

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 16 JULY 2020**

### **ABINGDON – BOULTER DRIVE, CULLERNE CLOSE AND LOYD CLOSE – PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

**Report by Interim Director for Community Operations**

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve proposed waiting restrictions at Boulter Drive, Cullerne Close and Loyd Close Abingdon as advertised.

#### **Executive summary**

2. Waiting restrictions are reviewed when there are changes to the road layout or usage as a result of development, 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 provide no waiting at any time and no waiting between 9am and 5pm Mondays to Fridays at Boulter Drive, Cullerne Close and Loyd Close, Abingdon.

#### **Background**

4. The above proposal as shown at Annex 1 has been put forward by the local member in response to concerns over safety and the obstruction of traffic arising from parking on the bend on Boulter Drive, around the Boulter Drive/ Cullerne Close & Loyd Close junctions and within Loyd Close itself.

#### **Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 5 February and 6 March 2020. A public notice was placed in the Oxfordshire Herald series newspaper and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Vale of White Horse District Council, Abingdon Town Council and local County Councillor. Street notices were placed on site and letters sent to approximately 120 properties in the immediate vicinity, adjacent to the proposals.

6. Thirty-five responses were received. Nine (26%) objections, 25 (72%) in support and one making observations but no objection. The responses are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

### **Response to objections and other comments**

7. Thames Valley Police have not objected to the proposals in principle but asked that their comments around displacement of the parked vehicles and their availability to enforce the restrictions be noted.
8. The partners from Long Furlong Medical Centre on the corner of Boulter Drive and Loyd Close fully endorse the proposed parking restrictions but wished to have several points around the current parking situation noted/considered (these are recorded at Annex 2).
9. Objections have been received from a local business, a local group and seven residents broadly on the grounds of a) where will the displaced vehicles now park; b) will the restrictions be enforced and c) in respect of the residents who have a No Waiting Mon. to Fri. 9am – 5pm restriction outside of their property, where will their visitors or trades people park.
10. In response to point 'a', safer alternative on street parking is available on Boulter Drive, west of Loyd Close and in the car park at the west end of Boulter Drive, adjacent to Long Furlong Community Centre. This car park is only 140m from Loyd Close and the Long Furlong Medical Centre.
11. In response to point 'b', it is acknowledged that Thames Valley Police are unlikely to carry out regular enforcement at this location due to limited resource and other priorities. However, the yellow lines and upright signs will act as a deterrent and the County Council, together with the District Council, is moving towards Civil Parking Enforcement.
12. Lastly, responding to point 'c', the majority of residents who will have the single yellow line outside their property have driveways that can accommodate two vehicles. The Mon. to Fri. 9am – 5pm restriction allows parking to take place in the evening, overnight and at weekends and, as mentioned above, alternative on street parking is available in the vicinity.

### **How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives**

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

### **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

14. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by the Abingdon North County Councillor through their 'Councillor Priority Fund' and by S106 contribution.

