

Divisions affected: *Sonning Common*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT
27 APRIL 2023**

**SONNING COMMON: VILLAGE CENTRE – PROPOSED WAITING
RESTRICTIONS**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is recommended to approve the proposed amendments to waiting and loading provision as advertised comprising:
 - a) Extensions to the existing ‘No Waiting at Any Time’ restrictions (double yellow lines) in Wood Lane near the junction of Woodlands Road, across the entrance to the public car park and two new bus stop clearways are being proposed to safeguard bus access,
 - b) reposition the existing double yellow lines and loading bay for Goods Vehicle deliveries on the southwest side on Woodlands Road to help improve visibility from the car park exit,
 - c) formalise the existing school keep-clear zig-zag markings in Grove Road outside Bishopswood Special School, meaning that a No Stopping restriction will be in place between 8.30am-9am and 3pm-3.30pm on Monday to Fridays.
 - d) A number of minor updates to Traffic Order map schedules across the parish.

Executive summary

2. Following concerns raised by Sonning Common Parish Council about indiscriminate parking in Wood Lane and Woodlands Road, the waiting restrictions as shown in **Annex 1** have been proposed, and the legal documents, notably the map schedules, covering these and other locations in the village are being corrected at the same time as some details were missing.
3. This report presents the consultation responses to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that proposed changes/corrections to the existing restrictions.

Introduction

4. The Parish Council contacted the Civil Parking team in July 2022 to request changes to parking restrictions in Wood Lane and Woodlands Road. As part of initial discussions into that, it was discovered that some of the existing Traffic Order documents (notably the map schedules) had some existing yellow lines missing, and so it was agreed to undertake a joint project to correct those records and consult upon some proposed changes at the same time.
5. The changes requested by the Parish Council include minor extensions to the double yellow lines in Wood Lane, either side of its junction with Woodlands Road and across the village car park entrance, two new bus stop markings either side of Wood Lane – just south of the Village Hall and a repositioning of the loading bay at the side of the village store in Woodlands Road – to improve visibility for vehicles exiting the village car park.
6. As there are also corrections required to the TRO records for Grove Road and Lea Road, the opportunity has been taken to formalise the school keep-clear zig-zag markings outside Bishopswood Special School, to make them enforceable during the hours of 8am to 10am & 2pm to 5pm on Mondays to Fridays.
7. The proposals are illustrated at **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

8. Funding for consultation on the proposals and their implementation if approved has been provided by the Parish Council.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

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

Sustainability Implications

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

Formal consultation

11. The Formal consultation was carried out between 17th March and 7th April 2023. A notice was published in the Henley Standard newspaper, and an email sent to statutory consultees & key-stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, Sonning

Common Parish Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, local District Cllrs, and the local County Councillor representing the Sonning Common division.

12. Letters were sent directly to approximately 220 adjacent premises, and street notices were also placed on site in the immediate vicinity of the proposals.
13. Eight responses were received via the online survey during the formal consultation period, and these are summarised in the table below.

Proposal	Support	Object	Concerns	No objection or opinion	Total
DYLs on Wood Lane (Northwest side)	7 (88%)	-	1 (12%)	-	8
DYLs on Wood Lane (Southeast side)	6 (75%)	-	2 (25%)	-	8
DYLs on Woodlands Road	7 (88%)	-	1 (12%)	-	8
Goods Vehicles Only' bay (Woodlands Road)	8 (100%)	-	-	-	8
No Stopping on school markings (Grove Road)	7 (88%)	-	1 (12%)	-	8

14. Additionally, a further six emails were received – with one in support, three raising concerns, and Thames Valley Police & Stagecoach Bus Company submitting non-objections.
15. The responses are shown in full at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original submissions are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

16. Thames Valley Police & Stagecoach Bus Company expressed no objection to the proposals, and this is welcomed as the proposals aim to enhance road safety at junctions and the car park entrance/exits and assist bus operation and traffic flow by keeping bus stops clear.
17. The most common response to the proposals relates to enforcement, both of existing restrictions and the new proposals. As mentioned earlier in this report, there were some missing records for TROs and, together with many faded yellow lines, it was necessary to undertake this review before lines can be refreshed and full enforcement recommenced. The Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) changes in 2021 also mean that enforcement is now undertaken by the County Council instead of the police and so resources can be better managed and targeted at key locations in villages and towns such as this.

Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

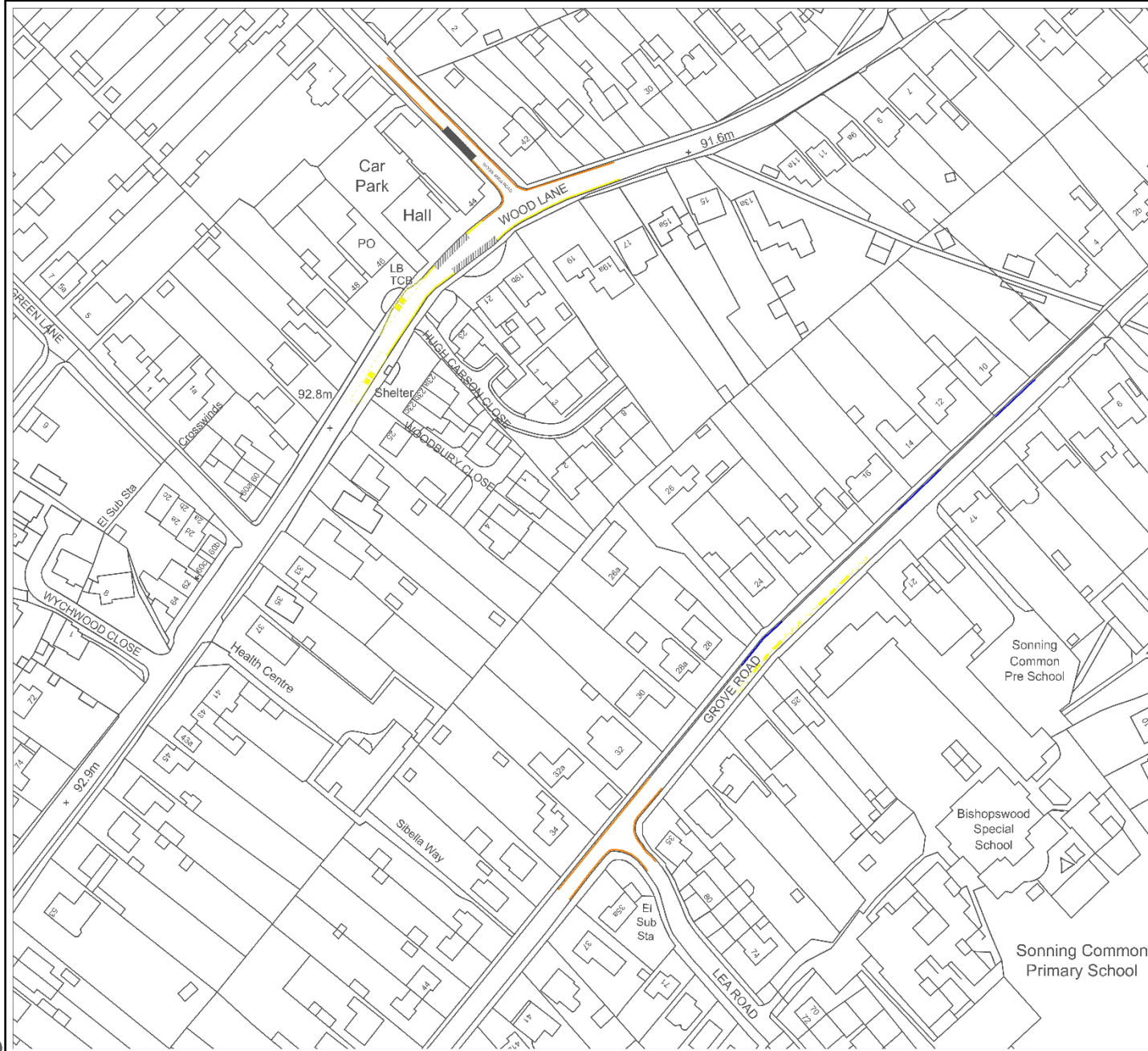
Annexes

Annex 1 Consultation Plan
Annex 2: Consultation responses

Contact Officer:

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April 2023



Drawing No.

