		DRAWN BY	

CMDE5



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

**PROPOSED ADDITIONAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS
 GODSTOW ROAD, WOLVERCOTE**

SCALE	1 : 1250
DATE	April 2014
DRAWING No.	Sheet 2 of 2
DRAWN BY	

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

RESPONDENT	COMMENT	RESPONSE
Resident (Godstow Road)	<p>Objects to proposed restriction on Elmthorpe Road as this will reduce parking availability for residents thus creating additional pressure on Godstow Road.</p> <p>Suggests additional restrictions on Godstow Road to ensure that vehicles only park on one side thus keeping the road clear for traffic.</p>	<p>In view of the comments received it is suggested that the proposed restrictions on Elmthorpe Road be reduced in length so that they simply keep the dropped kerbs free of parked vehicles.</p> <p>The proposed restrictions on Godstow Road are considered to be a reasonable balance between the needs of residents and allowing through traffic to progress but at an appropriate speed.</p>
Resident (Godstow Road)	<p>Objects to the proposed restrictions on Elmthorpe Road as this will reduce parking availability for residents without any benefit to through traffic.</p> <p>Objects to the yellow lines in the north side of Godstow Road as no-one parks there and they will be unsightly.</p> <p>Notes that having parked vehicles on the south side of Godstow Road (adjacent to the Common) provides informal traffic calming. Is concerned that removing parking will cause vehicles to travel faster causing safety concerns.</p>	<p>In view of the comments received it is suggested that the proposed restrictions on Elmthorpe Road be reduced in length so that they simply keep the dropped kerbs free of parked vehicles.</p> <p>The proposed restrictions on Godstow Road are considered to be a reasonable balance between the needs of residents and allowing through traffic to progress but at an appropriate speed. However, in the light of the responses received the proposed restrictions adjacent to the Common will be adjusted to allow some extra parking</p>
Resident	Generally support the proposals but has concerns that pressure for	Noted

CMDE5

(Godstow Road)	parking in the vicinity of Jacobs well will increase the risk of collisions on Godstow Road.	
Resident (Godstow Road)	Supports the proposals to ensure the continuation of the bus service. Is concerned about the level of parking around Rowland Close - some of which blocks the footway - and suggests the restrictions are extended further into the Close.	Noted. This matter will be kept under review.
Resident (Godstow Road)	Concerned that the proposals will push parking along and make it even more difficult to manoeuvre out of their driveway (vehicles have already been damaged as a result of bad parking). Asks that the current white access protection mark be replaced with yellow lines to keep the driveway clear. Suggests that Wolvercote should have residents parking controls.	In view of the difficulties expressed and the local parking pressures arising from the popularity of Jacob's Inn, it is suggested that the current informal access protection marking be replaced with double yellow lines.
Resident (Wolvercote Green)	Generally supports the proposals but suggests that future needs should be taken into account when considering larger projects such as the Northern Gateway and 'Mill' site development.	Noted.
Resident (Rosamund Road)	The proposed parking restrictions on the bend by the children's playground doesn't deal with the real problem which is on the opposite side adjacent to (and caused by) Jacobs Inn which not only creates safety concerns due to lack of visibility but also tends to block the footway. Considers that the proposed extension to the restrictions west of Rosamund Road isn't sufficient to give drivers exiting that road sufficient visibility of oncoming traffic.	Parking, particularly at weekends, in this part of Wolvercote will be kept under review. The proposals are considered to be a reasonable balance between the needs of residents and allowing through traffic to progress but at an appropriate speed.
Resident (Godstow Road)	Notes that the vast majority of the cars parked along the affected stretches of road belong to local residents; the new restrictions will force them to park elsewhere, thus moving the problem to another part of Wolvercote. Suggests that a more relaxed view of granting planning consent for front garden parking spaces would help.	This may happen but the key aim of the proposals is to ensure that parking does not occur where it could prevent the bus service from running. This is a matter for the City Council.

CMDE5

	<p>Considers that the proposed restrictions adjacent to the children's playground are pointless as no-one parks there - but there is lots of parking elsewhere in the vicinity caused by customers of Jacobs Inn. Notes that the new restrictions will be useless unless they are enforced - rarely sees a parking warden.</p> <p>Understands the problem buses have in making the turn into Rosamund Road and wonders if the current turning loop could be reversed or even abandoned and the previous arrangement where buses turned in wide part of Godstow Road could be used.</p>	<p>Parking, particularly at weekends, in this part of Wolvercote will be kept under review.</p> <p>The enforcement contractor will be required to patrol more regularly.</p> <p>The bus operator does not allow regular reversing in this type of location on safety grounds.</p>
<p>Resident (Godstow Road)</p>	<p>Fully in agreement with the proposals in the vicinity of Jacobs Inn. Concerned that the proposed restrictions in other areas of the village will be counter-productive as there will be less space for those wanting to park to visit the doctors' surgery or the village shop, and so they will park on the yellow lines. Appreciates the difficulties faced by the bus drivers but not convinced that these proposals will do anything to help. Suggests that Wolvercote needs to have a small car park.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>