

**TRANSPORT DECISIONS COMMITTEE – 11 FEBRUARY 2010**  
**VARIOUS ROADS, WATLINGTON – AMENDMENTS TO WAITING**  
**RESTRICTIONS**

**Report by Head of Transport**

**Introduction**

1. This report considers objections/comments received following consultation and formal advertisement of the proposed 'No Waiting At Any Time' and short term permitted parking restrictions along lengths of various roads in Watlington. The extent of the proposed restrictions is shown on the plans included at Annex 1.

**Background**

2. Vehicles parked in the vicinity of the junctions present a risk of accident and contribute to congestion. This is particularly so at the junctions of Cuxham Road with Brook Street, Britwell Road, Pyrton Lane and Brookside; Couching Street at its junction with Brook Street and Shirburn Street at its junction with Love Lane. Love Lane, close to the junction with Shirburn Street, in addition to normal traffic movements, carries a number of buses/coaches travelling to the school. The existing restrictions result, on occasion and at school times, in congestion which impacts on Shirburn Street. The existing restrictions in Brook Street is seen to result in parking on the footway leading to difficulties for pedestrians.
3. Lengths of High Street, in the centre of the town, have unrestricted permitted waiting. This results in long-term parking which reduces the ability for short-term visitors to park close to the retail area of the town in order that they may visit outlets for small purchases/deliveries. This is said to affect the viability of the independent retailers in the town centre.
4. Shirburn Street, has 'No Waiting at Any Time' on its east side for its whole length with stretches of unrestricted permitted waiting on its west side. The lengths of permitted waiting results in lines of parked vehicles on one side of the road. This can be seen to cause congestion, with vehicles leaving the town centre towards the M40 often queueing onto the narrow junction with High Street. It can also be seen to result in vehicles entering the town from the M40 maintaining speed, rather than slowing, in order to allow opposing traffic to leave the town centre. Traffic leaving the town then accelerates to clear the obstruction once the way ahead is clear.
5. The Parish Council and various residents requested the proposed restrictions to reduce these problems. The Parish Council has been involved in the process throughout.

## Consultation

6. An informal consultation on suggested amendments to existing waiting restrictions which sought the views and comments of local and statutory stakeholders was carried out in November and December, 2008. This resulted in some amendments to the original suggestions which then formed the formal proposals.
7. The proposals were subsequently advertised in the local press. Notices were posted on site and copies of the notice, draft order, statement of reasons and plans posted to all the statutory consultees and affected frontages. Advertisement and consultation was carried out between 17 September and 31 October, 2009.
8. Comments received are set out at Annex 2.
9. Thames Valley Police have no objection to the proposals.
10. Watlington Parish Council generally support but have suggested some amendments which are set out below.
11. Watlington Business Association agrees with the response by the Parish Council and feels that the new arrangements should support and facilitate business by maximising parking spaces. It asks that further limited waiting areas be introduced in High Street.
12. One letter supports the proposals but re-iterates the point made by the Parish Council.
13. Five letters have been received which address general issues in the town. One letter comments on speeding and traffic issues in the area and asks that restrictions only apply at certain times except a full time restriction in Couching Street. Four letters object or indicate serious concerns which include that the only beneficiaries of the proposals seem to be those who see Watlington as an obstacle in their transit; that more open streets will result in higher speeds; residents will find that it is even harder to find somewhere to park; estimate that 50 spaces have been lost; some spaces should be made for free residents' parking.
14. Brook Street. One letter objects on the grounds that the proposals will result in cars being parked in narrow parts of the road and that exit from their homes on the correct side of the road. Another objects to the removal of permitted parking outside some homes.
15. Couching Street. The Parish Council indicates that it would prefer no change to the existing restrictions. One other letter indicates that there should be a total prohibition of waiting in Couching Street.
16. Cuxham Road. The one response objects to the proposals, stating that congestion only occurs for short periods of the day; the proposals will deprive

people of places to park near their homes and create problems elsewhere; parked cars are a good way of slowing traffic.

