

TRANSPORT DECISIONS COMMITTEE – 19 JULY 2007

**OXFORD, PHIPPS ROAD – PROPOSED RELOCATION
OF HIGHWAY GATE**

Report by Head of Transport

Introduction

1. Requests have been received, through Oxford City Council for the highway gate located in Bailey Road to be relocated to Phipps Road. The reason put forward for the relocation of the gate was to remove the rat-running traffic from these roads. A survey carried out by Oxfordshire County Council showed approximately 64 vehicles in the am peak and 75 vehicles in the pm peak use this route at speeds considered to be dangerous.

Background

2. At its meeting held on 1 November 2006 the Cowley Area Committee considered a City Council report on requests for the highway gate located in Bailey Road to be relocated to Phipps Road. The results of that report suggested that out of 137 questionnaires returned 70 agreed that the gate should be moved, 39 disagreed with a further 28 who had no strong opinion or preferred an alternative solution. A copy of the report is included in the background papers.
3. The Cowley Area Committee agreed that the proposal should be taken forward to formal consultation and at that meeting Oxford City Council agreed to fund the cost of implementation.

Consultation

4. Formal consultation was undertaken over a four-week period between 16 April to 11 May 2007. Letters were sent to all residents in Bailey Road, Boswell Road, Frederick Road, Knowles Road and Phipps Road, as they would be directly affected by the relocation of the highway gate, along with standard consultees and local City and County Councillors. Street notices were also erected on site at the proposed location and notice put in the local paper. The proposal is shown on the drawing at Annex 1.
5. Sixty-two letters of comment were received. 18 supported the proposals and 44 objected. Out of the 44 objections, 19 were received in the form of a petition (Annex 2).

6. Officers have taken all responses into consideration and have summarised the responses received along with officer comment at Annex 3. Copies of the letters received are available with the background papers in the Members' Resource Centre.

Conclusion

7. In view of the significant objection towards the proposed measures I consider that the scheme should not be implemented.

How the Project Supports LTP2 Objectives

8. The scheme, if implemented, would contribute to one of the LTP objectives (Improving the Street Environment) by removing through traffic. However, this benefit may be lost if the local residents have to make longer journeys by car using the adjacent congested road network.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

9. Funding for the scheme would be provided by the City Council. There are no staffing implications.

RECOMMENDATION

10. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED not to approve the relocation of the highway gate from Bailey Road to Phipps Road as illustrated in Annex 1 to this report.**

STEVE HOWELL
Head of Transport
Environment & Economy

Background papers: Copies of consultation responses and the City Councils informal consultation report are available in the Members' Resource Centre.

Contact Officer: Andrew Vidovic Tel: (01865) 810437

July 2007

Make your views known

Before it's too late!

Re. Road closure Phipps rd

To suit a small minority of residents in Phipps rd!

One-way in, one-way out!

We the residents of Boswell- bailey-Frederick- Knowles roads

Object to the proposed closure of Phipps rd with a gate.

And demand a vote on matters that will have a profound impact on our lives In the above roads.

Name

Address

Postcode

Signature

Please post to

Jane Clark, technician.

Oxfordshire county council

Speedwell house

Speedwell Street

Oxford

Ox1 1ne

OXFORD, PHIPPS ROAD, CONSULTATION SUMMARY

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
1	Resident Bailey Road (phone)	No	Parking restrictions should be removed, they are currently not enforced. If they were to be enforced again this would cause uproar, they were put there years ago when the factory was built. Turning right into Barns Road is dangerous because visibility due to parking area is restricted.	Noted. However issues raised are not part of this consultation.
2	Resident Bailey Road (e-mail)	No	Would create more traffic going past Templar Square and the Swan Junction The current layout works perfectly well. The right turns do not work, due to signs in the wrong place and drivers cannot see them. Not aware of accident problem in Bailey Road. If there is a speeding problem then maybe chicanes should be put in.	Right turns would be revoked as part of the highway gate relocation. Chicanes are too costly at this stage, but would only be considered in the future as part of a new scheme.
3	Resident Bailey Road	No	Strongly objects as it would prevent access to Garsington Road and Tesco. Would be better to put up 'access only' sign on entrance to Phipps Road and Frederick Road	Noted. 'Access Only' restrictions are very difficult to enforce.
4	Resident Bailey Road (phone)	No	Severely opposed to relocation, travels every day via Phipps Road and will be forced to use other exit which will be very congested with traffic, increasing his journey by 20 mins.	Noted. Journey time may increase if proposals implemented.
5	Resident Bailey Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
6	Resident Bailey Road	No	Petition slip	Noted

