Divisions affected: Goring

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT 14 DECEMBER 2023

GORING: THAMES ROAD – PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Transport Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the introduction of new 'No Waiting at Any Time' (Double yellow lines) parking prohibition on both sides of Thames Road as advertised.

Executive summary

 This report presents responses to introduce new 'No Waiting at Any Time' (Double yellow lines) parking prohibition within Goring on Thames Road (both sides) – for a linear distance of 27 metres, extending either side of & into the access to Stow House, as shown in **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for the proposals, including consultation will be met from the developer undertaking the works.

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 will ensure that parked vehicles do not hinder the safe access to or egress from the junction, and will therefore contribute to improving the safe passage of traffic along the road.

Formal consultation

- 6. A formal consultation was carried out between 29 September and 27 October 2023. A notice was published in the Henley Standard newspaper, and an email was 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, South Oxfordshire District Council, local District Cllr's, Goring parish council, and the local County Councillor representing the Goring division.
- 7. A letter was also sent to approx. 35 properties in the area, and street notices were placed on site in the immediate vicinity.
- 8. 29 responses were received during the course of the consultation, comprising of: 22 (76%) objections, five (17%) raising concerns (including the Parish Council), one in support, and Thames Valley Police not objecting.
- 9. The full responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original submissions are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

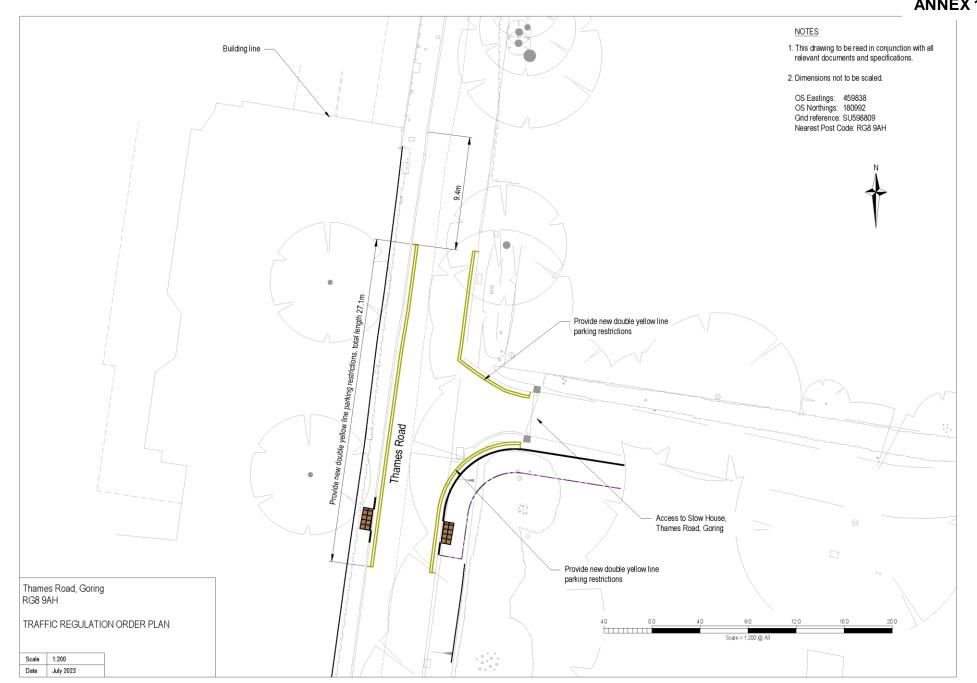
- 10. Thames Valley Police raised no objection to the proposals.
- 11. The application is for four houses to be built off of Thames Road in Goring. As part of the Technical Approval process the developer was required to submit a Road Safety Audit to appraise the highway works.
- 12. The Road Safety Audit submitted with the application raised a safety concern over the pedestrian crossing point, stating that there would be a *'risk of pedestrian / vehicle collisions with possible personal injury'. As a result,* the Road Safety Auditor made the recommendation that a greater protected distance was provided to ensure pedestrian safety at this point.
- 13. The proposals will therefore help ensure that parked vehicles do not obstruct/obscure visibility at both the informal crossing point, as well as ensuring the safe access to or egress from the junction.