17. High Street. The Parish Council observes that it would prefer to see the one hour restrictions applied only Monday to Friday between 9 am and 5 pm and Saturday 9 am to 1 pm and that a minor amendment to the proposals be applied to the area of Nos. 37 and 39 High Street. Four further replies were received. Three of these show full support for the proposals, indicating that local business will benefit from them. One asks if it is possible for a minor amendment in the vicinity of Nos. 37 and 39 High Street.
18. Love Lane. One reply indicates support for the proposal. The Parish Council indicates that they would prefer no alteration to existing restrictions. Two other replies indicate that the writers would prefer to see no change to the existing restrictions. Both refer to the loss of parking spaces.
19. Shirburn Street. One response received objects to the proposals stating that they are unnecessary and illogical; will create a chicane with the probable effect that traffic will race to get through, rather than slow down; residents of Wesley Court will have restricted visibility when entering Shirburn Street. One reply supports, stating that the proposals will, hopefully, reduce traffic speeds. The same response asks for Residents' Parking on Shirburn Street.

## **Conclusion**

20. The proposals have been put together with a full input from the Parish Council and its representatives. They reflect the issues raised by the community as placed before the Parish Council.
21. The proposals seek, in part, to enforce advice within the Highway Code in respect of parking at or near junctions in the interest of road safety.
22. Brook Street has been visited and discussed with the Parish Council at some length. The objections have been carefully considered and discussed with the Parish Council. The proposals are the result of the Parish Council's belief that the proposals will have benefits in controlling vehicle speeds as they enter and leave the town and will also control existing unacceptable parking, particularly near the junction with Chestnut Place where vehicles are often parked on the footway.
23. The proposals for Cuxham Road, Love Lane and Couching Street are intended to assist in reducing the risk of accident and to reduce congestion in the vicinity of the junctions. In respect of Cuxham Road it is felt that the road safety benefits are sufficient to overcome the objections. The objections in respect of Couching Street and Love Lane are considered to have merit and this is reflected in the recommendations.
24. The proposals for the High Street are intended to allow for short-term parking in the vicinity of the retail area of the village to assist in retaining the viability of those independent businesses which are essential to the community. The responses received are, in the main, supportive of the proposals.

Observations which would retain a short length of permitted waiting at the western end of the road are seen to be reasonable and the recommendation reflects this.

25. The proposals for Shirburn Street are the result of the Parish Council's belief that the proposals will have benefits as a way of regulating the flow and controlling the speed of vehicles as they enter and leave the town while allowing areas of on-street parking.
26. The proposals will have the effect of reducing very slightly the amount of on-street permitted parking on the affected roads. It may result in a small displacement of vehicles onto nearby residential, roads. The need to reduce the risk of accident, control the speed of traffic and aid in the flow of traffic through the main parts of the town is seen to outweigh the possible displacement of vehicles from these roads.

### **Financial and Staff Implications**

27. The cost of introducing these waiting restrictions will be met from the Southern Area's maintenance budget.
28. The preparation of the Order has been undertaken by Environment & Economy officers as part of their normal duties.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

29. **The Transport Decisions Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
  - (a) **approve the making of the Various Roads, Watlington Amendments to Waiting Restrictions Order in respect of Brook Street, Cuxham Road and Shirburn Street as advertised;**
  - (b) **approve the making of the Various Roads, Watlington Amendments to Waiting Restrictions Order in respect of High Street subject to minor amendments outside Nos. 37 and 39 High Street as detailed in the report;**
  - (c) **approve the making of the Various Roads, Watlington Amendments to Waiting Restrictions Order in respect of Love Lane subject to a minor amendment reducing the length of the prohibition of waiting for a distance of 20 metres on both sides from its junction with Shirburn Street;**
  - (d) **not to approve the proposals in respect of Couching Street as set out in the advertised Order;**
  - (e) **authorise the necessary works to implement the Order.**

STEVE HOWELL  
Head of Transport  
Environment & Economy

Background papers:

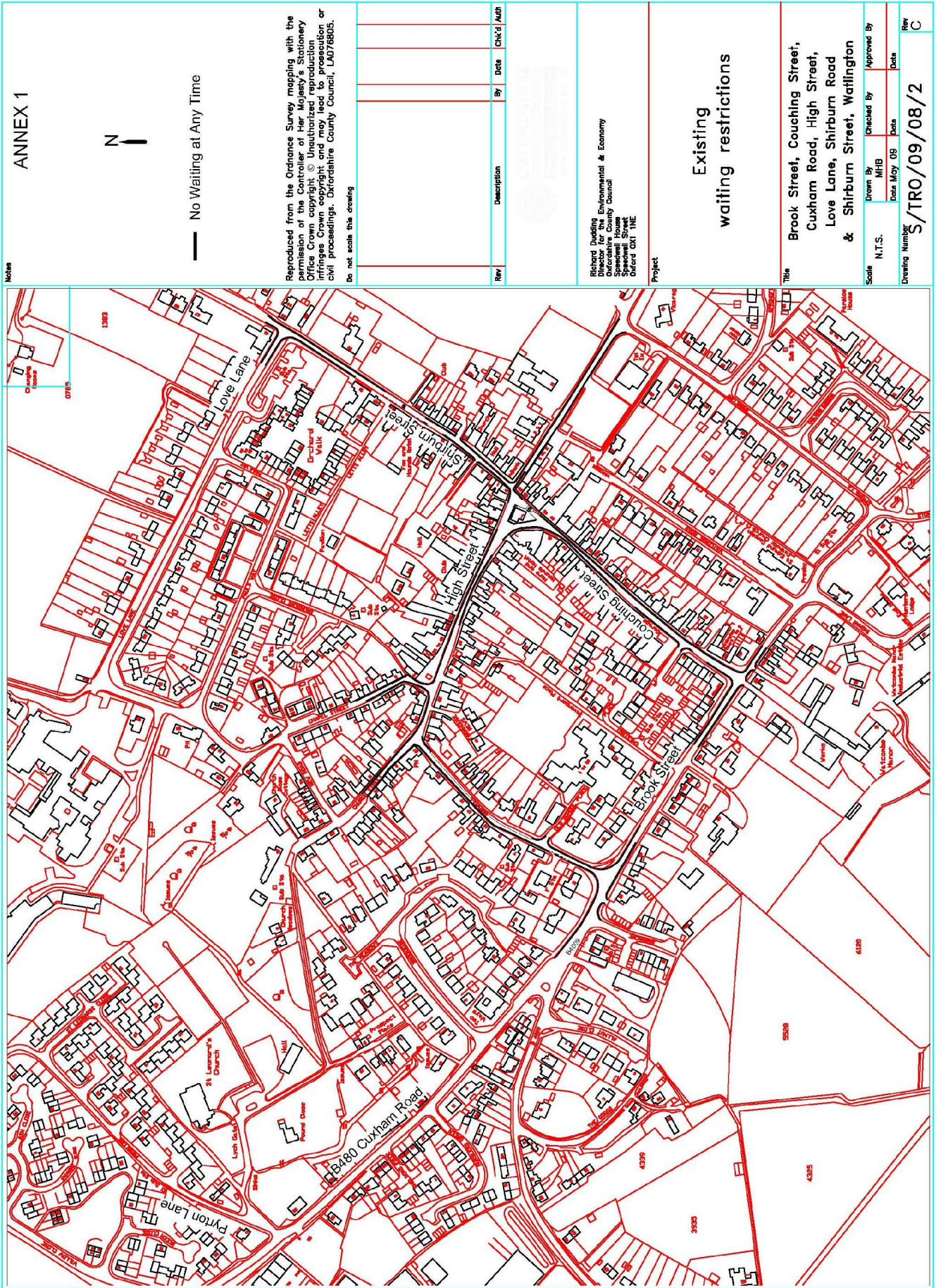
Consultation documentation

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January 2009.



ANNEX 1



— No Waiting at Any Time

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Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	AUTH

Richard Dunning  
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Project:  
**Existing waiting restrictions**

Title:  
**Brook Street, Couching Street,  
 Cuxham Road, High Street,  
 Love Lane, Shirburn Road  
 & Shirburn Street, Watlington**

Scale	N.T.S.	Drawn By	MHB	Checked By	Approved By
Date	15/05/08	08	08	08	08

Drawing Number: **S/TRO/09/08/2**

Rev: **C**

