

Divisions affected: *Henley-on-Thames*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 1 JULY 2021

HENLEY – NORTHFIELD END PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING PLACES AND AMENDMENT TO WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposals as advertised for the introduction of Residents Permit Parking Places and amendments to no waiting restrictions on Northfield End, Henley-on-Thames with the following amendment extending permit eligibility to include all properties on the south-west side of Northfield End, north of Badgemore Lane including Nos. 35 to 63.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce new sections of 'Residential Permit Holders' parking along the northeast side of Northfield End in Henley-on-Thames, which will be accompanied by amendments to the existing 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow lines) to accommodate the changes.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals has been provided by Henley-on-Thames Town Council who will also fund implementation if approved.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

Sustainability Implications

5. No implications in respect of sustainability have been identified in respect of the proposals.

Background

6. In December 2017, informal consultation was carried out by Henley Town Council with residents of Northfield End on the principle of a residents parking scheme being introduced along the road. In total, 32 questionnaires were sent out and 24 returned. The feedback was positive with over 80% supporting the idea of a scheme being formally promoted.
7. At the start of 2020, officers were approached by Henley Town Council to take forward the design and formal consultation for residents' parking and subsequently a scheme was developed with bays marked on and off the carriageway to match the current arrangements.

Formal Consultation

8. Formal consultation was carried out between 4 December 2020 and 8 January 2021. A notice was published in the Henley Standard newspaper and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, South Oxfordshire District Council, Henley Town Council and the local County Councillor. Additionally, letters were sent to approximately 56 properties in the immediate vicinity of the various proposals and public notices placed on site in the area.
9. Twenty-three responses were received during the formal consultation. 2 (9%) objections, 7 raising concerns, 13 (57%) in support and one non-objection. The responses are shown at Annex 2 with copies of the original responses available for inspection by County Councillors.
10. Thames Valley Police did not object.
11. Henley Town Council supported the proposals, with a slight amendment to allow permit eligibility at the Northern End of the road.
12. The local member Councillor Gawrysiak also expressed his support for the proposals going ahead, citing that the scheme had been talked about for a number of years and highlighting that there was a public car park nearby for use by non-residents.
13. The remaining comments were from local residents, with the majority in support. However, concerns and objections were raised by some residents on the south-west side of Northfield End, without access to off-street parking and who were not eligible for permits.
14. Prior to the consultation concessions were made to properties 57, 59 and 61 for permit eligibility for this reason and, therefore, this could be extended further to include all properties on the south-west side, north of Badgemore Lane.
15. Further comments were made about the introduction of double yellow lines in sections at the southern end and around accesses. These concerns focused on either loss of parking or visibility from accesses.

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16. In developing the proposals officers have taken into account the existing parking situation where some vehicles are parking on the footway behind double yellow lines. To ensure that all parking is compliant with the restrictions and road safety is maintained, it has been necessary to make changes to some of the sections of yellow lines.