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
7	Resident Bailey Road	Yes	Traffic entering Bailey Road from Phipps Road travels at very high speeds, traffic enters Barns Road in the mornings 'rat-running' at high speeds. Where Bailey Road meets Boswell Road on the bend cars travel at high speeds and drive carelessly, Royal Mail use these Roads as a short cut and travel at very high speeds. I am unable to let my children play outside as it is too dangerous.	Noted. Proposal would stop this 'rat-running' movement.
8	Resident Bailey Road	No	The proposed scheme would add 15 minutes to her regular journey to hospital; it would also cause additional congestion around Cowley Centre and the Oxford Road traffic lights. As a resident has never noticed a problem with 'rat-running' or speeding. The relocation would cause a great inconvenience for residents.	Noted. Journey time may increase if proposals implemented.
9	Resident Bailey Road	No	Does not believe there is a problem with 'rat-running', the current gate position works wonderfully. At the moment there is easy access to main roads for all residents. If the gate is relocated this would cause great inconvenience to the majority of residents and emergency services. Journeys by using Between Towns Road would be increased by at least 10 – 15 mins which will also have environmental implications, as well as a higher accident risk. If this goes ahead further schemes would have to be put in place to deal	Noted. Journey time may increase if proposals implemented.

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
			with the resulting traffic problems elsewhere.	
10	Resident Bailey Road (e-mail)	No	Concerns regarding the access to and from the estate, also emergency vehicles being delayed when having to open the gate. If it goes ahead could the humps be removed?	Noted. There are no plans at this time to remove traffic calming features.
11	Resident Bailey Road (e-mail)	No	Would cause access problems in and out of the estate, could cause delays for emergency vehicles. Would double my journey going shopping, causing congestion and more pollution. I have had to repair my suspension due to excessive speed humps.	Noted. Journey time may increase if proposals implemented.
12	Resident Bailey Road (e-mail)	Yes	Wonderful news have been campaigning for years	Noted
13	Resident Bailey Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
14a 14b 14c	Resident Bailey Road (3 letters)	Yes	Supports gate in Phipps Road. Why should Frederick Road have no cars up and down, we have been here for 35 yrs. Please put the gate in this year.	Noted
15	Resident Barns Road (phone)	No	Not enough room for traffic/service/emergency vehicles to turn around, also traffic could increase in Barns Road.	Noted. As part of the measures a 'no waiting at any time' area would be created to assist vehicle turning movements in Phipps Road.
16	Resident Barns Road (e-mail and fax)	No	Strongly oppose proposal. Has lived on Barns Road for 20 yrs, regularly uses Phipps Road to access ring road. You cannot keep pushing more traffic onto Barns Road. Boswell/Bailey and Phipps Roads are not used as 'rat-runs' at great speed	Noted.

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
			because it is impossible to negotiate the road humps at speed. I feel very angry about these proposals, traffic jams are building all the time and this is not the solution, the gate in its place at the moment is more than sufficient for all the residents of Cowley.	
17	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
18	Resident Boswell Road	Yes	Has been campaigning for well over two years to get the gate relocated and is very pleased to hear that they are so close to it actually happening, putting an end to rat-running.	Noted
19	Resident Boswell Road	No	Remove the old gate as it is unsightly, but do not relocate. Would be forced to use other residential streets to get to and from their house. Concerns for emergency vehicle access, does not agree there is a 'rat – running' problem, would prefer rising bollards, will the road humps be removed?	Rising Bollards are much too costly and would not be used under these circumstances for residents only.
20	Resident Boswell Road	No	Strong objection to these proposals. Very little so called 'rat-running' has been a resident for 30 yrs. It is detrimental to the majority of the 450 residents who will only have one entrance and exit to the estate, making it hell for residents especially in the rush hour.	Noted.
21a 21b	Resident Boswell Road (1 Phone, 1 Petition)	Yes	Agrees with gate relocation Petition - Agrees to the relocation	Noted
22.	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip	Noted

