

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL– 3 JANUARY 2013

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – ST LUKE’S ROAD, COWLEY AND ELM TREE CLOSE, LITTLEMORE

Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. This report considers objections to a formal consultation on proposals to introduce new or amended parking restrictions in St Luke’s Road, Cowley, and also Elm Tree Close in Littlemore.

Background

2. The proposals in this report were part of a package of measures developed with County Councillor John Sanders to address local parking issues across his Division and funded through the Area Stewardship Fund. Other proposals advertised at the same time received no objections and can therefore be implemented through delegated authority.
3. The current restrictions in St Luke’s Road (and the adjacent Coleridge Close), like those on many residential streets in this part of Cowley, were installed when the area experienced intrusive parking by commuters. They consist principally of a one-hour parking prohibition applying for different periods on alternative sides of the street. As well as dealing with commuters, this type of restriction also prevents residents from parking on-street. Annex 1 sets out the proposed restrictions.
4. Some years ago (following discussions with residents and local Members), it was agreed that because of the reduced need for the restrictions and the dis-benefit they caused to residents, there would be no routine enforcement of these restrictions in this area, other than enforcement of the double yellow lines. More recently with a change in local employment patterns, there have been problems with non-resident cars blocking driveways and also restricting access into Coleridge Close. In response, Councillor Sanders has worked with residents to develop new restrictions and these were the subject of consultation.
5. Elm Tree Close is a short residential street off Cowley Road (Littlemore) with no parking restrictions. The proposal is intended to assist drivers entering or egressing the Close by preventing parking near the junction with Cowley Road. Annex 2 sets out the proposed restrictions.

Formal Consultation

6. Oxfordshire County Council sent a copy of the draft amendment orders, statement of reasons and a copy of the public notice appearing in the local press containing the proposed changes, to formal consultees on 24 September 2012. These documents, together with supporting documentation and plans were deposited for public inspection at County Hall and at Cowley library. They are also available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.
7. At the same time, the Council wrote to local residents affected by the proposed restrictions, asking for their comments. In addition public notices were displayed at each site and in the Oxford Times.
8. A total of 12 responses were received: 5 regarding the St Luke's Road proposals and 7 regarding the Elm Tree Close proposals. These are summarised at Annex 3.
9. The main comment on the St Luke's Road proposals came from 3 respondents who objected to the absence of double yellow lines on the outside of the bend in the road. The proposal has double yellow lines on the inside of the bend to assist visibility but none on the opposite side; this is considered to be an appropriate compromise to maximise parking opportunities. Other comments related to the state of the road surface. This has been acknowledged and is programmed to be resurfaced later this financial year.
10. The responses to the Elm Tree Close proposal highlighted the parking pressures in this location and the potential problems that would arise with residents being displaced further along the road. However, the desire to improve visibility and safety at the Elm Tree Close/Cowley Road junction means that at least some restrictions are necessary but as a compromise the length of those restrictions could be reduced from the proposed 20 metres to just 10 metres.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

11. The cost of the works described in this report will be met from County Councillor Sanders' Area Stewardship Fund allocation

RECOMMENDATION

18. **The Deputy Leader of the Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the Oxfordshire County Council (Various Streets Cowley Area) (Traffic Regulation) Consolidation (Variation No.11) Order 20** as advertised and as amended in paragraph 10 of this report.**