BILL COTTON

Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes

Annex 1: Consultation Plan

Annex 2: Consultation responses

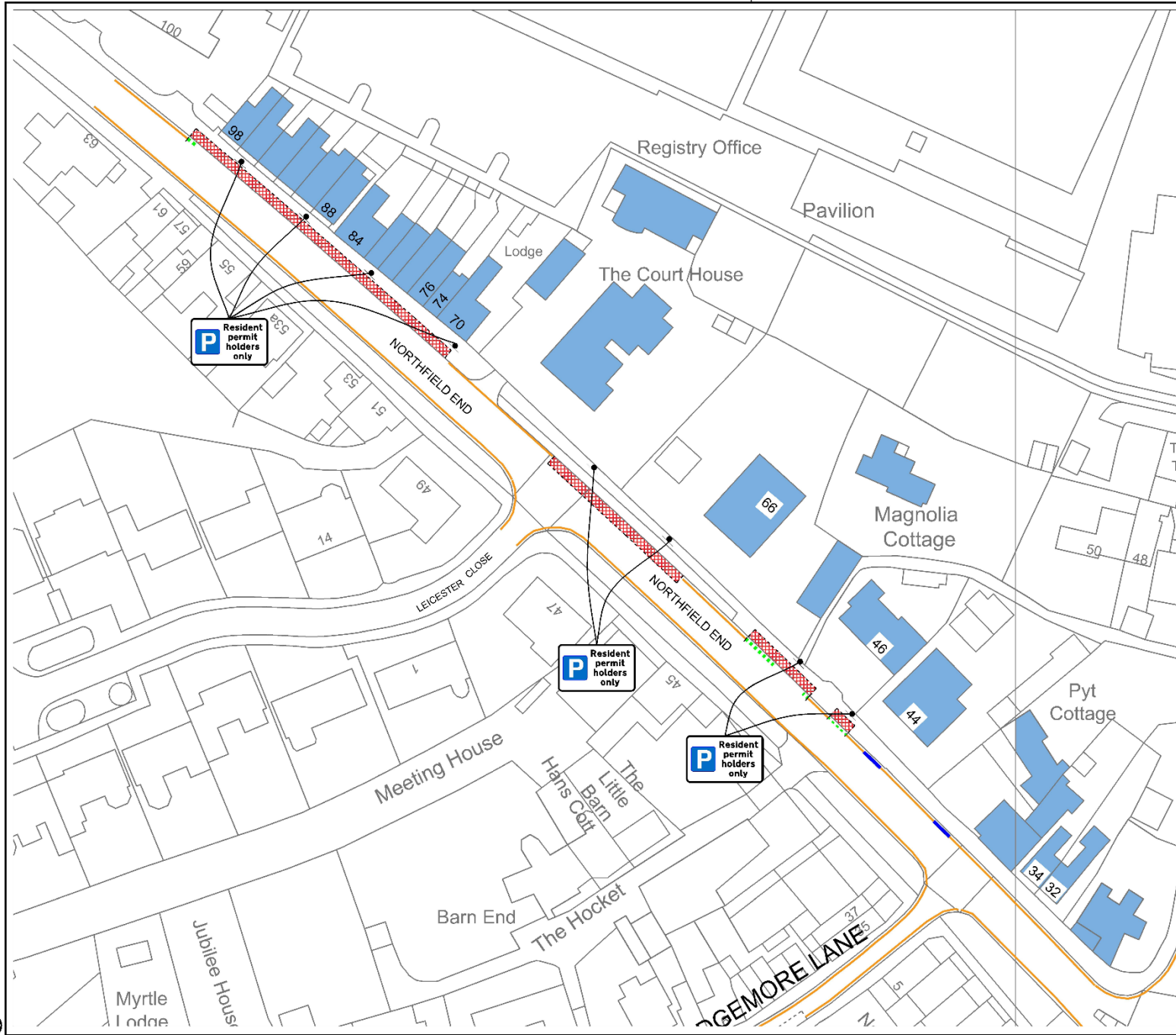
Contact Officers:

Tim Shickle 07920 591545

James Whiting 07584 581187

July 2021

\\oxfordshire\transport & Highways\4. Improvement. Schemes\Traffic\Traffic and Road Safety\Projects\A - Henley Northfield End RPZ\PLANS\Henley Base v3.dwg