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
23	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip - Strongly object	Noted
24	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
25	Resident Boswell Road	Yes	Think that the gate should be trailed as the 'rat-running' is dangerous, it should be monitored and re-addressed in a years time. Having only one entrance/exit could cause problems, the need to remove humps should be looked into as they damaged their car.	Noted. The proposal would be a permanent measure if implemented and there are no plans at this time to remove the traffic calming features.
26	Resident Boswell Road	Yes	Fully support the proposals, it is long overdue and hope that it is implemented as soon as possible.	Noted
27	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
28	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip – Keep the gate in situ and remove the no right turn from Barns Road.	Noted
29	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
30	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
31	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
32	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
33	Resident Boswell Road (e-mail)	No	Doesn't feel there is a 'rat-running' problem. It will force more traffic around Boswell Road, Frederick Road and Bailey Road as there would be only one entrance/exit, would have a profoundly negative effect on her life forcing much more traffic past her house. Concerned that this change has been proposed without much consultation with local residents.	Noted. This proposal was received through Oxford City Council and is now subject of consultation.

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
34	Resident Frederick Road	No	Petition slip	Noted.
35	Resident Frederick Road	No	Closing Phipps Road at one end would not allow enough space for vehicles to turn. Has only ever seen one vehicle, a motorbike, travelling at speed in Phipps Road. Speed is heavily controlled by speed humps. Relocation would cause a major detour for residents, unnecessarily increasing traffic in this area.	Noted. As part of the measures a 'no waiting at any time' area would be created to assist vehicle turning movements in Phipps Road.
36	Resident Frederick Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
37	Resident Frederick Road (e-mail)	Yes	'Rat running' has definitely got worse over the past few years, but believes that removing the gate would cause traffic to increase in Frederick Road. So suggests keeping this gate as well as installing a new gate in Phipps Road, then he would support the scheme 100%.	Noted. The proposed arrangement does not require the existing gate to be retained in current location.
38	Resident Knolles Road	No	Petition slip– A crazy idea, it will clog up Barns Road and Between Towns Road, pushing more traffic into these busy roads.	Noted.
39	Resident Knolles Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
40	Resident Knolles Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
41a 41b	Resident Knolles Road (2 responses 1 phone 1 e-mail)	No	Mother lives in Phipps Road, he would have to travel an extra 15 – 20 minutes to visit her, also concerns over emergency vehicles. Carbon emissions would increase with all the vehicles travelling miles out of their way.	Noted Emergency vehicles have a key to get through such gates.

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
			<p>Blocking off Phipps Road will severely inconvenience the daily lives of the majority of the residents of the area, adding an extra 15-20 mins to journeys to the ring road / retail park etc. Why should the residents of Phipps Road be spared this inconvenience, perhaps the barrier should be placed at the other end of Phipps Road. No analysis appears to have taken place on the extra carbon emissions this action will create. It will also prejudice the response times of the emergency services, making the difference between life and death. OCC could be open to legal action should anyone suffer further as a result of delayed medical assistance. How can large vehicles such as Refuse trucks, drain cleaners, general delivery vehicles etc turn round at the bottom of Phipps Road? Has conducted his own survey of residents views and the majority were against it.</p>	<p>It is not OCC practice to carry out carbon emission surveys associated with such schemes.</p> <p>As part of the measures a 'no waiting at any time' area would be created to assist vehicle turning movements in Phipps Road.</p>
42	Resident Knolles Road	No	<p>Very strongly contest the relocation of gate to Phipps Road. They have not noticed any 'rat-running' in the area, scheme seems ill conceived and poorly thought out.</p>	Noted
43	Resident Knolles Road (phone)	No	<p>Will cause delays for people, making their journeys longer</p>	Noted