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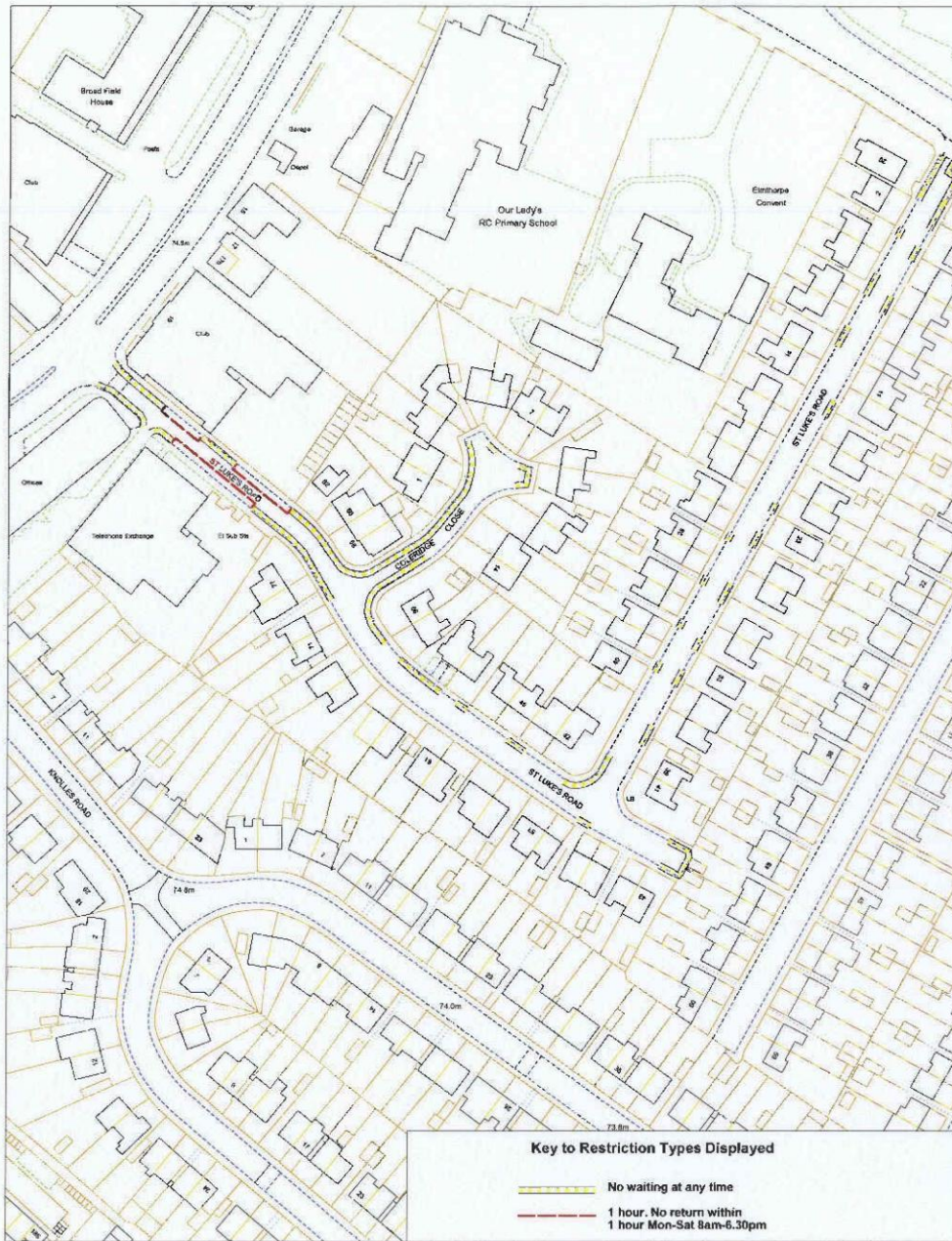
Mark Kemp
Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Background papers: Consultation documentation

Contact Officers: Jim Daughton 01865 815803

December 2012

ANNEX 1



Key to Restriction Types Displayed

- No waiting at any time
- 1 hour. No return within 1 hour Mon-Sat 8am-6.30pm

<p>OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</p>		<p>© Crown Copyright and database rights 2012 100023243 Oxfordshire County Council Licence No: 100023243</p> <p>Proposed parking restrictions Coleridge Close and St Luke's Road, Cowley</p>	SCALE	1 : 1100
			DATE	24/09/2012
			DRAWING No.	
			DRAWN BY	

