

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 21 MAY 2020

OXFORD: SHER AFZAL CLOSE– PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Report by the Interim Director of Community Operations

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve proposed no waiting at any time restrictions and a disabled persons parking place at Sher Afzal Close, Oxford as advertised.

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 Sher Afzal Close, Oxford.

Background

4. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 have been put forward as a result of development of the former Cowley Swimming Pool site for residential purposes.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 30 January and 28 February 2020. A public notice was placed in the Oxford Times 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 properties in the immediate vicinity adjacent to the proposals.
6. Eleven responses were received. 4 objections, 6 in support and 1 non-objection from Thames Valley Police. These are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

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7. Objections related to the loss of parking opportunities with concerns being expressed about the pressure that the displaced vehicles would have on the surrounding area as a result of the piecemeal introduction of additional waiting restrictions, especially noting that at present a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) is not in place in this area.
8. It should be noted that the consultation on the waiting restrictions here was carried out at the same time as that for the proposed restrictions in Don Bosco Close and Kirby Place which are very close to this site and that some of the responses include comments on these other roads, which are, though, also included in the separate report being considered at this meeting.
9. In respect of the concerns raised on the loss of parking and displacement of parking the issue of parking provision at Sher Afzal Close was carefully reviewed as part of the planning process ahead of approval being given for this development.
10. A CPZ in the Temple Cowley area is included in the wider CPZ programme for Oxford. Although this scheme is currently unfunded, a review of sources of funding to complete the programme is being carried out, noting the significant benefits of this programme in the context of other major projects to address transport issues in the county.
11. The local member and five members of the public expressed support for the proposal.

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 developer of the residential development at Sher Afzal Close.

JASON RUSSELL
Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers: Plans of proposed waiting restrictions
 Consultation responses

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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection.
(2) Local City Councillor, (Cowley Marsh)	Support – Resident in Kirby place & Don Bosco Close will be relieved and happy finally to get these Double yellow lines because parked cars obstructing the access which many times council waste collection lorries returned without the collection or the crew have to bring the bins manually to the Main road to be emptied. Currently with obstruction on both roads there is a difficulty for the emergency vehicle to access. Please allow the scheme.
(3) Local Resident, (Oxford)	Object – You have removed the parking places previously available at the library and have not provided sufficient parking for library users. The parking in Sher Azfal close should have some parking spaces for library users.
(4) Local Resident, (Oxford)	<p>Object – I object in the strongest terms to these proposed parking restrictions. If the proposed restrictions in Kirby Place and Sher Afzal Close are approved, then the current parking problem will be pushed further up the road. Temple Road and Junction Road will become even more difficult for residents to park in than it currently is and if the double yellow lines are extended as proposed into Don Bosco Close it will be almost impossible for residents to park near their homes.</p> <p>Parking for residents in this area and the surrounding area is increasingly under pressure due to an increase in use of the parking bay in Junction Road from local commuters, Oxford Brookes students who have cars, parents parking during school hours, local schools and businesses, contractors working on housing projects (which looks to continue). Residents in Junction Road find it very difficult to park in the bays outside their houses for the above reasons. If there were double yellow lines in Don Bosco Close as outlined in the proposal, this would remove parking space for residents in Junction Road when they are unable to park in the parking bays on Junction Road because the spaces are being taken up by non-residents.</p> <p>We need a CPZ in the parking bays in Junction Road before these proposals could even considered as potential</p>

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	<p>options. What is the purpose of these restrictions other than depriving local residents of much-needed parking spaces?</p>
<p>(5) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Object – I live in Junction Road and recently I have had to park in Don Bosco Close the majority of the time. On-road parking in Temple Cowley has become more difficult in the past couple of months, coinciding with the completion of the development of the Temple Cowley Pool site. The City Council was well aware that Temple Cowley could not absorb any more traffic yet granted planning permission for the development of 48 units, with only 29 allocated parking spaces. Sher Afzal Close is wide enough for cars to park on one side at least and could be wider still if the pavement were not so wide. Infill new developments with lovely open spaces should not be built at the expense of existing households.</p> <p>As a result of the new development, there is now a need for more on-road parking, not less. If you restrict parking in Don Bosco Close and Kirby Place, the cars that currently park there will have nowhere to go. If you keep these roads open for parking, the situation is no different to most of the side streets in East Oxford, where cars, emergency services and waste-collection lorries have to negotiate narrower road widths than in Temple Cowley.</p> <p>However, I do agree that parking on the bend of the north-east side of Don Bosco Close should be restricted and also on the south-west side of the Close (where cars do not park in any case). Don Bosco Close is very wide: there is no need to restrict parking on both sides of the road. Kirby Place is both narrow and quite bendy, but why not restrict parking on one side only?</p> <p>Any new restrictions should be limited to those that are absolutely necessary (i.e. on bends, or one side only) and should not be implemented until a controlled parking zone has been introduced for Temple Cowley residents who do not have off-road parking, to protect existing households and ensure that students at Oxford Brookes University do not bring cars to Oxford.</p> <p>I would love to be able to cycle to work, and did so for many years, but currently have to travel Milton Keynes, a five-hour round trip by public transport, door-to-door. No car, no job, and the same is true for many Council taxpayers. We live on a small, crowded island with house prices and stamp duty land tax at levels that necessitate high-impact lifestyles for those unable to find work in Oxford, and there's no point in pretending otherwise.</p>

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<p>(6) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Support – We need proper parking spaces marked out in Don Bosco Close and elsewhere. We may not be in the first phase of CPZs but we need to stop drivers parking on footways and corners. Since we will eventually have a CPZ I don't see why we couldn't get the benefit of having parking spaces marked out in the meantime.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Support – I welcome these restrictions to stop the dangerous and extremely inconsiderate parking which local residents have had to endure for far too long. If the council implements controlled parking zones then the parking problem just moves to the next easy area which for far too long has been Temple Cowley. At weekends and evenings the difference is stark as the regular commuters including people from St Joseph's (Kings), and people who work at the police station and county council at Knights court (among the persistent people who park in my road) are not here! Local residents must support a CPZ when the next consultation is held as if not the world and his wife will be parking in these streets.</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Object – If new restrictions are introduced piecemeal like this without a proper plan for residents' parking this will only exacerbate our current problems. Residents of Junction Road often rely on parking in Don Bosco Close, especially on weekdays, because all the space on our road is occupied by commuters, users of the doctor's surgery and library in Temple Road (for which no parking provision has been made although these are public services in regular use), and parents collecting children from local schools.</p> <p>What has happened to the formal consultation we were promised after the informal one came round last year? It is not acceptable that I had to find out about this proposal from a scrappy piece of paper on a lamppost near the library. There has to my knowledge been no information delivered to residents who will be directly affected and it has taken me 15 minutes of online searching to find this consultation.</p>
<p>(89) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Support – No comments.</p>
<p>(10) Local Resident, (Oxford)</p>	<p>Support – Fully agree with this proposal for the exact reasons as set out in the councils statements of reasons.</p>
<p>(11) Resident, (Abingdon)</p>	<p>Support – No comments.</p>

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