

**MARSTON MEYSEY: OBJECTIONS TO EXPERIMENTAL PROHIBITION  
OF WAITING ORDER**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider objections to the experimental prohibition of waiting on roads in Marston Meysey around Fairford Air Base and to recommend the Order be made permanent.

**Background**

2. The Air Base at Fairford is situated across the Gloucestershire-Wiltshire border with the main access in Gloucestershire. The base is occupied by the United States Air Force.
3. The Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Constabularies considered very carefully measures needed to maintain safe access to the site, particularly when it is operating at states of high alert.
4. The Police and the Military agreed that an area wide prohibition of waiting at all times on the roads around the airport should be introduced. There was an intention that within the residential areas of the villages waiting would be prohibited, except for residents who would be issued with a permit.
5. As the major portion of the restrictions were in the town of Fairford and parishes of Kempsford and Meysey Hampton in Gloucestershire, and a smaller portion in Wiltshire, the proposals were formulated and organised by Gloucestershire County Council.
6. A meeting was held with representatives of Marston Meysey Parish Council, the Wiltshire Constabulary and an officer of the Environmental Services Department to discuss details of the proposals in the Parish. The restrictions in the built-up area of the village would have been visually intrusive, particularly because of the signs required to indicate the exemptions for residents.
7. It was therefore agreed that the proposed restrictions within the village area would not be pursued and consequently these were deleted from the experimental order.
8. The "no waiting at any time" in the rural area of the Parish, as shown on the plan at **Appendix 1**, was introduced experimentally in July 2003. The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions do not require signs to indicate the restriction and the order is indicated by double yellow lines only.

9. As a result of the introduction of this Order, objections have been received to the Order being made permanent. These are summarised in **Appendix 2**. Full copies are available in the **Members' Room** and from the Environmental Services Department prior to the meeting.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

10. A decision has to be taken as to whether the Order should be made permanent or whether the lines should be removed.
11. The comments in **Appendix 2** in relation to the points raised indicate that, on balance, the Order should be made permanent.
12. The Police indicate that the restrictions are an appropriate measure to maintain both security and access along the various routes, when the base is at a state of high alert or fully operational. The restrictions are also useful during the times of the Royal International Tattoo, although this event is not the reason for the restrictions.
13. The degree of enforcement by the Police will depend on the level of the state of alert operating at the base.

### **Environmental Impact of the Recommendation**

14. The environmental impact has been kept to a minimum by using 50mm narrow yellow lines with no road signs. The restrictions were not introduced in the village to avoid the environmental intrusion in this attractive area that would otherwise have occurred.

### **Risk Assessment**

15. The non-retention of the restrictions could impact on the access to the site at critical times.

### **Financial Implications**

16. There is no additional cost involved in making the current Order permanent.

### **Options Considered**

17. The options are:-
- (i) to make the Order permanent, or
  - (ii) not to make the Order permanent and to remove the double yellow lines.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

18. It is considered the retention of the restrictions is the most appropriate way to control traffic and maintain access on the roads in the Wiltshire area. It is understood Gloucestershire County Council are proposing to make the Orders in its area permanent. This will provide a uniform approach around the base.

## **Recommendation**

19. That:-

- (i) The experimental Order be made permanent, and
- (ii) The objectors be advised accordingly.

**GEORGE BATTEN**

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**The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:**

None