Bill Cotton Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes	Annex 1: Consultation plan Annex 2: Consultation responses
Contact Officers:	Jacob Mowlem (Assistant Engineer)

December 2023

ANNEX1



RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(2) Goring Parish Council	Concerns – I am the Assistant Parish Clerk, Goring-on-Thames Parish Council. I have been asked by the Council's Traffic Management, Parking and Pedestrian Safety Committee to make the following comment: There is to be a consultation on revisions to yellow lines in Goring, Thames Road was not considered for any changes. In view of the construction traffic we suggest that parking restrictions should be temporary for the duration of the works.
(3) Local resident, (Goring, Glebe Ride)	Object - There have never been any issues with parked vehicles hindering the safe access to or egress from the junction. It is a quiet residential road and Thames Road to the left of Stow house is a dead end. Many residents also require the spaces to park their own cars due to a lack of nearby parking already. There is already an issue on weekends and evenings of visitors to the village parking illegally on the double yellow lines further down Thames Road opposite the village hall and this is never policed and causes far worse issues with congestion. There is development of the garden of Stow House and whilst this is being undertaken there does need to be restrictions in order for the building work vehicles to have access, there is no justifiable reason for making this permanent. As stated above, illegal parking in the village is never policed anyway so unless it becomes so, this will be pointless exercise anyway. All this will do is cause local residents to park further away from their houses and this includes elderly and vulnerable people.
(4) Local resident, (Goring, Thames Road)	Object - I do not think it necessary to have restricted parking for the same length on BOTH sides of the road. Adequate access and egress for lorries could be achieved if the restriction on the river side of the road were reduced by 5 - 6 metres.
(5) Local resident, (Goring, Thames Road)	Object - I live at The Pavilion, Thames Road. The proposed yellow lines are immediately outside my house. I object for the following reasons. 1. They would encourage more traffic to drive past in search of parking. 2. There would not

	be sufficient parking for visitors. (There is insufficient on-road parking in Goring anyway) 3. My Daughters partner, who lives with us, is an on call firefighter and needs his car as close to the property as possible fo emergency callouts. 4. Yellow lines are unsightly and would spoil the aesthetics of Thames Road. 5. The additional properties under construction at Stow house have an alternative entrance. 6. There has never previously been an issue at this location.
(6) Local resident, (Goring, Thames Road)	Object - I live on Thames Road. I am required to park on Thames road to be able to respond to Goring fire station as a firefighter. Parking is already scarce in goring. There is so little traffic on thames road the current on street parking in no way affects traffic flow or safety. People will still park there regardless and it will cost money, better spent elsewhere, to monitor this. It would be interesting to know who, if anyone, this proposed restriction will benefit past stow house getting diggers in.
(7) Local resident, (Goring, Thames Road)	Object - I am an occupant of Thames Road. I strongly object to the proposed parking restrictions. My home is directly outside the proposed stretch of Thames Road and provides vital parking for my family and I. There is already very limited parking on Thames Road, with the far end used mostly by the residents and visitor to Thames Bank and the top end having a 2 hour time limit. My partner and I both work for emergency services, often returning home from shifts at late hours when there will be no available parking as spaces will already be taken by local residents and visitors. My partner is an On Call Firefighter at Goring Fire Station, as part of being On Call he has to be able to get to Goring Fire Station within 5 minutes, it is therefore paramount that he parks directly outside the property in order to promptly access his vehicle, or thus proposed restrictions will put the local community at risk.
	There is very little traffic flow down Thames Road and the proposed restrictions will have no effect at reducing road speed or increasing safety at the junction. The junction is very wide and there is always good visibility down Thames Road. If the yellow lines are put in place vehicles will continue to park there regardless, just as do they everywhere else in Goring where there is double yellow lines due to there never being a parking warden to enforce them.
(8) Local resident, (Goring, The Birches)	Object - The parking at The Birches and Maple Court is extremely limited. Many residents of both areas regularly park along Thames Road and Glebe Ride. We regularly need to park on the road, as there is nowhere else to park when we get back from work. Glebe Ride is usually full by 5pm, and so that leaves Thames Road. There are also all the people using the Gardiner Recreation Ground, including all the Cricket Club members. There are also walkers and people parking for Pierreponts Coffee shop who all regularly use all the way along Thames

