

Divisions affected: *Benson and Cholsey*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT – 24 MARCH 2022

CROWMARSH: STEPHENS FIELD – PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for the Highway Management is **RECOMMENDED** to approve the proposed waiting restrictions at Stephens Field at Crowmarsh.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on a proposal to introduce no waiting at any time restrictions at Stephens Field at Crowmarsh as shown in **Annex 1** which are being put forward as a result of parked vehicles obstructing the Stephen's Field & Bellamy Way junction, whilst also obstructing the passage of vehicles along that part of Stephens's Field leading to the Riverside car park & water splash park

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals has been provided by Crowmarsh Parish Council. Should the waiting restrictions be progressed, funding for this aspect will be provided by Oxfordshire County Council.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

Sustainability Implications

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

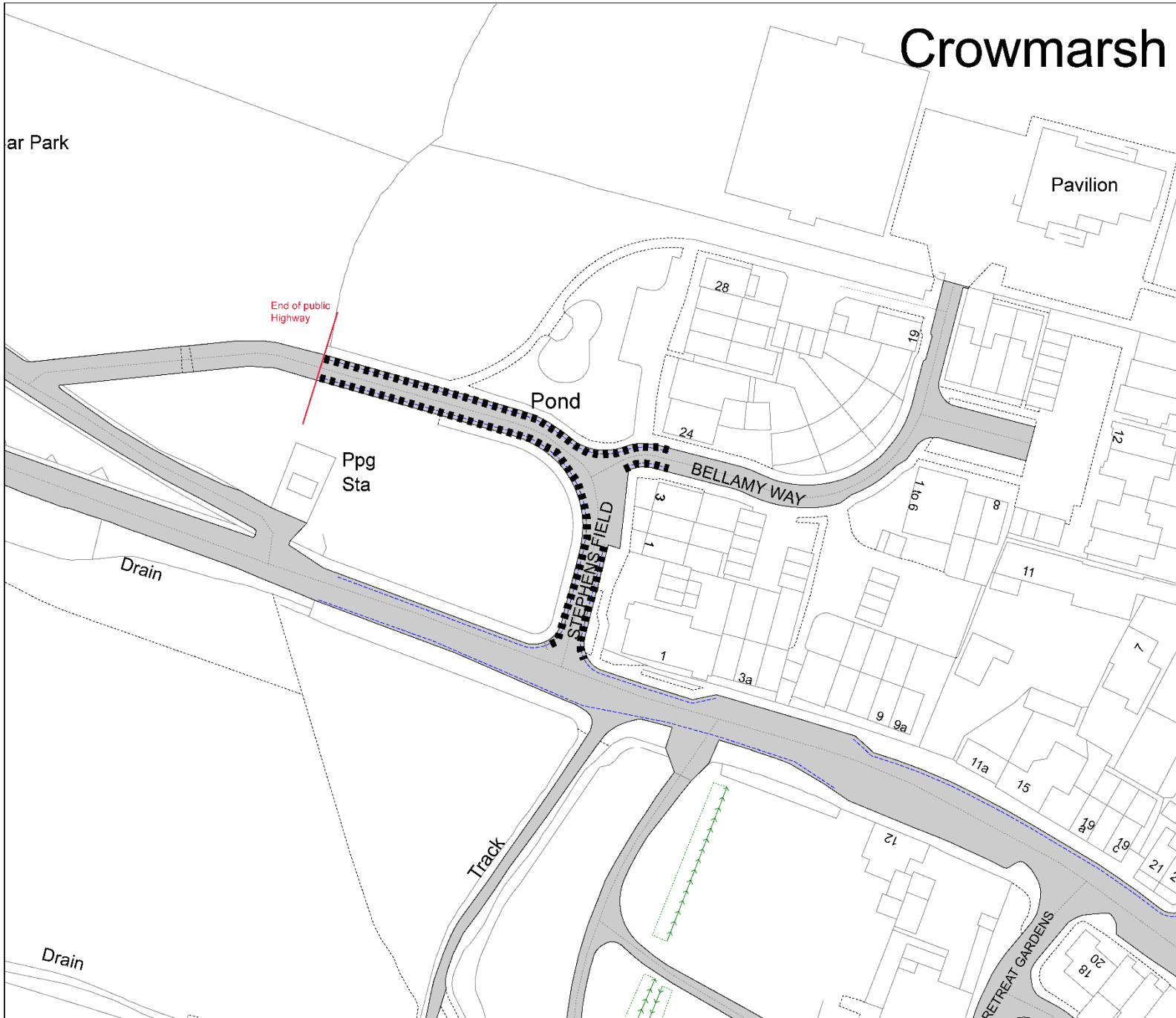
Consultation

6. The Formal consultation was carried out between 6 January and 4 February 2022 and a notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper, and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Crowmarsh Parish Council and South Oxfordshire District Council and the County Councillor. Letters were sent to premises in the immediate vicinity, and street notices were also placed on site.
7. Thirteen responses were received during the formal consultation comprising of; 2 objections (15%), 3 expressing concerns (23%), 5 expressions of support (38%), and 3 expressing no objection.
8. The responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