KEY	
	Existing 'No waiting at any time' (double yellow lines)
	Proposed NEW 'No waiting at any time' (double yellow lines)
	Existing 'No waiting 8am -10am and 2pm - 5pm Mondays to Fridays'
	Proposed Loading by Goods Vehicles ONLY at any time
	Proposed no stopping on School keep clear markings times TBC
	Unrestricted parking bays

SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION	
IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARD RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS	
CONSTRUCTION	(ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)
MAINTENANCE/CLEANING	(ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)
USE	(ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)
DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION	(ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

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Project title
 Sonning Common
 Proposed amendments to
 waiting restrictions

Drawing title

Drawing Status			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by MDH	Checked by	Approved by
Not to scale	Date drawn Jan 2023	Date checked	Date approved

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No.	Revision
PRD/2022/013	0

ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(2) Local Cllr, (Sonning Common, Kennylands Road)	<p>Wood Lane (Northwest side) - Support, Wood Lane (Southeast side) - Support, Woodlands Road - Support All these measures will help to improve the village environment and make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>Goods Vehicles Only' bay (Woodlands Road) - Support The new loading bay will further away from the village car park exit which currently suffers from restricted visibility when an HGV is parked. It will improve safety to the car-park exit.</p> <p>No Stopping on school entrance markings (Grove Road) - Support The measures formalise existing arrangements and are necessary for safe access to the Primary school and Library.</p>
(3) Head of Strategic Development and the Built Environment, (Stagecoach Bus Company)	No objection – In line with usual practice I confirm that we are not affected by these proposal's and do not have any observations to make.
(4) Email response, (unknown)	Concerns – Your proposals are all very well in theory, but without enforcement, they will soon be ignored. The same applies to the recently introduced 20mph signs, placed around the village. Without enforcement they mean nothing. The Council would be better advised to spend their money on filling potholes and clearing debris from the roadside drains.
(5) Local group/organisation, (Chair Fish Volunteer Centre)	Concerns – Fish Volunteer Centre run a party for the elderly and disabled , once a month, in the village hall which is next to the car park entrance. We provide transport to the hall for the residents with our 16 seater bus.

	<p>On these occasions we park the bus outside the hall, on Wood Lane , so the residents are able to disembark and enter the hall easily, and embark when the party is finished.(Many have mobility issues, walking frames etc.)</p> <p>I hope we will be able to continue to do this when the new restrictions are in place.</p>
(6) Local resident, (Sonning Common, Grove Road)	<p>Concerns – The parking restrictions and speed limits are ignored by motorists every single day with motorists mounting the curbs and driving dangerously these factors will inevitably lead to an accident. The addition of extra restrictions will therefore be futile as has been seen with the recent speed restrictions unless they are enforced.</p> <p>I would like to invite you to witness first-hand the actions of motorists in Grove Road so you can fully appreciate the issue and deal with it accordingly for everyone’s safety.</p>
(7) Local resident, (Sonning Common, Wood Lane)	<p>Wood Lane (Northwest side) - Support, Wood Lane (Southeast side) - Concerns, Woodlands Road - Support</p> <p>I fully support the proposal to install double yellow lines opposite the local food store and extend north-eastwards. However, I don't feel the current proposal "to match up with existing double yellow lines on the opposite side" goes far enough. The double yellow lines must extend beyond (northeast of) the junction with Woodlands Road. I walk along Wood Lane on a daily basis, and very regularly see cars parked on the northeast side of Wood Lane opposite or very near to that junction with Woodlands Road. This is a blind bend, and any vehicles (which regularly include buses, school buses, large delivery vehicles, lorries and trucks) and driving southwest along Wood Lane are forced to drive on the other side of the road. This is unsafe for those drivers AND for anyone driving northeast along Wood Lane, as they encounter traffic driving on the 'wrong' side of the road around a blind bend. This also creates a significant safety hazard for anyone attempting to drive from Woodlands Road and turn left (northeast direction) of Wood Lane. I sincerely hope this comment will be listened to and acted upon for the safety of Sonning Common residents and visitors.</p> <p>Goods Vehicles Only' bay (Woodlands Road) - Support While it is close to the junction with Wood Lane, I understand goods vehicles must park close to the Co-op, and having a dedicated parking bay will facilitate this.</p> <p>No Stopping on school entrance markings (Grove Road) - Support Support, although without enforcement I suspect it will have very little impact.</p>