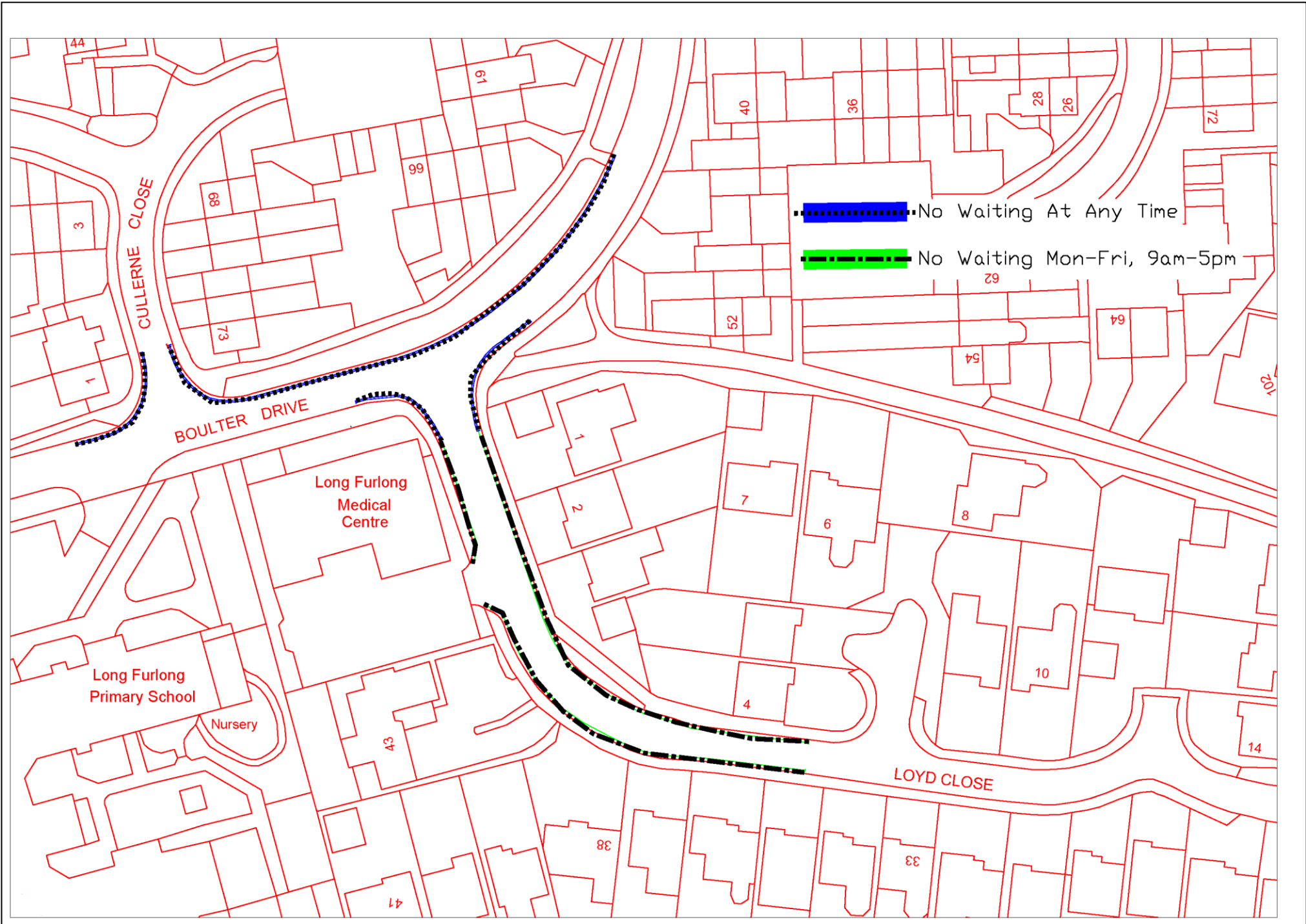
JASON RUSSELL

Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers: Plan of proposed waiting restrictions.  
Consultation responses.

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July 2020



.....No Waiting At Any Time

.....No Waiting Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

CULLERNE CLOSE

BOULTER DRIVE

LOYD CLOSE

Long Furlong  
Medical  
Centre

Long Furlong  
Primary School

Nursery

44

3

1

89

73

99

61

40

36

28

26

72

29

52

64

54

20

1

2

7

6

8

10

4

14

43

38

33

41

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p><b>No objection</b> – In principle I have no objection but ask the following comments are noted.</p> <p>The only road affected by parked vehicles during my visit was Boulter Drive. Removing these vehicles will no doubt result in displacement. Has this been considered?</p> <p>Such restrictions must be reliant on good driver behaviour. Any action by the Police in response to this kind of parking is governed by many factors. These include the seriousness of the offence, the road and traffic conditions at the time and the existence of other more pressing commitments for local police officers. In terms of operational priorities our officers are encouraged to give preference to offences which might directly affect public safety followed by those which have an impact on traffic flow on main traffic routes.</p> <p>However even those priorities must be viewed in the context of the many other more pressing and demanding commitments which our officers face.</p>
(2) Local Medical Practice, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> – The partners fully endorse the proposed parking restrictions however they would like the following to be noted and considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current parking situation at Boulter Drive and Loyd Close is dangerous and has to be resolved in a way that limits the effect on households, businesses, the medical centre and school.</li> <li>• The medical centre has a travel plan in place. Staff who are able to cycle to work and / or car share do so. Home working for management team is supported where it is practical to do so.</li> <li>• Support staff are asked to not use the medical centre car park so that it is available for our patients and the GPs.</li> <li>• Our practice list size continues to grow and we are anticipating significant housing growth within the practice boundary which will only add to the difficulties with parking.</li> <li>• To deal with the extra patient list size we have to increase our staff numbers - clinical and non-clinical.</li> <li>• We are therefore proposing an extension to the Boulter Drive car park using Section 106 money. This additional car park facility would be reserved for employees of the practice, school, pharmacy and nursery during normal working</li> </ul>