9. Thames Valley Police expressed no objection.
10. An objection was received from a resident of The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford. The objection is due to concerns regarding the new road not being used enough to merit this level of funding.
11. In response to the objection, once the new waiting restrictions are in place vehicular access directly from the bridge along the old access road (not public vehicular highway) to the parking / splash park that is currently managed by SODC will close. Stephens Field will then become the only vehicular access to the parking area.
12. Several objections were received from residents to the proposal on the grounds that road users seeking 'free' car parking will migrate to the non-restricted areas further along Bellamy Way.
13. In response, during the initial consideration of the proposal (albeit nearly 2 years ago) and in conjunction with Crowmarsh Parish Council a week-long trial by temporarily coning off the area did not provide any evidence that vehicles started migrating to other unrestricted areas for parking. After installation, the situation will be monitored, and further consideration can be given, if significant concerns should arise.
14. An objection was received from a resident and seconded by the local Councillor that the proposed lines did not go far enough (In an Easterly direction) into Bellamy Way.
15. In response, we take on board this suggestion and we will look to marginally extend the lines, by what is a few metres, from what is shown on the consultation plan, so to include the small area of concern and terminate near the Eastern elevation of properties number 3 & 24.

Crowmarsh



Proposed parking restrictions
 Existing parking restrictions

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ANNEX 2

| RESPONDENT | COMMENTS |
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| (1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police) | No objection |
| (2) Local County Cllr, (Benson & Cholsey division) | <p>Comments – I can confirm that when I met with highway officers on site it was agreed that the double yellow lines should extend past the frontage of No.24 Bellamy Way and the opposite neighbour's property No.3.</p> <p>I would also like to confirm that the permanently parked camper van on the slope to the river will need to be removed before the works start.</p> |
| (3) Oxford Bus Company | No objection |
| (4) As an individual, (Crowmarsh, The Street/Stephens Field) | <p>Object – I have lived here 10 years - no issue really exists save a few posh families who want more car parking No one makes real use of garages for cars - they need to use garages and put cars away that would solve the issue but they are lazy.</p> <p>I am a member of the residents association so live at Stephens field - its a waste of money to do anything the new road cost £75,000 and its hardly used</p> |
| (5) As an individual, (Crowmarsh, The Street) | <p>Object – By double lining all of this area, it will shift the parking problem else where. Living on the Street with parking directly in front of my home is already a struggle to get parked when unloading shopping, family with small children visiting etc. People will always seek to find free parking. I support double lining the junction as you turn off The Street as occasionally people park dangerously here. Also on the corner which is currently signed as No Parking - Turning Area. However there really isn't a problem with people parking on the road down to the Riverside. There is an issue in that there is a Camper Van permanantly parked which someone lives in. This should be dealt with.</p> |