<p>(8) Local resident, (Sonning Common, Grove Road)</p>	<p>Wood Lane (Northwest side) - Support, Wood Lane (Southeast side) - Support, Woodlands Road - Support Hopeful will stop parking problems</p> <p>Goods Vehicles Only' bay (Woodlands Road) - Support At least delivery drivers can unload</p> <p>No Stopping on school entrance markings (Grove Road) - Concerns On your drawing it look like the yellow lines are not covering the entrance to the pre-school, we live opposite No. 21 and if the line move car will block our drive we have had a line put out side our house by yourselves so we do not have our drive block on our side of the road.</p>
<p>(9) Local resident, (Sonning Common, Woodlands Road)</p>	<p>Wood Lane (Northwest side) - Concerns, Wood Lane (Southeast side) - Concerns, Woodlands Road - Concerns Who is going to enforce the yellow lines every time I walk down woodlands rd There is always at least one vehicle on the yellow lines Or on the footway and yellow lines sometimes in the loading bay</p> <p>Goods Vehicles Only' bay (Woodlands Road) - Support Yes no problem</p> <p>No Stopping on school entrance markings (Grove Road) - Support Yes no problems</p>
<p>(10) Local resident, (Sonning Common, Orchard Avenue)</p>	<p>Wood Lane (Northwest side) - Support, Wood Lane (Southeast side) - Support, Woodlands Road - Support I fully support the proposals as I have young children who walk to school via this route and the current situation makes this particularly unsafe.</p>

	<p>I should also add though that as positive as these proposals are unless they are actively enforced then they are nothing more than a box-ticking exercise. The current markings are by and large ignored by those who park dangerously & cause issues because they are fully aware that no-one is policing the issue and enforcing them.</p> <p>If this lack of enforcement continues then no amount of updates and new markings are going to make a difference and the safety of both other road users and pedestrians will continue to be in doubt.</p> <p>Goods Vehicles Only' bay (Woodlands Road) - Support Again, I appreciate that there is the need for a Goods vehicle loading bay however, this has quickly become another open parking bay when no deliveries are taking place as people know that there are no repercussions to parking there. There have been instances previously when a good vehicle has arrived to deliver goods to the shop and it cannot stop in the bay as there are already a number of private vehicles parked. As with the other proposals, this needs to be fully enforced so that this does not continue.</p> <p>No Stopping on school entrance markings (Grove Road) - Support As mentioned previously, I have young children who attend the primary school and I believe this would make their journey to and from school safer.</p>
<p>(11) Local resident, (Sonning Common, Wood Lane)</p>	<p>Wood Lane (Northwest side) - Support, Wood Lane (Southeast side) - Support, Woodlands Road - Support</p> <p>Presently, both Wood Lane and Woodlands Road are blighted by inconsiderate drivers who pay no heed whatsoever to double yellow lines. In addition, parking opposite the T-junction between Wood Lane and Woodlands Road that is adjacent to the Co-op shop occurs almost 24 hours a day and usually on the pavement as well. Is it necessary to wait until there is a serious road traffic accident before Oxfordshire County Council will take action to ensure enforcement of existing restrictions let alone new ones? Although it is not an offence under the Road Traffic Act, The Highway Code is clear in its advice:</p> <p>Rule 243 DO NOT stop or park: opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space</p> <p>The proposed restrictions in Grove Road outside Bishopswood Special School also represent a step forward. However, parents are already parking up and down Wood Lane between 3 PM and 3:30 PM Monday to Friday on school days. This creates a considerable hazard especially for buses. Again, the challenge is how to balance</p>