Drawing No.	Revision 0				
KEY					
	PROPOSED RESIDENT PERMIT HOLDERS ONLY				
	PROPOSED PROPERTIES ELIGIBLE FOR RESIDENTS PERMITS				
	EXISTING DOUBLE YELLOW LINES				
	PROPOSED REMOVAL OF DOUBLE YELLOW LINES				
	PROPOSED NEW DOUBLE YELLOW LINES				
SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION					
IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS					
CONSTRUCTION (ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)					
MAINTENANCE/CLEANING (ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)					
USE (ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)					
DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION (ENTER 'NONE' IF APPLICABLE)					
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PROPOSED RESIDENTS ONLY PARKING NORTHFIELD END HENLEY ON THAMES					
Drawing Status					
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by		
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RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>No Objection – A subject that has been discussed and consulted upon many times over the last 20 years. In principle I have no objection but remind the Authority that residents parking is NOT enforced by our officers.</p> <p>It is my understanding there is an agreement in place that allows the Town Council to enforce such restrictions.</p>
(2) Henley-on-Thames Town Council	<p>Support – The [Planning] Committee support the proposed residential permit holders parking bays at Northfield End but want the scheme to also include properties 57, 59 and 61 that do not have garages.</p>
(3) Local County Cllr, (Henley-on-Thames Division)	<p>Support – I fully support the Residents parking at Northfield End. Henley Town Council unanimously support this and so do the OCC officers. The has been talked about for a number of years and finally we can implement it. The residents have real issues with parking outside their homes. It does not inconvenience the public because 300m away nearer the town is a SODC car park at the Henley Rugby Club.</p> <p>Therefore, I fully support this modest proposal.</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)	<p>Object – Reasons for my objection</p> <p>1) Segregation and equality: i) During these recent times, there has been a movement towards more segregation and restriction. I believe that segregation and restriction leads to inequalities and mistreatment. A recent example of this was the recent actions by the American police during the storming of Capitol Hill by protestors compared to other actions by police at other protests in the United States. Another example is the UK Government's continual refusal to support those 3 million people who have fallen through the cracks and been excluded from support during this Covid-19 crisis. Having some parking available to everybody, not just residents, is evidence of inclusion and makes Henley-on-Thames a more vibrant and inclusive area. I believe that introduction of this proposal is both evidence of inequality and an indirect move towards discouraging others from visiting this wonderful town, whether it be for work or recreational activity. I therefore have concerns for Henley-on-Thames ability to survive and thrive for future</p>

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	<p>generations. ii) Unless I have misunderstood, it appears that properties on the south side are not eligible for a parking permit because it is on the South-West side on Northfield End. Why have these properties been excluded? Why is there segregation for Residents of Northfield End? Why is there exclusion for a property that is completely surrounded by double-yellow lines?</p> <p>2) Factual evidence: I have not seen any statistics or evidence in the proposal related to “reports of inappropriate parking”. How many reports have there been and over what period of time? How many different people have reported this inappropriate parking – is it the same people all the time? Has the actual underlying issue or change that has prompted these reports been identified? What is the definition of “inappropriate parking”? What is the definition of “appropriate parking”? Is “inappropriate parking” illegal? Is “inappropriate parking” unsafe? Why would I be in favour of this proposal when there is no factual evidence of “inappropriate parking” in the proposal?</p> <p>3) Affordability. I personally do not know if I am entitled to a parking permit in Henley-on-Thames given my personal circumstances, but if I am and the permit parking is introduced, regardless of whether or not I am entitled to the permit for these proposals, I cannot afford the current cost of £100 per year during this Covid-19 pandemic. I therefore would argue that this proposal, should it succeed, be yet another tax on the poor during this Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>4) Motivation: I would question the motivations behind this proposal. I have no idea what “inappropriate parking” really means in the context of this proposal. In the many years residing in the area, I have seen that both resident and non-resident vehicle users continue to use common sense when parking in the areas. I refer to common sense as being considerate, compassionate to others, safety conscious and not being a danger to others. While I may not like some people parking where they do, I do not have a right to deny them access to something that I also have exactly the same right to, access to, and use in the same way.</p>
<p>(5) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Object – This is to let you know that I am opposed to the introduction of Residents' Permit Parking in Northfield End. We have lived here for nearly eight years, and we have found the present arrangements for parking on this road to be entirely satisfactory for residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>It is difficult not to suppose that the main reason for making the change is to secure a new income stream for the local authority, whose rate payers in these difficult times already have quite enough demands on their hard-pressed resources.</p>

