

Division(s): Banbury Hardwick, Bicester, & Chipping Norton

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT– 25 APRIL 2012

DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES – CHERWELL & WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICTS

Report by Interim Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Highways & Transport)

Introduction

1. This report considers the proposed provision of new Disabled Persons' Parking Places (DPPPs) in Woodfield Banbury; Moor Pond Close, Bicester and Middle Row, Chipping Norton. This follows the publication of the draft Oxfordshire County Council (Cherwell District) (Disabled Persons' Parking Places) (Variation No.5), and Oxfordshire County Council (West Oxfordshire District) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) (Amendment No. 4) Orders 20**.

Background

2. During 2011, requests were made to investigate the possibility of providing DPPPs in Woodfield, Banbury and Moor Pond Close, Bicester. The residents in question met the eligibility criteria and, following site visits, plans were drawn up prior to formal consultation being carried out. With regard to Woodfield it was decided that as a DPPP already existed there this would be extended to accommodate two vehicles in order to make more efficient use of available space. Separately, a request was received in 2011 to provide a DPPP for disabled visitors to Kingdom Hall, Middle Row, Chipping Norton. Following further discussions a site inspection was held and a plan drawn up.
3. This report considers the outcome of a formal consultation on the proposals. All other DPPP proposals advertised at the same time were unopposed and have, therefore, been dealt with under delegated authority to avoid unnecessary delays.

Formal Consultation

4. The Directorate sent a copy of the draft Amendment Order, a Statement of Reasons for the Order and a copy of the Public Notice appearing in the local press to formal Consultees on 8 February 2011. These documents, together with supporting documentation as required and plans of all the DPPPs were deposited for public inspection at County Hall, Cherwell District Council offices, Bodicote; West Oxfordshire District Council Town Centre Shop, Witney and Libraries at Banbury, Chipping Norton, and Witney. Plans of the three sites in question are available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.
5. Separately, the Directorate wrote to local residents in each area where new DPPPs were proposed to be sited asking for their comments. In addition public notices were displayed at each site and in the Oxford Times.

6. Comments were received in respect of all three proposed DPPP's. A synopsis of each comment with an officer response is set out at Annex 1. Copies of the responses can be viewed in the Members' Resource Centre.
7. No statutory or formal consultees have commented.
8. Only two changes to the advertised proposals are recommended in response to comments made during the consultation:-
 - (a) it had been proposed to provide a DPPP in Moor Pond Close, Bicester. However, several residents in the vicinity commented that no parking problems existed there and the road was normally clear of cars. A parking survey corroborated this. The results are shown at Annex 2.
 - (b) It had also been proposed to provide a DPPP in Middle Row, Chipping Norton. After further discussions with residents and applicants, it is recommended that the proposal should not proceed and a new consultation carried out on a revised location nearer Lower Market Place.

It is recommended that the DPPP in Woodfield, Banbury proceeds as advertised.

How the Project supports LTP3 Objectives

9. Introduction of new DPPP's will help in delivering accessibility by enabling disabled people to park near to their homes or shops and businesses or places of worship etc; thus accessing a wider range of services.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

10. The cost of installing the DPPP is approximately £500 and will be met from the existing revenue budget provided for it.

RECOMMENDATION

11. **The Cabinet Member for Transport is RECOMMENDED:-**
 - (a) **to authorise variations to the Oxfordshire County Council (Cherwell District) (Disabled Persons' Parking Places) Order 2006 as amended in this report to extend the existing DPPP in Woodfield, Banbury to accommodate two cars; and**
 - (b) **not to proceed with the proposed DPPP as advertised in Middle Row, Chipping Norton but to carry out consultation on a revised location nearer Lower Market Place; and**
 - (c) **not to proceed with the proposed DPPP as advertised in Moor Pond Close, Bicester.**

MARK KEMP

Interim Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Highways & Transport)

Background papers:

Consultation documentation

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March 2012

Comments on the Proposed Disabled Persons' Parking Places (DPPPs)

	Commentor	Comments	Response	Recommendation
Enlarged DPPP at Woodfield, Banbury				
1	Resident, Woodfield	They usually park where the bay is to be extended. Can any badge holder park in any DPPP? Most of the residents here have Blue Badges. Approves of existing DPPP because user is in a wheelchair.	The DPPP is to be widened to accommodate another applicant and the extension is as near the applicants home as is practical. While any badge holder could park in it, only two applications including the original one have been received. The current applicant receives the higher rate Disability Living Allowance for mobility.	Proceed.
2	Resident, Woodfield	Objects to the proposal. Doesn't think the applicant has much difficulty walking and thinks the application is a device to reserve the nearest space to home. All the residents in the bungalows have Blue Badges.	Applicant has a Motability Vehicle and only those receiving the higher rate Disability Living Allowance for mobility are eligible for these vehicles. A large proportion of residents in these bungalows have Blue Badges issued by OCC.	As above.
DPPP at Moor Pond Close, Bicester				
3	Resident, Moor Pond Close	Doesn't believe a parking problem exists. The road outside the applicant's house is normally clear of cars. Doesn't think this is a good use of public funds.	Although a hard-standing exists, the applicant says it cannot be used because of his disability and he has to get his parents to park his car there. A parking survey has been carried out during the final week of March 2012 and the results confirm that no parking problem exists and the applicant's car is normally parked on his drive.	Not to proceed.
4	Resident, Moor Pond Close	Doesn't believe a parking problem exists. Applicant had another off-road car	As above.	As above

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		space behind existing one but turned that into garden. Thinks applicant is attempting to reserve extra space on the road. Has never seen applicant's parents at the property.		
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DPPP at Middle Row, Chipping Norton

5	Resident, Middle Row	While a new DPPP may be required in town, doesn't think the bay should be sited here as will cause difficulties for residents needing parking space. Residents from Spring Street park here in the day because displaced by parking restrictions in their street. The proposal would negate parking improvements caused by relocation of refuse bins. Could the DPPP be located in one of the existing car parks?	Bay was requested by disabled users of Kingdom Hall and was planned to be outside the Hall. After further discussions with them it was agreed not to proceed with this proposal but have a new consultation on providing a DPPP near Lower Market Place.	Not to proceed with this proposal but to have a new consultation on providing a DPPP near Lower Market Place.
6	Business owner/ resident in Middle Row	Believes there is already a high provision of disabled parking spaces on the "pedestrian south side of Middle Row." The organisation requesting the new bay is only open a few days a week and Middle Row is already heavily parked. In the evening by 10pm there are normally no spaces left.	No on-street DPPPs exist in the area on this side of the A44 although there may well be disabled spaces in the supermarket car park. When parking is congested the disabled are disadvantaged most. As above.	As above.
7	Resident, Middle Row	The proposal will erode the number of spaces available to residents. Disabled	DPPP was requested by disabled people who meet at Kingdom Hall hence its location. As above.	As above.

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		bays should instead be located in the car parks for disabled visitors. Proposed DPPP is next to a building wall – would be difficult to open car door wide enough for access.		
8	Resident, Middle Row	Why was the existing DPPP in Market Square (Lower Market Place) removed? As people park on both sides of the road in Middle Row they need to park near to the side – would a disabled driver be able to do that and still get out of vehicle if a DPPP provided? Parking is very congested here and she often has to park some way away. The users of Kingdom Hall only require parking twice a week. Strongly objects to the proposal.	DPPP in Lower Market Place was only advisory and had to be removed on health and safety reasons because of the slope. If a DPPP was provided outside Kingdom Hall the disabled users of the Hall would need to park in such a way that they could leave and enter the vehicle from the road side. There are meetings at Kingdom Hall on all days except Mondays. As above.	As above.