

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 26 MARCH 2020

OXFORD – THE OVAL AND DESBOROUGH CRESCENT - PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Report by Director of Community Operations

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve proposed no waiting at any time restrictions at The Oval and Desborough Crescent, Oxford subject to consulting with the local member and bus operators on a possible reduction in their extent to address concerns over the possible unnecessary loss of parking places.

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 waiting restrictions at The Oval and Desborough Crescent, Oxford.

Background

4. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 have been put forward as a result of the development of adjacent land for residential development.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 30 January and 28 February 2020. A public notice was placed in the Oxfordshire Times Newspaper newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Oxford City Council and the local County Councillor. Street notices were placed on site and letters sent to approximately 70 properties in the immediate vicinity, adjacent to the proposals.
6. Eleven responses were received. 6 objections, 3 expressions of support and 2 neither objecting nor supporting, but nevertheless raising concerns. The

responses are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

7. Thames Valley Police expressed no objections.
8. The local member expressed reservations on the grounds that the proposals were too restrictive noting that she had not observed the parking here to be resulting in a problem.
9. Objections were received from six members of the public on the grounds of the loss of parking for residents and their visitors and expressing the view that the current parking did not present a difficulty for other road users.
10. Expressions of support were received from three members of the public

Response to objections and other representations

11. While officers consider that additional waiting restrictions are required in this area in particular to reduce the risk of the buses on this busy bus route being obstructed by parked cars, it would seem appropriate to review with the local member and representatives of the bus companies the scope for reducing their extent from those currently proposed.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

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

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

13. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by developers of adjacent land

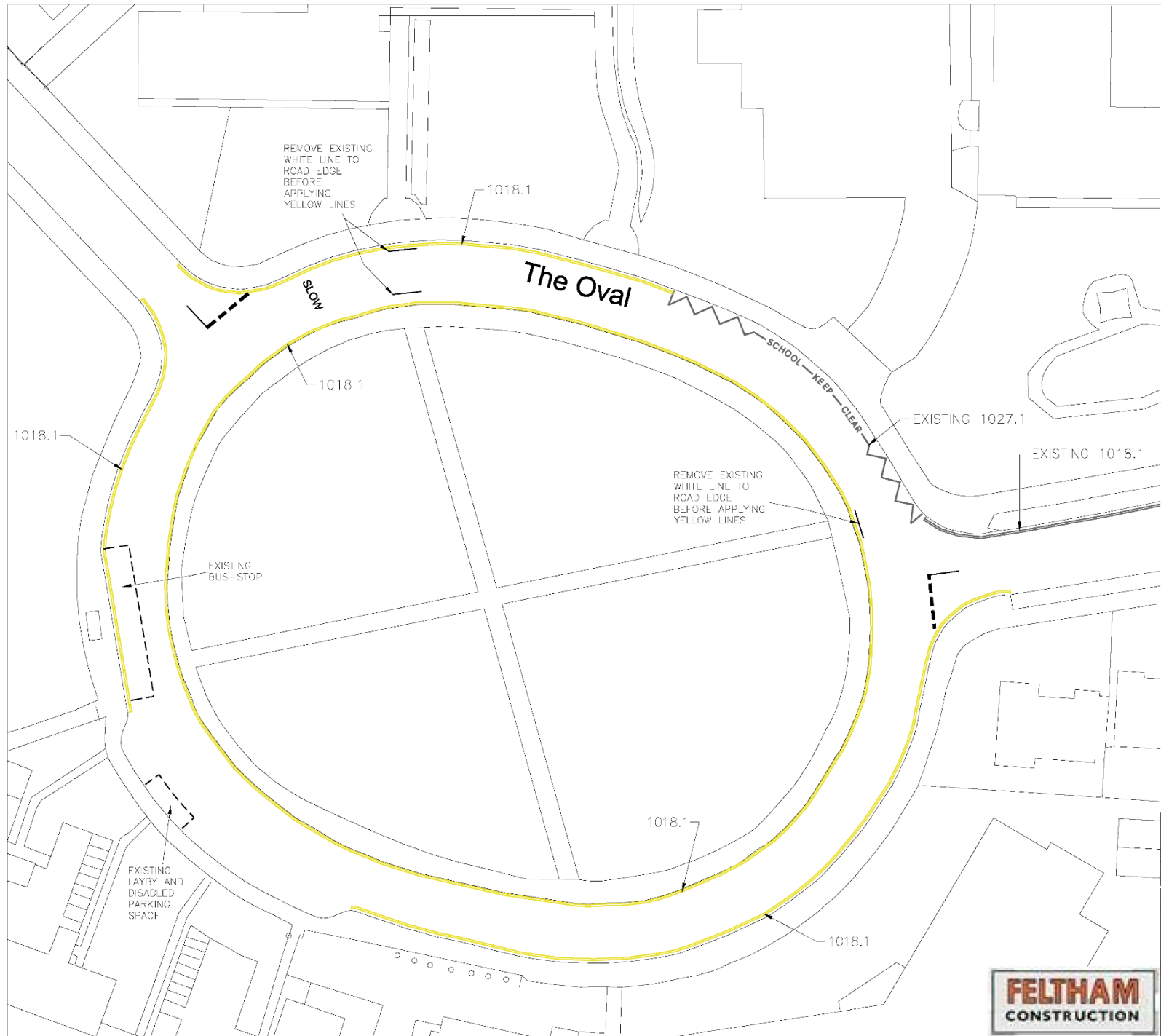
JASON RUSSELL
Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers: Plan of proposed waiting restrictions
 Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Hugh Potter 07766 998704