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	<p>hours but also provide additional parking for the community centre and local households during evenings and weekends. (I have attached a map outlining the area that could be suitable for the additional parking facility.)</p> <p>This would provide a solution that would be of benefit to the whole community.</p>
(3) Local Business, (Abingdon)	<b>Object</b> – I have emailed all my strong objections regarding this
(4) Local Group, (Abingdon)	<b>Object</b> – I object to these proposed parking restrictions
(5) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Object</b> – Would just like to ask where the traffic will be dispersed to? Will these proposals simply move the issue to another part of the estate without actually resolving the root cause? Will we see a build-up of "parked cars" in Woodley close for example?
(6) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Object</b> – The current proposal does not provide alternative parking. Where are these cars going to park? In reality this will only move the problem further down into Loyd Close and up Boulter Drive. What will be done about people parking further down in Loyd Close causing problems to residents? At the moment people who work at the Doctors park on Boulter Drive where will they park? We were assured staff would park in the car park by the community centre or cycle to work. This has not happened as I see the same cars parked there every day. Will this be enforced or will they park outside my house? Also, who will police these restrictions?
(7) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Object</b> – I would object to these parking restrictions without the council providing further parking. If further parking other than the community centre car park, could be increased then I would support the restrictions. However currently there are very few areas where staff, patients, visitors etc to the Medical Centre can park. Despite aiming to park in the community centre car park - it is constantly in use especially at peak times with parents collecting their children from school - it is at these times that parking and driving along Boulter Drive is dangerous. With the extra patients expected to the practice, with new homes being built nearby, this issue will only get worse without further parking provision.

<p>(8) Local Resident, (Abingdon)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> – I work at the Gp practice on the corner of Loyd Close. Myself and my colleagues have concerns re your proposals as to restrict the parking will just create problems elsewhere, but the amount of parking available in the car park at the end of the road opposite the community centre is wholly inadequate for the volume of traffic and poorly lit. What plans has the council got to enable us all to park safely?</p> <p>There are many community venues affected, school, nursery in Loyd close and the community centre as well as the Medical Centre.</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Abingdon)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> – I work at Long Furlong medical centre on Loyd close. I am objecting to the parking restrictions because of the lack of safe parking.</p> <p>when these parking restrictions come, I am unsure where I am to park on Thursday. Weight watchers and drop off for school fill up the parking at the community centre, myself and patients have to park further down the road. I start at 9:30, after taking my children to school in Grove and have to drive to work to start on time.</p> <p>The car park needs to at least double in size and have more lighting. I do not feel safe walking to my car at 18:40 in the winter months. I have to walk to my car by myself. There is only one street light that is outside the community centre, if I have had to park on the other side of the car park there is no light.</p> <p>There is a very open green area next to the car park which makes it even darker in the winter but does provide area for the council to make more car parking that is well lit.</p>
<p>(10) Local Resident, (Abingdon)</p>	<p><b>Object</b> – I wish to strongly object to any parking restrictions on Loyd Close. This whole process of parking restrictions was instigated by one household. The issues that they had, I have never encountered and I have lived in Loyd Close for 25 years. The person who raised the issues has since moved out of Loyd Close. Therefore, I hope that my objections are taken as seriously as theirs on this issue.</p> <p>The Local District Cllr took it on himself to ask residents (online survey) of Loyd Close their views on parking restrictions after I had already aired my objections to any parking restrictions both verbally and in writing.</p> <p>The results of the survey were sent to me in an email from Andy Foulsham (see attached). Andy said that “80% of Loyd close residents were in favour of some parking restrictions”. That is a gross distortion of the results of the survey he carried out. Only 50% of Loyd Close residents replied (22 or 23 of the properties surveyed). It could be construed</p>

that the other 50% of residents did not have an issue with the traffic or want parking restrictions. Only people who feel strongly one way or another (myself included) reply to these surveys. The result is 18 properties out of 45 are in favour of some parking restrictions (not a majority, 40% of all residents, not 80% as stated).