	<p>detering inconsiderate road users with painting the whole of Sonning Common's roads with double yellow lines. And yet again the other issue remains – how will any of these restrictions be enforced and for how long will attention be paid to such initiatives in relation to enforcement.</p> <p>Goods Vehicles Only' bay (Woodlands Road) - Support Yellow lines are ignored all day everyday plus people parking opposite or within 10m of Woodlands Road and Wood Lane T junction makes it almost impossible for the Co-op lorries to manoeuvre and park safely. Please ensure that there are robust mechanisms for enforcing these proposals 24/7.</p> <p>No Stopping on school entrance markings (Grove Road) - Support Inconsiderate drivers are creating hazards daily - these proposals (if supported by robust enforcement measures) will help safeguard both children and parents.</p>
<p>(12) Local or County Cllr, (Sonning Common, Woodlands Road)</p>	<p>Wood Lane (Northwest side) - Support, Wood Lane (Southeast side) - Support, Woodlands Road - Support There is daily inconsiderate parking here by cars and Van's on junction of woodland and Wood Lane, in the bus stop and in the parking bay for the Coop. This is often dangerous for residents crossing the road on wood lane or driving out of the exit of the car park. These proposals will help us to reduce these issues.</p> <p>Goods Vehicles Only' bay (Woodlands Road) - Support Reduce parking in the bay preventing deliveries</p> <p>No Stopping on school entrance markings (Grove Road) - Support Keep the school entrance clear</p>
<p>(13) Local resident, (Sonning Common, Wood Lane)</p>	<p>Wood Lane (Northwest side) - Support, Wood Lane (Southeast side) - Support, Woodlands Road - Support The proposals will ease congestion, and improve visibility, around the centre of the village</p> <p>Goods Vehicles Only' bay (Woodlands Road) - Support Probably a necessity for stocking the Co-op</p>

	<p>No Stopping on school entrance markings (Grove Road) - Support Safety and visibility</p>
<p>(14) Local resident, (Sonning Common, Wood Lane)</p>	<p>Support – I fully support any measures that help to overcome inconsiderate parking in the village centre. Whilst yellow lines are indeed an improvement on the current situation, unfortunately these are largely ignored by inconsiderate drivers and are never enforced. The parish council took to coning off the double yellow lines immediately outside Co-op as people just ignore the rules for their convenience.</p> <p>People regularly park opposite the junction of Woodlands Road along Wood Lane. There are no double yellow lines, but that's because parking there contravenes the Highway Code, so no lines should be necessary. People also park in the loading bay allocated to Co-op despite it being marked out. Parking is pretty lawless around here.</p> <p>Unless these double yellow lines are enforced I'm afraid this won't provide a solution to the problem. I appreciate this is the most cost effective solution though. Quite frankly the only real solution is to make some of these areas impossible to park, such as a mini roundabout at the junction with Woodlands Road and Wood Lane and narrowing the road at least in part outside the village hall and Co-op. Although there are a couple of signs indicating the car park to the rear of the Co-op I think this could be improved, although those who park inconsiderately probably know about the car park, they just can't be bothered to walk a few more yards.</p> <p>This is not an objection and like I said at the beginning, I welcome any measures to improve the current situation.</p>