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| <p>(13) Residents Association</p> | <p>Concerns – I'm a Director of the Resident's Association for the estate on Stephen's Field and Bellamy way. I recently passed on your notice about the yellow lines consultation to all 42 households of the residents on the estate. I've worked for the past 5 years to get this implemented, so would be grateful if you could keep me updated on outcomes and progress.</p> <p>In particular, I am being asked by residents when the work will start and be completed. Could you let me know? Also, we expressed concerns throughout that stopping the lines short and not carrying them round the curve right through to the recreation ground would simply push non-residents' cars further round Bellamy Way, which has caused obstructions in the past with fire, ambulance and other utility vehicles. Could you let me know if they are any mechanisms in place to monitor this situation once the lines are in place?</p> <p>Finally, several of our residents have reported to the Police two vans and a car owned by one gentleman (unknown – not a resident) that have been parked at the end of Stephens Field leading down to the lido – for over two years. The man appears to live permanently in the RV and charges up his power weekly, using a generator stored in the van in front. The Police have chosen not to take any action but I assume you will have to move him on, in order to put the yellow lines in place?</p> |
| <p>(6) As an individual, (Crowmarsh, Bellamy Way)</p> | <p>Concerns – Firstly I must say I am very pleased to see that this matter is being sorted and thank you for this. I live on Bellamy Way which overlooks all parts of the road where there is planned lining and have seen many near missis and have written to the Parish Council about my concerns that a child could run out and be hit as the crossing points are constantly blocked by selfish parkers.</p> <p>That said the scheme as planned leaves a short section of roadway outside No.24 and the opposite neighbour at number 3 that gives grave concerns. If you could kindly look at the attached plans and take on board the following requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the copy of your plan I have highlighted in Pink where I can assure you there will be a really big problem. The road between our houses number 24 & our neighbour at No. 3 is a little over 5 metres in width. Once Stephens field parking is full people quite incredibly park outside ours or our neighbours house. If they park outside our house this leaves it impossible to pull out of our garage (also marked) and turn right towards Stephens Field as there is not enough width so we have to turn left, go down in to the sports ground turn around and come out. As we are then going straight we can get parked any parked cars. Emergency vehicles wouldn't get past and delivery vehicles are often prevented from getting past due to parked cars. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A worse position is if they are parked opposite ours outside our neighbours and we have 2 cars on our drive the car nearest the house can't get out either way other than driving down the path. • If you look at the Google Street View Plan attached you will instantly see what I mean and the looming problem. <p>I urge you to strongly look at this and please please extend the double yellows across the front of the properties. Beyond this the road narrows down to approx 4.0m so not a problem.</p> <p>When we met the County Councillor on site he said he fully understood this issue and what would happen and assured us if the plan goes ahead it will end at the drop kerbs to our garage so that we do not have the obvious problem. This will hugely increase the safety if the lines are extended.</p> <p>If you do not extend the lines to cover what I am requesting, the area in front of our house's will become a living hell. They will be the most sort after parking spots in Crowmarsh Gifford for anyone looking to go to the river or park and avoid the parking charges and we will constantly have cars parked on the road/footway and blocking us in. We have had it where the footway is so blocked my partner couldn't get her pram to our own front door. But wider cars have to also park on the path. This is widely used by wheelchair users as well.</p> <p>Also and more importantly this section of road and footway is heavily used by people using the wonderful facilities in the park. Many kids use this along with mothers with pushchairs. They will cross between the cars and you will still have the risk that you are trying to remove.</p> <p>I fully appreciate that Road Traffic Orders are very precise and tricky things to deal with but urge you to make this minor amendment before these lines are put in.</p> <p>Can I just please add that on the side outside number 3 they would really need extending a bit beyond what I showed (approx another 15m) otherwise they will park here as it would appear just wide enough and if they do we would be unable to pull out of garages.</p> |
| <p>(7) As an individual, (Crowmarsh, Stephens Field)</p> | <p>Concerns – I live near the junction of Stephens field and Bellamy way which over the years living here have seen an awful lot of intrusive all over the place parking ,what you are proposing is good but I am afraid the cars will move up in to Bellamy way which Has happened many times before causing congestion on the the very narrow development road passing up on the pavements up the kerb parking vans as well .So my concern is we will need an extension of yellow</p> |

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| | lines up into Bellamy way. |
| (8) As an individual, (Wallingford, Charter Way) | Support – The taxpayer should not be providing places for people store their personal possessions for free. |
| (9) As an individual, (Crowmarsh, Bellamy Way) | Support – Makes for a safer road for residents. |
| (10) As an individual, (Crowmarsh, Bellamy Way) | <p>Support – I strongly support this proposal as I'm a resident in the cul-de-sac part of Bellamy Way that joins to Stephen's Fld and the junction regularly gets parked in by inconsiderate drivers whom think nothing of blocking our access even when confronted and asked to move their vehicles. On occasions leaving us trapped for most of the day and unable to leave or come back home. I would like to highlight that come the Summer months we get our access blocked daily and come the weekends almost constantly, making it a nightmare living here in the Summer months. And never a police officer to be seen, ever...</p> <p>I have witnessed numerous accidents at the junction of Stephens Fld and the Street and they are all as a result of the parking and stopping along Stephens way. This is a huge irritant to everybody living here and these new enforcements couldn't happen sooner.</p> |
| (11) As an individual, (Crowmarsh, The Street) | Support – The parking restrictions are very long overdue. Particularly to stop the parking near the junction with the Street, and also to stop the people living along the road down to the riverside park, for the last couple of years! |
| (12) As an individual, (Crowmarsh, Bellamy Way) | <p>Support – I full support the proposed new sections of double yellow lines in Stephens Field. However I believe that the lay-by referred to is actually owned by residents of Stephens Field and Bellamy Way. It is marked out with a yellow line to show the edge of the area which is private parking for residents. It should not therefore be referred to as unrestricted parking spaces and should be marked as private.</p> <p>There is a further area at the end of Bellamy Way where the end of the Council owned road is marked with a similar yellow line.</p> <p>I hope that at a later date the Council will consider extending the yellow lines up Bellamy Way towards the Recreation</p> |

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| | Ground as I believe the people currently parking on Stephens Field will just move further up the road. |
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