ANNEX 2



**Proposed additional parking restrictions
Elm Tree Close, Littlemore
Note - existing restrictions not shown**

SCALE	1 : 750
DATE	24/09/2012
DRAWING NO.	
DRAWN BY	

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

A – St Luke’s Road

RESPONDENT	COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>Resident of St Luke’s Road</p>	<p>I would like to say that I am in favour of Parking Restrictions being introduced in Coleridge Close and St Luke’s Road. I am aware of the work John Sanders has put in on this and appreciate the time he has taken to speak to local residents. However, the proposed markings you put forward are considerably different from those discussed with local residents in the meeting back in May. Please note the following points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I believe the amount of yellow lines in Coleridge Close was raised but the local residents found them to be too restrictive. I believe it was agreed that each residence would choose if they wanted double yellow lines outside their drive. 2. I am totally in favour of the 1 hour restrictions at the junction of St Luke’s and Between Towns Road. 3. I know the corner where St Luke’s Road bends around has caused considerable disruption since the Council moved in to the offices in Between Towns Road. We discussed this at length at the meeting and the proposal was that we would have double yellow lines on both corners so that we could have clear sight on both sides when turning this corner. 4. I now come on to the main point I want to make. I have had correspondence with Councillor Sanders for several years about the condition of the top half of St Luke’s. In my opinion this road is now in such a poor state of repair that it is actually dangerous in parts. I have been told on various occasions that it is proposed that the top half of St Luke’s will finally be resurfaced this year (it was supposed to have been done by the end of the summer, yet to materialise). 	<p>This has been done – each resident has chosen whether to have double yellow lines or a white access protection marking across their driveway.</p> <p>The proposal has double yellow lines on the inside of the bend to assist visibility but none on the opposite side in order to maximise parking opportunities.</p> <p>The remaining section of St Luke’s Road will be resurfaced in March 2013 and any new markings will not be laid until that work has been completed.</p>
<p>Resident of St Luke’s Road</p>	<p>I have read through the five actions proposed to ease congestion and reduce risk but fail to see how the proposals provide any benefit.</p> <p>With regard to the proposal to introduce 1 hour parking spaces for visitors to local offices and businesses I feel that this shows lack of research by the Council. It is fact that by 8.30 each morning St Luke’s Road and Coleridge Close are</p>	<p>The current position is that parking restrictions are not generally enforced as to do so would inconvenience residents. Once new restrictions are in place they will be enforced which</p>

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	<p>congested. This is due to all day parking by employees of local offices and businesses. This means that residents families, carers, district nurses supporting elderly residents in St Luke's Road cannot park.</p>	<p>should benefit residents, particularly accessing driveways.</p>
<p>Residents of St Luke's Road</p>	<p>Regarding the double yellow lining around the corners of St Luke's Road, I am astonished that the wishes of the residents, who have attended numerous meetings with Councillor Sanders, and others, have been completely ignored. After many meetings, the last one called at very short notice and well attended, it would seem that the wishes of people who actually live in this road are irrelevant.</p> <p>Could you let me know when the planned resurfacing of St Luke's Road is to take place please?</p>	<p>The proposal has double yellow lines on the inside of the bend to assist visibility but none on the opposite side to maximise parking opportunities.</p> <p>The remaining section of St Luke's Road will be resurfaced in March.</p>
<p>Resident of St Luke's Road</p>	<p>I have no objections to the proposed scheme other than I believe it was agreed with Councillor John Sanders at our MCRAAG meeting that both corners of the section of St Luke's road that runs East -West would have double yellow lines around the corner instead of only one as on your plan.</p> <p>I also believe it was agreed that this section of road would be resurfaced before new lines are installed. Is this still on the cards.</p>	<p>The proposal has double yellow lines on the inside of the bend to assist visibility but none on the opposite side in order to maximise parking opportunities.</p> <p>The remaining section of St Luke's Road will be resurfaced in March 2013.</p>
<p>Employee at Social Services offices</p>	<p>I park in St Luke's Road and submitted my thoughts in the consultation. However, I do feel that as the parking charges in the Barnes Road multi story car park were increased by 150%, this has added to more people parking in St Luke's Road. I previously used to park in Barnes Road Car Park at a cost of £1 per day, which I was happy to pay, but due to the increases to £2.50 per day is above my budget so am forced to look for alternative parking.</p> <p>Sadly with the proposed changes in St Luke's Road, the same will happen with people finding alternative parking in other streets nearby.</p> <p>If parking charges in Barnes Road Car Park were reduced then I would consider parking there once more.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Once new restrictions are in place they will be enforced which should benefit residents, particularly accessing driveways.</p>