We object to these proposed parking restrictions for the following reasons:

When 2 Loyd Close was purchased there were no parking restrictions as with most residential areas. When the Vale of White Horse approved the building of the extension to the surgery and the pharmacy it was deemed that there would be no detrimental effect on traffic in the area, which on reflection, for a council, was naïve. It's because of this decision to create a large doctor's surgery and pharmacy in a residential area that we are where we are. It is very unfair that the first houses on both sides of Loyd Close would be discriminated against in relation to on road parking (no other houses have parking restrictions in the area e.g. Boulter drive, Alexander Close and Hanson Road) all because of a decision made by the Vale council, which was objected to, for these very reasons, by the residents of the area.

Summary of objections:

- Parking restriction would have a detrimental effect on the house prices of those affected namely numbers 1 to 3.
- The traffic survey carried out as part of the planning permission indicated that there would be no greater amount of traffic and therefore no disruption to residents and the school. Should we conclude that this was a biased survey, carried out at a time which suited the developers. Therefore, they would get the planning permission for the surgery extension.
- This is a residential area and nowhere else in Abingdon are there any such yellow lines and parking restrictions (despite these areas having cars parked either on one or two sides of the road).
- Parking problems are no different to other areas of Abingdon (despite these areas having cars parked either on one or two sides of the roads) and parking restrictions have not been implemented in those areas.
- Parking restrictions outside the surgery and pharmacy will only move the perceived problem to further down Loyd Close and other surrounding streets. People will still need to visit the doctors and/or the pharmacy. The parking problem will just be moved elsewhere. There will be the same number of vehicles entering Boulter drive looking for parking as close to the medical centre as possible.
- The real issue is the approval of the pharmacy in a residential area with not enough parking. There is provision for 12 spaces for patients (woefully inadequate for 9500+ patients) and at time up to 5 of these are utilised by staff. If these were free for the public as intended the need for parking restriction would be somewhat mitigated. There is a car park very close to the surgery at the end of Boulter drive (opposite the community centre) which is empty during the day that staff working at the doctors could use.
- When the pharmacy was approved, a travel plan to reduce staff parking in the car park for the surgery was agreed



	<p>with the Vale and we are now being told by Diana Donald, Practice Manager, that this plan is no longer applicable as they have increased patient numbers and therefore staff numbers. These additional staff have to park somewhere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On a final point the parking restrictions on Boulter drive are ill conceived. Parking restrictions on one side will only lead to cars parking on the opposite side. This will result in what occurs now, cars will continue to block one side of Boulter Drive.</li> </ul> <p>If parking restrictions were implemented would they be policed, otherwise that would be another waste of council time and money. If we had no choice but to have some parking restrictions thrust upon us, then residents parking would be the only option we would consider. If not, we would need some other way to allow residents affected to continue parking outside their homes. In my view residents parking for those affected in Loyd Close would be the most positive move by the council. A residents parking scheme would need to be flexible so that residents are able to have visitors and potentially tradesmen parking outside their property.</p> <p>Other issues not solved by parking restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers performing three-point turns in the car park entrance.</li> <li>• Drivers leaving the car park without looking causing near misses which I have witnessed.</li> <li>• Surgery staff parking in the surgery car park (I do not see why I should be restricted from parking outside my house when surgery staff who are not meant to park in the car park routinely do).</li> <li>• A minimum of 6 deliveries in large vans to the pharmacy every day, reversing into the car park and obstructing the car park entrance.</li> <li>• People parking directly opposite the door go to the pharmacy quickly - they will still do this even with a single yellow line in place.</li> </ul> <p>In summary, we are opposed to any parking restrictions proposed in Loyd Close and want things to remain as they are. We were dismayed to see markings already on our road for the proposed restrictions before this consultation had started.</p>
(11) Resident, (Radley)	<b>Object</b> – No comments.
(12) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - No comments.

(13) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> - These road markings are required to avoid potential car accidents or worse. As a local resident, I often need to exit Cullerne Close at a crawl due to inconsiderate people parking on the bend. In addition - and despite ongoing, clear and polite efforts by the surgery - people continue to park on Loyd Close posing a hazard and inconvenience to others. I have two concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How will this be regulated? People already choose to ignore the surgery signs about not parking on Loyd Close so I am sure they will also ignore road markings unless they are fearful of traffic wardens and ticketing.</li> <li>2. I would consider extending the no waiting at any time markings to include the bend (not just the corner) of Boulter Drive. I am already faced with oncoming traffic on my side of the road every morning as I round the bend.</li> </ol>
(14) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> - I think this is a brilliant idea. It is extremely difficult to see in both directions when coming out of the Cullerne Close turning. Also, as a pedestrian its quite precarious to cross the road, especially with young children.</p>
(15) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> - I fully support this idea but will it be enforced? as the police are far too busy, will the traffic wardens be travelling to this part of town? its needed but if it's not enforced it would be a waste of money...</p> <p>I would also recommend that the double yellows are extended further round the boulter drive bend before Loyd close as anytime of the day it's a bit of a blind bend with the added inconsiderate parking. on countless occasions I have nearly had head on collisions from multiple factors from low sun to bad driving.</p>
(16) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> - No comments.</p>
(17) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> - As a resident of Loyd Close, I have for done time found the parking situation dangerous and frustrating. People park so that I arrive at the Boulter Drive/Loyd Close junction on the wrong side of the road. I have had people reverse along the pavement towards my children and I walking to the local school, and the road is often narrowed in such a way that emergency services and deliveries can't get through.</p>