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<p>(6) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Concerns - 1. What exactly is meant by “inappropriate parking in the area” and if this is illegal, why this cannot be addressed under existing legislation? 2. Has any analysis been carried out regarding the impact of such measures on the parking of vehicles on the Fair Mile? 3. How many permits will each household be allowed and what is the projected annual cost per permit holder? 4. Will any of the parking spaces reduce the existing pavement width or will all spaces be situated on the existing road?</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Concerns - Summary of concerns: Whilst these proposals help the parking problems of Northfield End residents on the east side of the road, they exclude those on the west side, which have no on-plot parking and would continue to be ineligible for residents' permits. These residents would then be the only ones in Northfield End without residents' parking; I can't quite see why we've been left out! The proposals therefore inequitably leave a number of residents at a serious disadvantage.</p> <p>Resolution of concerns: This can be resolved by amendments to the proposals: 1. To allow properties on the west side of Northfield End, north of Badgemore Lane (or, at least, those properties without on-plot parking), to be eligible for Residents' Permits; and 2. To retain the two existing parking bays between nos. 36 and 44, but as Residents' Parking only, rather than paint them out with double yellow lines.</p> <p>Effect of proposals: I live at 37 Northfield End; I have no on-plot parking, and no.37 is not eligible for a Residents' Permit. I think the same applies to nos 35, 51, 57, 59 and 61. These are all on the west side of Northfield End, north of Badgemore Lane.</p> <p>The proposed traffic measures allow for Residents' Permits for Nos. 30 to 98 Northfield End, on the east side. It also identified that properties on the west side, from the junction with Bell Street to Badgemore Lane are currently eligible for Residents' Permits. Hence, in the very difficult position of Northfield End, only the properties on the west side, north of Badgemore Lane, would have no residents' parking.</p> <p>Further, the proposal to add double yellow lines to the two parking spaces outside Nos 36-44 means that two potential residents' parking bays at this end of the road would be lost.</p>

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The effect of the order would be to leave the west side residents worse off than they are now – there would be nowhere to park !

Detail of requested amendment to the Order:

1. Residents' Parking proposals: The Order recognises that residents of Northfield End have a serious parking problem – the road is close to the town centre, and available parking, and illegal footpath parking, is currently taken up as free parking by workers and visitors to the town, leaving nowhere legal and reliably accessible for local residents. The OCC consultation website states that the Council: 'proposes to introduce sections of Residential Permit Holders parking bays along the southern* section of Northfield End. The proposals are being put forward to address inappropriate parking in the area & to better manage availability of spaces for residents in the immediate vicinity' (*Should this be 'northern' section of Northfield End?)

To meet those stated objectives, then the Order should allow for all, not some, of the residents without on-plot parking access to the parking spaces.

It is ironic that many of the properties that would be eligible for permits have on-plot parking (Nos 31, 36, 44, 46, 66, Court House flats), whilst others in the street with no on-plot parking would have nowhere to park (Nos 35, 37, 51, 57, 59 and 61).

It is therefore requested that the Order, and associated documents and map, be amended to include eligibility for Residents Parking Permits for the properties on the west side of Northfield End, north of Badgemore Lane (or, at least, those properties with no on-plot parking).

2. Double yellow lines: The traffic proposals also include adding double yellow lines to the existing two parking bays outside Nos 36 and 44.

It is understandable that OCC wishes to stop the illegal parking on that length of footpath. However, those two parking bays were only marked out by OCC a few years ago, and part of the reasoning given then was that cars parked in the road at this point would help to slow the traffic. They were considered acceptable in highway terms.

Those two bays are often the only places that I and my neighbour at No 35, or our visitors, can legally park near our houses. If they are removed, where can we park near enough to lug heavy shopping, small children, luggage etc to our houses?