	Road. Parking is extremely limited in Goring. The area to be yellow-lined is a quiet back road, with limited traffic going through it. Allbeit builders will need to park during the day, which then gives the residents a space to park – with yellow lines, there would be no parking at all in the area for residents and users of the Village Hall, Cricket pitch, Pierreponts, etc
(9) Local resident, (Goring, The Birches)	Object - I would like to register my concerns, and the concerns of some of the other residents at The Birches. We are a complex of 26 houses, with no driveways. We have limited garage space and access. And unless you have a car which predates the 1970s the garages are too small to fit a car in and get out of it! There are some unallocated residents parking, but for the Thames Road side there are only about 4 spaces for the 12 houses which have that space, so as you can see, we do rely on Thames Road and Glebe Ride for parking. I often come home just after 5pm to no parking at all along Glebe Ride (most days), and have to park along Thames Road. Also where will the visitors for The Birches 26 houses, and also the Maple Court complex be able to park? Also, it is not just the Birches Residents – there are many village users who will be affected: Pierreponts Café, I imagine that business will suffer, as will the users of Gardiner Recreation Ground – there is a big Cricket Club membership who all need to park somewhere, as with Summer Clubs and so on. We often see walkers, who park along Thames Road to enjoy Goring walks. The Village Hall is often used, and where would all those people park? The car parking is extremely limited in Goring already. Lastly, Thames Road and Glebe Ride is a very quiet area, a real back street, where we hardly see any traffic. I have lived here since 2014 and the traffic has not increased dramatically in that time. There is no traffic as such, it is quiet. When the house over the road from Stow House was being renovated (2 years of many builders vans during the day), we all managed, and everything was quiet and safe. Is the traffic really that busy that double yellow lines are needed, when so many residents and Goring Village users need the parking? Please, tell us where, as local residents, that we can legally park during evenings and weekends? Lastly, would resident only parking be an option perhaps, rather than double yellow lines, as a compromise?
(10) Local resident, (Goring, The Birches)	 Object - I would like to comment on the double yellow lines which are proposed in Thames Road adjacent to and opposite the existing private access drive which will serve 4 new houses (2 semis and 2 detached) to the rear of Stowe house. We would make the following points Residents of the Birches (26 terraced houses) make use of Thames Road and Glebe Ride for parking as there are insufficient parking spaces to accommodate resident's cars in the garage and parking areas. Residents of flats and smaller houses in Thames Road likewise use Thames Road and Glebe Ride for parking. This street parking is important to residents in the area. Delivery vans and tradesmen's vehicles also use this parking. Community groups using Goring Village Hall use Thames road for parking. This is the nearest available parking for

	 the elderly. Cricketers using the Recreation ground use Glebe Ride and Thames Road for parking. Patrons of Pierrepoint's cafe also use Thames road for parking. Thames road is the nearest available parking to the cafe. The cafe is an asset for the village. The proposed double yellow lines will result in the loss of around 5 car parking spaces. Existing parked cars in Thames road and Glebe Ride act as natural traffic calming measures and cause any passing traffic to slow. The part of Thames road, where the lines are proposed is a cul de sac, traffic speeds are low and parked cars help in reducing speed. The existing bellmouth into the Birches from Glebe Ride (which serves 14 houses) has double yellow lines only on the bell mouth side of the road. The far side of the road is available for parking, there are no traffic issues. It is suggested that any new double yellow lines should likewise be restricted to the bellmouth side of the road only, where parking does not take place currently. Unnecessary time limited parking restrictions at the southern end of Thames road have already reduced the available street parking. A temporary restriction to allow contractor's large plant to access the site would be sensible but further permanent cumulative loss of parking spaces, which reduce the options available to residents and the wider village community is not desirable and on the basis of the above points, I would like to OBJECT to the proposed order.
(11) Local resident, (Goring, The Birches)	Object - I feel yellow lines on Thames road is rather unkind. If Stow house is to be developed the site should be secured with plenty of space on the Curtilage for workmen, deliveries, etc. to park and turn round on this before a security fence. They should NOT be using the road to either park on, or deliver from. Residents of The Birches work and have families, sometime there is a need for two cars, the garages were built in 1970s and modern cars do not fit in. The village car park gets full at times and there is little space outside the village hall for parking especially now white lines have been recently painter there. People using the hall park on Thames Road. No one falls out about parking on Thames Road so why make life difficult for Hall users, Local residents and visitors.