(18) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - Parking controls are sorely needed for this area in close proximity to a primary school. Ideally signs directing people to the community centre car park should be set up. I was under the impression that planning permission for the surgery pharmacy was contingent on parking controls; if parking controls are not introduced does this have any bearing on whether the pharmacy is operating legally?
(19) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - Currently it is unsafe for pedestrians and other car users with the amount of cars that park opposite and right next to the junction. I worry there will be an accident considering there is a primary school just down the road.
(20) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - No comments.
(21) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - As a resident of Loyd Close I've almost had a couple of accidents trying to turn into the Close because of the numerous cars parked on the corner especially during school hours. I'm confident this will help prevent likely accidents and we fully support the parking plans and hope they are passed and implemented as soon as possible.
(22) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - Action as proposed urgently needed before accidents occur Restrictions should be extended further up Boulter Drive, on both sides of the road, as traffic parked here seriously impedes the approach to the busy junction with Loyd Close.  Action is also urgently needed at the Boulter Drive/Dunmore Road Junction before more accidents occur there. We need a traffic island to allow Long Furlong residents to turn right in rush hour without taking stupid risks or making lengthy diversions. And this is before the new houses create more traffic!
(23) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - I support this in broad principle but believe this needs to go further in order to improve safety aspects. As it stands this proposal could make it safer to exit and enter Loyd Close (something I do regularly as a resident of the road). Hopefully with fewer/ no cars parked on the corners of Loyd Close or on Boulter Drive I will be able to see cars coming towards me from the right (along Boulter Drive when exiting Loyd Close).  However, it does not extend the No Parking At Any Time restrictions far enough on the south side of Boulter Drive going north-east towards Dunmore Rd. This restriction needs to cover the whole of the bend - when coming down

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	Boulter Drive towards Loyd Close it impossible to see what traffic is coming towards you round the bend if you are having to overtake traffic parked on the bend on your side.
(24) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - No comments.
(25) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - No comments.
(26) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - The 81m parking restrictions in Loyd Close should extend another 4m making it 85m in total to take restrictions up to the corner both sides of road.  The no parking at any time in Boulter Drive should extend to the junction of Gibson Close both sides of the road.
(27) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - This is a great idea, as I constantly fear another vehicle crashing in to me as I leave Cullerne Close, where I live. But I also fear that this will not solve the problem. Unless someone is seen enforcing the restrictions, they will be ignored. It will also, likely, relocate the people parking, further in to Cullerne close and not also actually prevent cars parking on the bend between Loyd Close and Gibson Close, which is also a hazard, given the speed that cars travel up and down the road.
(28) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - As a resident of Loyd Close, I will welcome the parking restrictions as I think it should ensure that all vehicles entering and leaving Loyd Close will be able to do so safely.
(29) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - This will make our residential road safer and better to live in than at present.
(30) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<b>Support</b> - I would suggest that the limited parking in Loyd Close be extended from 9.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. as this is when the school drop off time and the surgery opening time occur, in addition to the Kindergarten children arriving as well. By 9.00, most of the children both at the school and at the nursery will be in their respective buildings.