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B – Elm Tree Close

RESPONDENT	COMMENT	RESPONSE
Resident of Elm Tree Close	<p>Any option that helps with driving into or out of this Close will be greatly appreciated and gets my full support.</p> <p>I would though, like to raise a few issues with regards to any work on this junction.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With parking spaces being reduced at the bottom of the close, my fear would be that the residents who live in Cowley Road and park in these spaces will be forced to park even further up the Close, creating more of an issue for us Close residents who already struggle with overcrowding. 2. Is there a case where the Close can be made only <i>resident with permits</i> parking? 3. Will the parking restriction changes be enforced? There are already parking restrictions along the Cowley Road (double yellow lines, single white lines across driveways & disabled parking) It does seem that anything goes along this stretch of Road most of the time. 4. Pulling out of this junction is made more difficult by the overgrown plants obstructing your vision whilst looking to the left. I have reported them to the authorities before but the problem still exists. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>It is considered that having at least some restrictions at the junction is necessary to improve safety.</p> <p>A very small street such as Elm Tree Close is not suitable for its own residents parking scheme.</p> <p>The need for additional enforcement is being discussed with the contractor.</p> <p>This matter will be addressed by the Area Stewardship team.</p>
Resident of Elm Tree Close	<p>The proposals will mean that those from Cowley Road will be coming further up the hill to park which would make parking more difficult for the residents of Elm Tree Close.</p> <p>I propose that we have a resident only parking scheme but even then we would get non-residents come up to park in Elm Tree Close.</p> <p>We even have people parking in the bays and just leaving their cars for days on end who are not residents or visitors of Elm Tree Close</p>	<p>It is considered that having at least some restrictions at the junction is necessary to improve safety.</p> <p>A very small street such as Elm Tree Close is not suitable for its own residents parking scheme.</p>
Residents of Elm Tree Close	<p>Whilst we appreciate the problem caused by careless parking at the junction between Elm Tree Close and Cowley Road Littlemore, indeed there are many occasions where it is impossible to exit or enter the Close, this proposal has massive implications on the difficulties already experienced by residents (and any visiting friends/relatives) of Elm Tree Close with regard to parking our own vehicles.</p> <p>Cars belonging to residents of Cowley Road already take up the majority of the</p>	<p>At the moment inconsiderate parking results in a number of near misses hence it is considered that having at least some restrictions at the junction is necessary to improve safety.</p>