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
44.	Resident Knolles Road (e-mail)	No	Residents of Boswell, Bailey, Frederick and Knolles Roads will only be able to access their houses via one entrance Barns Road, just one entrance/exit for a significantly greater number of residents than in Phipps Road. Excessive parking by non residents also needs to be addressed. The proposal will mean a longer response time for emergency vehicles. The T-junction with Barns Road is inadequate; a mini roundabout should be installed. We suggest that you put forward a number of proposals to the residents for their preferred option, before any decision is made.	Excessive parking is an enforcement issue which needs to be resolved outside this scheme, Parking Enforcement Department are aware of the problem. Junction improvements are not being considered as part of this scheme.
45	Resident Phipps Road	Yes	Has been campaigning for well over two years to get the gate relocated and is very pleased to hear that they are so close to it actually happening, putting an end to 'rat-running'.	Noted
46	Resident Phipps Road	Yes	Has been campaigning for well over two years to get the gate relocated and is very pleased to hear that they are so close to it actually happening, putting an end to 'rat-running'.	Noted
47	Resident Phipps Road	Yes	Has campaigned for 2 years to get the gate relocated and is very pleased that it could happen soon. Pleased to put an end to the 'rat-running'.	Noted
48	Resident Phipps Road	Yes	Has been campaigning for well over two years to get the gate relocated and is very pleased to hear that this could happen soon.	Noted

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
49	Resident Phipps Road	Yes	Has been campaigning for well over two years to get the gate relocated and is very pleased to hear that they are so close to it actually happening, putting an end to rat-running.	Noted
50	Resident (phone)	No	Objects to parking restrictions being reinstated.	Noted. Parking restrictions are not part of this consultation.
51	Resident (e-mail)	No	Would increase his journey to and from work, happy with the position of gate as it is. Suggests more road humps or road narrowing to slow traffic. The circuit of Boswell, Bailey and Frederick Roads would be opened up for dangerous speeding. Others on Bailey Road are equally concerned.	Noted. No additional traffic calming is proposed at this time.
52	Resident Knolles Road	No	Object strongly and believe that this is the wrong solution to the problem. The existing traffic calming could be enhanced, i.e. raise speed humps, add some horizontal narrowing to slow the traffic. If a barrier is deemed necessary then it is essential that it is key operated by all the residents of the estate. He did not receive a letter a few years ago voting for the gate relocation. Hope he has expressed his objections clearly enough for the council to think again on the matter.	Enhancing existing traffic calming might not receive the overall support of residents, could prove too costly and is not part of this consultation. The key operated barrier could be costly with restriction difficult to enforce.
53	Resident Boswell Road	No	Agrees that rat-running should be prevented but disagrees with the relocation of gate into Phipps Road, as this would cause an increase in volume of traffic along Barns Road and	A gate at the junction with Barns Road is not proposed at this time, it would force all residents to use the Garsington Road junction.

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
			Between Towns Road. Therefore the most sensible place would be to relocate the gate to the entrance of Boswell Road from Barns Road, near the children's playground; believes that the traffic mainly cuts through from Barns Road to Garsington Road.	
54	Oxford Private Hire	No	Passengers particularly pensioners will have to pay more fares as the journey will be longer, concerns re. Emergency services, could Speed Cameras / Road humps or a slip Road to the eastern bypass be installed?	Journey time may increase if proposals were implemented. There are no further physical measures proposed at this time.
55	Royal Mail – Oxford (e-mail)	Yes	-	Noted
56	CTC Right to Ride (e-mail)	Yes	No problems with relocation, ensure the openings at each end of gate are wide enough (1.5m)	Noted
57	Fire & Rescue Service	No	Visited site and observed cars parked in front of existing gate which would restrict access through for fire engines should it be required. What precautions are in place to prevent this at the new location? The area already has speed humps which increases response times. If the gate were relocated then this would mean the fire service would have to travel considerably further thus greatly increasing their response times.	No Waiting at Anytime would be extended to provide no parking in the gate vicinity, allowing a turning area for vehicles. The parking issue has been noted and Parking Enforcement Team notified. Furthermore there is an alternative route for the fire service via Boswell Road.

No	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer Comment
58	Rt Hon Andrew Smith MP	?	Received a letter from a constituent (see comment 20). Would like a copy of the reply dealing with points raised. Would like to know if a ballot will be held before installing the new gate.	He will be notified of the outcome of the meeting. No ballot is planned.
59	Cllr John Sanders	Yes	Parking restrictions in Phipps Road could be removed as these were put in to prevent factory workers parking there, but this is no longer a problem as parking is provided.	Noted. However no plans at present to remove the current restrictions if scheme is approved.
60	Resident Boswell Road	No	Petition slip	Noted
61	Thames Valley Police	Yes	No objections to the proposal.	Noted