However, if they were retained, but as residents' parking only, then:

- They provide two additional resident spaces at this end of the road;
- They are near the houses just north of the Marlow Road roundabout;
- The traffic would continue to be slowed by parked cars in these spaces;

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	<p>- On-road parking in this location would be much the same as that proposed further up the road; and - There would no longer be parking on the footway, as this length would be continuously either double-yellowed, or resident parking only.</p> <p>It is therefore requested that the Order be amended, to retain the two parking bays between Nos 36 and 44, but to identify these as for Residents' Parking only.</p> <p>Summary of request for amendments to the Order: 1. That the Order, and associated documents and map, be amended to include eligibility for Residents Parking Permits for the properties on the west side of Northfield End, north of Badgemore Lane (or, at least, those properties with no on-plot parking); and 2. That the Order be amended, to retain the two parking bays between Nos 36 and 44, but to identify these as for Residents' Parking only.</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Concerns - (a) that the residents on the west side of Northfield End, north of Badgemore Lane, be included as eligible for residents' permits. (b) that the two parking spaces in the road outside numbers 36 and 44 Northfield End be kept, but for residents only, so that there's the maximum possible resident spaces for the whole road, and to reduce pressure on the spaces outside numbers 70 to 98.</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Concerns – Will the granting of residents parking permits allow residents with two cars to have two permits. If this is so will there be enough parking spaces available. Also, will residents with parking permits in other areas of the town be allowed to park in our space and us in theirs. Will residents of Nos. 57, 59 & 61 be allowed permits also.</p> <p>At the moment I have written permission to park with two wheels on the pavements on my side of the road whilst not hindering people using the pavement. I have been parking in this manner for many years.</p> <p>Parking spaces could be made on our side of the road outside Nos. 57-61. The grass verge is wide enough to allow this. I wish to have a parking permit but will I also be able to carry on parking as I am now for the foreseeable future. I also have a friend who calls on me quite regularly, would I be able to obtain a permit for them.</p>

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<p>(10) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Concerns – I would like to raise a concern regarding arrangements for people parking in Northfield End. I have a parking slot in front of my house used to park my car. I have a medical condition and am not very mobile. My daughter visits me on a frequent basis. She suffers from a condition causing, amongst other things, difficulty in walking. She is in receipt of a PIP and has a Blue Badge for parking.</p> <p>When visiting me she parks on the tarmac in front of my house, on the entrance to my parking slot, between the back of the double yellow line and the pavement, within the width of the grass verge. She has parked here for some years with no problems.</p> <p>I am concerned that the new parking rules may affect her ability to park here which she has done for many years. I would appreciate your confirmation that this arrangement can continue.</p>
<p>(11) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Concerns – Having spoken to a number of neighbours, we think this is an excellent proposal as there is indeed a problem with inappropriate parking on this road.</p> <p>Our own properties are just slightly further along the road at Fairmile Court, neighbouring the area your proposal affects, but we also regularly experience inappropriate and sometimes dangerous parking, as your sign describes. As such, we would like to engage with you to discuss possibilities to extend the 'no waiting at any time' double-yellow-lines further, past our properties, to a point to be determined which we would suggest to be the speed limit change signs.</p> <p>We would not propose to add any additional 'resident's parking' bays, just the yellow lines.</p> <p>Currently we are witnessing vehicles parked on the grass verges, bus stop and pavements (I can send photos to support if that would be of benefit), and as a new parent I am frequently having to push my son's buggy into the oncoming traffic in the roadway in order to pass. It would therefore be wonderful if we could discuss extending the scope of your changes to combat these same issues further along Northfield End / Fairmile.</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Concerns – I have lived on Northfield End for many years. I fully support the proposal to install residents parking. Many of the cars regularly parked along Northfield End do not belong to residents.</p>