March 2020

KEY	
Marking	Description
1C18.1	Continuous Double Yellow (Oxford Dream)



P1	M.H.	NA	02.07.10	PRELIMINARY	
REV	BY	CHK	DATE	REASON	

ARCHITECT
 THE
JOB
 ROSE HILL PROJECTS
 OXFORD
 DESBOROUGH CRESCENT
DATE
 1.2.00 (2-A1)
DATE
 01.2010
BY
 M.H.
CHK
 C.H.G.



CONSULTING STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
 Ground Floor Offices: T 01232 754998
 24 Stephens House E: dave@doasteng.co.uk
 Dogfold Way W: www.doasteng.co.uk
 Farnham Surrey GU14 7UD

DEG. NUMBER
 3542-110



RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection –These proposed restrictions place no burden on Thames Valley Police in terms of enforcement.as they fall within an area of Civil Enforcement.
(2) Local County Councillor, ()	Concerns – I have never seen parking at The Oval as being a problem. Obviously parking on the inner circle should not happen but can't see what the problem is with parking on the outer circle.
(3) Local Resident, (Oxford)	<p>Object – I would like to put forward several objections with regards to the proposed parking restrictions on the Oval, Rose Hill.</p> <p>Myself and many of the tenants at Maureen Christian House, Desborough Crescent at Rose Hill feel that the Oval itself does not pose 'dangerous or obstructive parking' concerns as has been suggested. I myself live overlooking the Oval and have witnessed the traffic at all times of the day and night and can vouch that buses which use the Oval may have issues when they park directly behind their designated bus stop, but for the vast majority of the Oval, this "dangerous and obstructive parking" is simply not a common occurrence at all. I would argue that if the area were assessed, you would find that serious parking issues actually take place around 'Rose Hill Primary School' on Ashhurst Way, especially outside the school gates during pick up/drop off times, and outside Rosehill Community Centre where you will find cars parked on dangerous junctions and corners blocking views to oncoming traffic. Many buses are stuck there trying to pass on this narrow, very busy part of Ashhurst Way.</p> <p>One suggestion we thought might alleviate the parking issues surrounding the bus stop at the Oval would be to provide a 'bus only zone space' for two double deckers to park one behind the other. This would therefore double the space for them to park safely and provide an efficient service. The rest of the Oval need not be affected.</p> <p>A second objection is the suggestion that a 'No Waiting At Any Time restriction would be a useful restriction on the Oval. I would like to reiterate the point that the Oval has no specific safety issues as cars have ample space to park safely even when bigger vehicles like buses and vans need to pass by. If a vehicle is in fact blocking the route around</p>