	Where are they to put their cars? Not everyone can walk a long distance.
(12) Local resident, (Goring, Thames Road)	Object - there is little free parking at present in goring, this part of thames road has always been available to residents. I expect that the application to implement the change has come from the developer of stow house wanting to get there lorries in etc, and is not for the benefit of the locals.
(13) Local resident, (Goring, The Birches)	 Object - I would like to object to the proposal for double yellow lines on Thames Road opposite Stowe House. I feel that these restrictions are unnecessary and unhelpful for the following reasons: 1. There is a shortage of parking generally in Goring but this particular area is used by local residents and visitors to the village who use local businesses and facilities. Residents of The Birches use Thames Road and Glebe Ride to park, as there is insufficient space in the garage and parking areas, together with residents of Oriel House and Maple Court who don't have parking. Customers and visitors who use Pierreponts, Goring Village Hall, the cricket and football teams who use the recreation ground etc are all affected likewise. These facilities and businesses are vital to the life of the village and unnecessary restrictions on parking would have a detrimental affect on us all. 2. Thames Road is a no through road and parking there has no detrimental affect on road users. In fact it slows traffic and is safe for all. If the addition of the four houses at Stowe House is the reason for this change perhaps it could be noted that there is a similar situation on Glebe Ride presently where the opening from The Birches is opposite parked cars and there are no problems accessing both roads. 3. If during the construction of these houses extra access space is needed for heavy lorries and construction equipment then perhaps there could be a temporary arrangement to restrict parking in that area but permanent double yellow lines are neither necessary or helpful to the village. I would be grateful if you would take these points and objections into account when reaching your decision. Times are tough for local businesses and they need all the help and support they can get. Removing vital and scarce parking at the heart of the village would not be helpful. As a resident it would make an already difficult situation much worse. The removal of 5 parking spaces would make life ha

(14) Local resident, (Goring, The Birches)	Object - We need parking available both for residents and visitors. For example, those of us living at the Birches, where parking spaces are residents only and very limited.
(15) Local resident, (Goring, Thames Road)	Object - As a resident of Thames Road, the SODC Planning Dept were clearly informed earlier in the year that the entrance to the new building site would not be practical from such a narrow road. That is why an application for Double Yellow lines has now been submitted by the builders. Fortunately TPOs have stopped them doubling the width of the existing entrance which had been proposed at the Planning Application stage.
	With Thames Road being a Dead End road, it has had to suffer vehicles reversing its length for many years especially difficult for large lorries and emergency vehicles. Previous requests to place a larger warning message at the midway intersection with Glebe Ride have been ignored.
	GPS systems even show Thames Road open highway to continue to Cleeve Rd.
	Elderly residents from Nos 18 to 21 have reasonably requested safe Resident Parking without success.
	I would be happy to meet up with one of your council officers to discuss this overkill proposal of creating Double Yellow lines on The Ridgeway!!! A well used walkers and runners paradise.
(16) Local resident, (Goring, Westway)	Object - Don't agree that the general public of Goring should suffer because a developer (and resident who originally sold the plot) want to make more money that won't help those impacted by the traffic regulations. Get them to find a way to widen the access within their land, not by creeping onto the carriageway and meaning that local users cannot park when needed.
	Furthermore, if this HAS to happen, why not make it a temporary measure, whilst building works take place and then remove after? Once those yellow lines are there, they'll be there forever which seems unnecessary if the justification is safe access for construction works

(17) Local resident, (Goring, Summerfield Rise)	Object - The village demographic needs parking close to venues such as the village hall. To remove the parking in Thames Road will have an impact on a large number of people whilst benefiting very few. I do not believe this to be a road or junction where double yellow lines are needed for safety, as I have never been aware of a personal injury accident in the last half century.
(18) Local resident, (Goring, Elvendon Road)	Object - Unnecessary as the number of vehicles entering and leaving the Stow House development is insignificant compared to the number associated with Thames Bank (opposite Stow House) where there are no restrictions and no issues. Furthermore the proposal reduces the number of parking spaces in this road significantly. This will adversely affect the Village Hall and other local businesses.
(19) Local resident, (Goring, Thames Road)	 Object - 1) Since Thames Road is a cul-de-sac, vehicles entering Stow House gateway will ONLY do so from the SOUTH side. Therefore there is NO reason to have parking restrictions NORTH of the gateway. 2) Residents of 18-21 Thames Bank have front doors on Thames Road and park their cars there for convenience, as do their visitors. This means that if tradespeople come with vehicles (plumber, electrician, decorator, removals etc) they need to park further down Thames Rd i.e. towards Stow House gateway. 3) In Thames Road, between Glebe Ride and the cul-de-sac at the northern end, cars ONLY ever park on one side (west side) in order to leave room for traffic. Therefore there is NO NEED for yellow lines on the east side. CONCLUSION: Yellow line ONLY to the SOUTH of Stow House gateway, and no yellow lines at all on east side of Thames Road
(20) Local group/organisation, (South Stoke, Goring Gap Players)	Object - Parking in Thames Road is vital to facilitate the community activities of the village hall and to enable less mobile villagers to access them
(21) Local resident, (Streatley, Wantage Road)	Object - If the new owners feel there is not enough room to manoeuvre into the drive of Stowe House they should widen their access way. There is not enough available parking in the village as it is
(22) Email response, (unknown)	Object – The parking areas along Thames Road are extremely necessary given the location of essential village amenities in the vicinity which were present before the construction of these new properties. These logistics should have been considered by the developers and Oxfordshire council together in terms of the constraints of the site being developed. The highways have not been altered in other locations in close proximity.