<p>(31) Local Resident, (Abingdon)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - Restrictions on Lloyd Close should start at 8:30 not 9:00 - the Nursery on Lloyd Close opens before 8:30 (8:00 I think), the Surgery opens at 8:30 as does the school. So 8:30 to 9:00 is a time of peak traffic.</p>
<p>(32) Local Resident, (Abingdon)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> - I totally agree that something must be done about access in and out of Loyd Close and Cullerne Close due to the numerous cars parking on Boulter Drive. I have reported the matter to the police about cars parked close to and on the junction leading into Culleme Close, but they said that nothing would be done about the problem unless there was an accident!</p> <p>I don't use the Loyd Close junction, but leaving Culleme Close is very difficult due to restricted views to the left and to the right which means that you cannot see if it is safe to proceed without having to venture more than half way across the road and suddenly having to break as unsighted cars either leave or head to the school or community centre. Another problem which makes things even more difficult is that the morning sun shines straight into one's eyes as the car leaves Culleme Close.</p> <p>Once the kerb opposite the health centre is packed with cars, those wanting to visit the centre, park on the left of Boulter Drive on the bend in the road leading towards Loyd Close. This blocks the view of the junction at Loyd Close and you just have to pass the parked cars and hope that you don't meet a car coming the other way. The cars parked on the right opposite the health centre then come into play stopping you from seeing traffic coming from the school or community centre, meaning that one of you will have to give way at the last minute.</p> <p>The fact that there hasn't been an accident is remarkable, but there have been numerous disagreements between drivers over right of way, with the flashing of lights, tooting of horns and unnecessary gesticulation ... usually from those not living on the estate. Unfortunately, No. 1 Culleme Close park their car outside their house which means that all cars entering the close have to do so on the wrong side of the road. Cars entering and leaving at the same time always end up on a collision course. Even if the car is not there, those entering automatically cut the corner on the assumption that their entry into the close will be restricted - again, the police were not interested. The health centre has limited parking for their patients, but most don't even bother to see if there is a space. There is also parking available at the end of the road at the community centre which means an 'inconvenient' walk of a few metres, but not as inconvenient as the problems created by the current parking situation in our residential area which is always busy due to the health centre, the community centre, and the school, with a high percentage of parents using their cars to take and pick up their children.</p> <p>Clearly, there will be objections from some people, but these will probably be from those who use the health centre occasionally and not from those of us who have to use this section of the estate every day.</p>

(33) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> - principle I approve of the proposal. But I have the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One issue the proposal does not address is the limited visibility when driving down Boulter Drive towards the doctors' practice with cars still being allowed to park on the left side of the road. So, I would suggest extending the double yellow line section to match the start point of that on the north side of Boulter Drive.</li> <li>2. Where will the parked cars go to when these yellow lines are implemented? One suggestion is to install some parking bays along the north side of Boulter Drive in place of the grass verge in the area mostly marked by the double yellow lines.</li> </ol> <p>The demand for additional parking in this area is obvious and will continue regardless of the yellow lines and the additional 1200 houses shortly planned for the immediate area will only increase demand on parking even higher.</p>
(34) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> - 100% in favour. The cars and vans that currently park at the above make negotiating a danger and in my opinion a big road issue.</p>
(35) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	<p><b>Support</b> - Long Furlong has a large car park a short walk from the surgery and school which, on most occasions, can well accommodate cars that have been parked in the areas referred to. When I moved to Cullerne Close thirty years nobody would have dreamt of parking on Boulter Drive bend or it's road junctions.</p> <p>One day sadly somebody did park on the road and it seems that others copied. Thank you for drawing attention to the risks. Twice I have put notices on 'Fix my Street' asking for restrictions (including a lower speed limit) to be put in place. I'm concerned about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) traffic coming around the bend to fast.</li> <li>(ii) parking over or near the 'slow' marking on the bend - particularly large vehicles at night.</li> <li>(iii) parking on Boulter Drive (North and South sides) at the Cullerne Close junction - I nearly had a collision pulling out of the Close, I have spoken to people involved in a collision. Relatives who visit me fear the junction. It is a crossing place for people going to the surgery and children to school.</li> </ol>

I am hoping that the proposals get passed. I hope that the double yellow lines also get extended to cover the south side of Boulter Drive, opposite the Cullerne Close entrance as I think there will still be a problem for exit of cars from Cullerne Close. Possibly only Blue Badge parking should be allowed on the South side.  
I'm also hoping that the surgery and school will encourage use of the Boulter Drive Car Park. There was a statement on the surgery website that includes:

"The surgery is a modern medical centre conveniently situated in the Long Furlong housing estate in Abingdon. It has its own car park with a disabled parking bay and ramps to the main entrance. If the car park is full please park considerately and safely along Boulter Drive or in the public car park at the end of the road which is just a 2-minute walk from the surgery."

I feel that this should be amended so it does not suggest safe parking is possible but rather specifies that people must not park on the bend or near or opposite road junctions.