	<p>the Oval because of the way it is parked, then surely this would be a traffic infringement issue not a parking issue? No vehicle should ever block a public road anywhere or at any time, never mind the parking requirements. By doing so is acting unlawfully and ignoring the highway code completely and therefore the traffic wardens would have every right to fine them in the appropriate way. My point is, it seems unfair that for the very few bad drivers who would park in this way no matter their location, a complete no-parking zone is being threatened. It seems unduly harsh and is simply penalising those who abide by the law and behave decently.</p> <p>A third objection is the lack of parking provision in this part of Rose Hill and that is without the proposed restrictions on the Oval. I am not sure if you are aware but there are currently two blocks of flats being built; one of them overlooking the Oval just behind the bus stop, and the other right next to Rose Hill Community Centre. You would think there would be provision for parking for these flats but sadly due to lack of space, I imagine, at least with the flats next to the Community Centre, there will be none provided. So, although there will be more families and children in the area, there will be fewer spaces to park and that is without the proposed parking restrictions. So it just does not make any logical sense.</p> <p>A final objection is that by restricting parking on the Oval will only increase the risks of dangerous parking not reduce it. Safety is a big concern and I believe that by restricting parking on the Oval will just make matters far worse on Ashhurst Way and adjoining streets. As I mentioned earlier there are many children playing in and around the Oval near the Primary School. Parents are constantly picking up and dropping off their children at the Community Centre, Nursery or school. This is a hotspot for potential accidents and needs alleviating. The Oval, at least, gives people a place to stop safely. If you take this away, of course, dangerous parking will be inevitable and believe me, it is bad enough as it is. I would prefer to prevent accidents happening rather than raise the risk as this parking restriction would likely end up doing.</p> <p>We, the residents at Maureen Christian House ask you to seriously reconsider the parking restrictions at the Oval and instead consider what would be best for the safety of the local community.</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Oxford)	<p>Object – As a Desborough crescent resident which is already very congested, I'm very concerned about the idea of double yellow lines around The Oval!!</p> <p>With new flats currently being built which will only increase that problem what are they plus their guests and visitors meant to park?</p>

<p>(5) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Object – I live in Maureen Christian house on the oval and strongly object to the idea of parking restrictions!! People that visit need somewhere to park and what about households with two vehicles</p>
<p>(6) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Object – Removing parking on the Oval will be directly detrimental to the residents, especially of the Maureen Christian House flats and the new flats now being built. Several of our neighbours at MCH have more than one vehicle, meaning that they need to park one outside on the road - Desborough Crescent already being busy most of the time.</p> <p>My partner and I have elderly parents who visit us regularly and find the ability to park just outside on the Oval more convenient than having to find parking further away. As they will only have reduced mobility as they get older this will continue to be important in the years to come.</p> <p>Furthermore, as the entrance to MCH is on the Oval, deliveries will be impossible if lorries or vans cannot stop outside. There is an entrance on Desborough Crescent, but it is up a steep flight of stairs and leads on to a hallway which is quite narrow. I cannot imagine successfully getting a sofa down that hallway and around a corner, for example, while the entrances on the Oval side have wider vestibules and lifts.</p> <p>The passing trade to the shops will also suffer, which can only be of detriment to the entire area. In short, penalising everyone for the actions of a small group of occasional idiots seems like a massive overreaction. If you must restrict parking around the Oval, perhaps consider extending the permit scheme - with visitor permits available for people who live in the area.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Object – I have lived on The Oval for over 8 years and have not experienced dangerous and obstructive parking. But you could see obstructive parking on Ashurst Way between Rose hill primary school and New Community centre. The Oval has always been a quiet place for parking and never had a problem parking there at days or evening times.</p> <p>Cleary against any restriction for parking and double yellow line on The Oval, as this will affect my household and all my neighbours too, as we rely parking if front of our home.</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Object – I have lived on The Oval for over 8 years and have not experienced dangerous and obstructive parking. If this happens it will affect my family and all my neighbours with kids in a negative way as we all rely on parking by our home.</p>

	<p>The Oval has been always been a quiet place for parking and I've never had a problem parking there at days or evening times.</p> <p>Cleary against any restriction for parking and double yellow line on The Oval.</p>
(9) Local Resident, (Oxford)	Support – No comments.
(10) Local Resident, (Oxford)	Support – Fully agree with this proposal for the exact reasons as set out in the councils' statements of reasons.
(11) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	Support – No comments.