(23) Email response, (unknown)	Object – I would like to object to the proposal for double yellow lines on Thames Road opposite Stowe House. I feel that these restrictions are unnecessary and unhelpful for the following reasons:
	1. There is a shortage of parking generally in Goring but this particular area is used by local residents and visitors to the village who use local businesses and facilities. Residents of The Birches use Thames Road and Glebe Ride to park, as there is insufficient space in the garage and parking areas, together with residents of Oriel House and Maple Court who don't have parking. Customers and visitors who use Pierreponts, Goring Village Hall, the cricket and football teams who use the recreation ground etc are all affected likewise. These facilities and businesses are vital to the life of the village and unnecessary restrictions on parking would have a detrimental affect on us all.
	2. Thames Road is a no through road and parking there has no detrimental affect on road users. In fact it slows traffic and is safe for all. If the addition of the four houses at Stowe House is the reason for this change perhaps it could be noted that there is a similar situation on Glebe Ride presently where the opening from The Birches is opposite parked cars and there are no problems accessing both roads.
	3. If during the construction of these houses extra access space is needed for heavy lorries and construction equipment then perhaps there could be a temporary arrangement to restrict parking in that area but permanent double yellow lines are neither necessary or helpful to the village.
	I would be grateful if you would take these points and objections into account when reaching your decision. Times are tough for local businesses and they need all the help and support they can get.
	Removing vital and scarce parking at the heart of the village would not be helpful. As a resident it would make an already difficult situation much worse. The removal of 5 parking spaces would make life harder for local residents searching for somewhere to park close to home and I wish to reiterate my strong objection to the plan.
(24) Local resident, (Goring, Thames Road)	Object – Once again the planning process at South Oxfordshire is impacting the residents negatively whilst the landowners and developers make hay.
	Planning permission was given to build substantial homes on the rear of a residential property. These homes are not addressing the wider needs of homes for residents and are purely to make financial gain for a very few.

	Now we learn of plans to reduce the available parking in Thames Road for the very clearly foreseeable problem this planning approval created. Please see comments on the planning. I can only assume that the authorities accepted the concerns but decided to ignore them assuming they would impose these restriction later.
	This piece of road is used by visitors and residents to park. I use this at times when the other parts of Thames Road are full when events are at the village hall. I can only hope that one day the authority will be honest with residents and be clear that planning decisions can adversely impact them without any concerns. The road itself is still suffering from the damage caused by other builds and I am resigned to this happening again after this build project has provided large gains to the select few.
(25) Local resident, (Goring, Thames Road)	Concerns – I have studied the plan you provided, but am unclear as to how far the restrictions will extend as Stow House has two drives into Thames Road. At present the second drive is under construction to be made into a road to service 4 new properties being constructed at the back of Stow House. Do the parking restrictions as layed out on your plan cover the exit of the new road into Thames Road as well as access to my drive of Denville Lodge? If not, then my drive will be constantly blocked day and night, as it is already, by parked cars to make access for blue light vehicles impossible not to mention any delivery vehicles. One car has already been parked outside my property for months without being moved.
(26) Local resident, (Goring, Manor)	Concerns - Parking is already a problem in Goring and it was rarely a problem for the family who lived in Stow house before as i know them.
	Why not include public car parking in or off the Stow property?
(27) Local resident, (Goring, Valley Close)	Concerns - Enough Parking and drop off points for elderly ky and disabled wishing to access village hall functions.
(28) Local resident, (Goring)	Concerns - Parking is sorely needed in the area and existing parking needs enforcement so cars are not left for weeks blocking short term parking spaces
(29) Local resident, (Goring, Elmhurst Walk)	Support - This road has residents parking which hinders access to river gardens