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	<p>However, as can be seen from the proposal plan, the vehicular exit is already substantially compromised by parked vehicles - small cars, large cars and vans.</p> <p>This makes driving out of my gate onto the very busy A road extremely hazardous not just for me and my wife, but for visitors and delivery drivers etc. Both sight lines are blocked by parked vehicles.</p> <p>So - please do not remove the double yellow line to my left as I exit. Please place a bollard or a planter (which I will maintain!) on the pavement to prevent a vehicle parking immediately to the left of my gate.</p> <p>And please extend the double yellow line by two vehicle lengths to the right as I exit. These two actions alone will make a huge difference to the road safety immediately outside no66.</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Support - We live on Northfield End. The proposed residents permit parking is needed to reduce environmental emissions with residents not driving around trying to find a parking space, increase the use of the rugby club car park as a place for commuters working in Henley to park their cars and provide a safer road system with people not parking on the road.</p>
<p>(14) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Support - Resident at 82 Northfield End. During lockdown 1 when there was zero travel, parking was effortless. Since then it has been increasingly more difficult to do so. We have a 2 year old as well as others along our road and we always have to park along way down then carry everything which is frustrating especially as we see cars leaving once shops closing and after working hours.</p> <p>If this goes ahead I believe the residents including us should be the only ones contacted to get residents permits before offering out. I would also like to know more about how to get permits.</p> <p>Will we get guest parking allocation? And how many?</p>
<p>(15) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Support - Feel the residents need to be able to park and at the moment people that work in henley take all the spaces</p>

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<p>(16) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Support - 1) To allow residents to have a reasonable chance of parking somewhere close to home. Especially when residents with small children, buggies or shopping have to park such a long way from home. 2) To stop people from using valuable space outside our house. People sometimes come and go revving engines, especially in big 4x4's, (walkers) or stay all day (workers) meanwhile when I go to work in Marlow I have to pay £6.00 per day to park. 3) To prevent the need for double parking, while popping home to feed the dog at lunch time. 4) The two small terraces on one side of the road are part of why the area is a conservation area. The cottages are small and should enjoy a small area in front of the houses to be able to park safely. 5) The residents of Northfield End have been disadvantaged and quality of life on the road has been impaired due to the volume of people from outside the area coming and using the parking.</p>
<p>(17) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Support - I have no objections at all to my property not being included in the initial design. I think it's a wonderful thing for those residents of property Nos. 30-98 Northfield End to be able to park their cars in their own spaces and discourage inappropriate parking. Your email has confirmed that I do not have a parking permit, which I suspected from enquiries with the Henley town council.</p>
<p>(18) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Support - I am completely supportive of this proposal. It has become more and more difficult to find anywhere to park safely anywhere near my property, particularly during the day, since I moved here 5 1/2 years ago. This is a real issue for me when returning from work, coming home with my grandchildren when I am looking after them or coming home with a weekly shop. It would be a relief to know that as a resident, parking should not be an issue near my own home.</p>
<p>(19) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Support - I would fully support the implementation of residents permit parking on Northfield End, it would greatly help residents and prevent the use of space outside our home by people going into the town etc.</p>
<p>(20) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)</p>	<p>Support - Wholeheartedly support Residents Permit Parking outside my home. People working in town, just going for walks and living elsewhere are currently using the area as a free car park and as a resident, it becomes extremely frustrating. There are several elderly people living along here and it can cause a real problem.</p>

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	Keeping everything crossed that this proposal is approved, will make a real difference to our lives.
(21) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)	Support - I confirm that I support the plan to implement Residents Parking along stretches of Northfield End.
(22) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)	<p>Support - I am writing to express my strong Support for the Proposed Residents Permit Parking Northfield End Henley on Thames. As a resident of Northfield End for many years I have long held the view that this would be beneficial for several reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce congestion on Northfield End: By limiting parking to residents only this will reduce congestion at peak periods and prevent double parking and parking on pavements by commuters and non-residents. 2. Improve the impact on the environment: resident parking only will reduce the number of cars trying to park on Northfield End daily and could reduce the pollution from slow moving or stationary cars trying to park. 3. Raise revenue for the district and town councils through encouraging commuters and non-residents to use the underutilised council owned car park at Dry Lees Rugby club or the other car parks in Henley town centre. 4. Improve pedestrian access and safety particularly for disabled pedestrians or children in prams in buggies by reducing the number of commuters and non-resident cars parking on the pavements forcing pedestrians to walk on the busy road.
(23) Local Resident, (Henley-on-Thames)	Support - We approve of the plans to introduce Resident Permit Holders parking bays along the southern section of Northfield End.