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	<p>parking spaces in the Close. Most have more than one car parked in the Close on a daily basis, one household has up to four cars parked. The vehicles do not move during the day as the owners do not work or do not use their cars. This leaves very little room for any residents of Elm Tree Close to park when they return from work.</p> <p>If yellow lines are painted in The Close it will not deter visitors to the shops as they already take no notice of the yellow lines on Cowley Road and there is no one to enforce them.</p> <p>All it will do is push the non- resident's vehicles further up Elm Tree Close where they will be left. There will be absolutely no space for residents of Elm Tree Close to park when returning from work. The only way it will be possible to park is if there is either a waiting limit imposed that applies to non-residents vehicles or an enforceable resident's only parking scheme.</p>	<p>A very small street such as Elm Tree Close is not suitable for its own residents parking scheme.</p>
<p>Resident of Cowley Road</p>	<p>I think this proposal needs to be modified.</p> <p>I have been a resident of Cowley Road, adjacent to Elm Tree Close, for the last 16 years. My partner and I have been parking our car at the lower end of Elm Tree Close throughout these 16 years and are aware of the parking issues in the area.</p> <p>There is already insufficient parking for residents in the area as car ownership has increased over the years. The proposal would remove approximately 4 parking spaces for residents that are definitely needed.</p> <p>Bringing new parking restrictions in won't solve the problems as problems mainly exist due to drivers ignoring current restrictions. Why would they observe new ones?</p> <p>The danger and congestion is not, in my experience, caused by resident parking, but results from traffic visiting the retail premises on Cowley Road, opposite the entrance to Elm Tree Close. There is little problem when the shops are closed. However, during the shops' opening hours, there is frequent parking on the pavement and on the existing double-yellow lines along Cowley Road and up into Elm Tree Close. This is the cause of the problem in this area. There is little or no enforcement of the current parking restrictions and additional double-yellow lines will not deter those visiting the shops for a short time, as they are unlikely to get caught. The proposal will not affect those that cause the problems, only adversely</p>	<p>At the moment, inconsiderate parking results in a number of near misses hence it is considered that having at least some restrictions at the junction is necessary to improve safety.</p> <p>The need for additional enforcement is being discussed with the contractor.</p>

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	<p>affect local residents.</p> <p>There is another issue which impacts on the safety at the junction of Elm Tree Close and Cowley Road. This is the traffic-calming measure in place along Cowley Road (approximately adjacent to nos. 47-53). Cars travelling north along this stretch of Cowley Road should stop roughly adjacent to no. 47 in order to give way to traffic coming in the opposite direction (there is a stop line here). It is common to see traffic ignore the stop line and carry on beyond, pulling in to the opening of Elm Tree Close to let cars coming in the other direction through. This often involves driving on the pavement as well. As these cars are travelling at speed they constitute by far the greatest danger at this junction. Some bollards on the pavement in this area might be useful to deter this behaviour.</p> <p>In conclusion, I don't believe that the current proposal will solve the problem of danger and congestion at the junction of Elm Tree Close and Cowley Road, but will adversely impact on the local residents, who are not the cause of the problem.</p>	<p>This issue is outside the scope of this consultation, but officers will investigate the problems reported and seek ways to improve the effectiveness of the traffic-calming feature.</p>
Resident of Cowley Road	<p>I am all in favour of making chaotic, haphazard parking more difficult.</p> <p>There are already a number of yellow lines around the area that do not inhibit problem parking, which brings me to my point, that it is not enough to just paint lines but there must be adequate enforcement of the restrictions or parking will just continue as before.</p>	<p>The need for additional enforcement is being discussed with the contractor.</p>
Resident of Cowley Road	<p>My only reaction to this is that it is another hare-brained scheme proposed by someone who knows nothing about the parking problems in this area. It is my opinion that this alteration to the parking in Elm Tree Close and the surrounding area is a complete waste of time and money. What this area needs more than anything with regard to the parking is enforcement of the existing regulations. There are already double yellow lines painted on this corner and the south-bound side of the road which are ignored for most of the time that the Post Office and other shops are open. People park on these yellow lines with impunity safe in the knowledge that to collect a penalty for doing so is so unlikely that the lines may as well not exist.</p>	<p>The need for additional enforcement is being discussed with the contractor.</p>
Resident of Cowley Road	<p>Re the proposed DYs for the junction of Elm Tree Close and Cowley Road</p> <p>I agree that parked cars should be kept off the junction between these roads. I would like to propose however that this could be done effectively with double yellow lines which are a third or perhaps a half of those proposed on the map</p>	<p>It is considered that having at least some restrictions at the junction is necessary in order to improve safety.</p>

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	<p>which you kindly sent us. This would then not only achieve the goal of decreasing traffic congestion and increasing safety at this junction, but would help to preserve precious parking spaces in this area by not eliminating them unnecessarily.</p>	
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