

7th JANUARY 2009

SALISBURY: RESIDENTS' PARKING ZONE H EXTENSION
OBJECTIONS TO IMPLEMENTATION

Purpose of Report

1. To:
 - (i) Consider the objections to the advertised Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).
 - (ii) Recommend implementation of the proposals subject to the changes set out in this report.

Background

2. The existing Residents' Parking Zone H (RPZH) was introduced in March 2003 and lies within the St. Mark and Stratford Ward.
3. During the consultation process undertaken, as part of the introduction of the existing RPZH, residents of both Campbell Road and St. Mark's Avenue rejected the opportunity to become part of the residents' parking scheme at this time.
4. Between March 2003 and June 2007 37 letters were received by the Joint Transportation Team (JTT) requesting that the boundary of the RPZH be extended to tackle commuter, shopper and school parking problems being experienced by local residents. Of these 37 letters 19 were from residents of Campbell Road and 11 were from residents of St. Mark's Avenue (or roads directly off it) requesting the introduction of waiting restrictions within these roads. The other letters relate to requests for waiting restrictions in Cornwall Road (3), Moberly Road (2), Queensberry Road (1) and Wordsworth Road (1).
5. In the summer of 2007, following the complaints received, the District Council Portfolio Holder for Transport instructed officers of the JTT to undertake the necessary survey and design work to produce the TROs to extend the RPZH boundary to cover these roads.
6. The TRO survey and design work supporting the proposals was begun in November 2007 and the associated TROs were formally advertised for comment on the 16th October 2008. Wiltshire County Council's closing date was the 10th November 2008 for receipt of objections or other representations to the advertised TROs, together with the grounds on which they were made.

Summary of Scheme Proposals

7. A total of three TROs were advertised as part of this scheme. The advertised TROs proposed:
- Extending RPZH to include Campbell Road and St. Mark's Avenue. This will consist of the introduction of 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions, 'No Waiting Monday - Saturday 8.00 am - 6.00 pm' and 'No Waiting Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 11.00 am' restrictions and residents' parking bays with 'Parking Limited to 2 Hours, No Return Within 4 Hours Monday - Saturday 8.00 am - 6.00 pm'.
 - The introduction of 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions in Hollows Close, Harnham to improve traffic flow along the road. The design and implementation of these restrictions were requested by the local District and County Members and could be accommodated as part of the TRO work to extend RPZH.
 - The introduction of 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions in Spire View to control parking. These restrictions are required following the construction of the adjacent Spire View housing estate. The design and implementation of these restrictions could be accommodated as part of the TRO work to extend RPZH.
8. Full copies of the TROs advertised as part of this scheme are available in the Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County Council **Members' Rooms**.

Representations

9. No objections have been received to the proposals for Campbell Road. However, a resident from St. Mark's Avenue has made comments.
10. No objections or other representations have been received in relation to the proposals for Hollows Close or Spire View.

Support

11. Three letters of support have been received in relation to the proposals for Campbell Road. Copies of the letters of support are available in the Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County Council **Members' Rooms**.

Objections

12. A total of 14 letters objecting to the proposals have been received. Copies of the objection letters are available in the Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County Council **Members' Rooms**. The substantive issues raised by the objectors are detailed below:

Proposals for St. Mark's Avenue between Netheravon Road and Somerset Road

13. Of the 14 letters received 8 raise concerns regarding the proposals for St. Mark's Avenue between Netheravon Road and Somerset Road.

The issues raised are:

- The proposed 'No Waiting Monday - Friday 10.00 am -11.00 am' restriction will not prevent commuters from parking in this location and walking into the city centre.
- The different hours of operation of the proposed restrictions on this section is a formula for confusion and probably parking abuse. It is suggested all areas currently designated for the 10.00 am-11.00 am restriction are re-designated to operate as residents' parking bays.
- Where the proposals result in parking occurring on both sides of St Mark's Avenue it will result in the road effectively becoming a single lane carriageway. In turn this will lead to severe bottlenecks and traffic jams.
- A request to remove the proposed length of parking bay opposite the junction of St. Mark's Avenue and Netheravon Road.

The proposals will lead to an increase in the speed of vehicles using St. Mark's Avenue

14. Of the 14 letters received 7 raise concerns that the proposals would lead to an increase in the speed of vehicles using St. Mark's Avenue and have requested that the introduction of traffic calming in the road be considered.

Removal of Proposed 'No Waiting Monday-Saturday 8.00 am - 6.00 pm' Restrictions from St. Mark's Avenue between St. Mark's Roundabout and St. Mark's House

15. Two letters have requested the removal of the proposed 'No Waiting Monday - Saturday 8.00 am -6.00 pm' restrictions from St. Mark's Avenue between St. Mark's Roundabout and St. Mark's House on the grounds that the existing overnight parking taking place at this location causes congestion along St. Mark' Avenue and back onto Churchill Way for motorists seeking to turn into the road. The objectors have requested that the proposed restrictions are replaced with 'No Waiting At Any Time'.

Consideration of Substantive Objections

Proposals for St. Mark's Avenue between Netheravon Road and Somerset Road

16. The main purpose of the proposed 'No Waiting Monday - Friday 10.00 am -11.00 am' restriction is to stop the commuter parking currently taking place in Campbell Road and at the southern end of St. Mark's Avenue from being displaced further along St. Mark's Avenue. Commuters are not being able to leave their place of work between 10.00 am and 11.00 am to move their car.
17. Whilst the proposed use of this restriction will also prevent residents from parking on St. Mark's Avenue between 10.00 am and 11.00 am it is hoped that overall the use of this restriction will prove to offer more flexibility for them and their parking requirements. The proposed restriction would only operate for five hours per week instead of 60 hours per week if a more conventional 'No Waiting Monday - Saturday 8.00 am - 6.00 pm' restriction were to be used.

18. The low level of residents parking actually taking place on this section of St. Mark's Avenue between 10.00 am and 11.00 am and the high level of off-street parking available to residents of the road have allowed the County Council to propose this restriction. However, this is the first time the County Council has proposed a restriction of this nature to try to control parking within a residents' parking zone. Whilst this type of restriction has proved to be successful elsewhere in the country, the County Council will need to monitor its effectiveness in St. Mark's Avenue with a view to amending the waiting restrictions if necessary.
19. The proposals for St. Mark's Avenue are not considered too confusing. In total the TROs propose four different restrictions for introduction in St. Mark's Avenue, as set out in Paragraph 7 above. The only difference in the restrictions proposed for St. Mark's Avenue is that south of Netheravon Road the operating hours of the single yellow line restrictions would be Monday - Saturday 8.00 am - 6.00 pm, whilst north of Netheravon Road the operating hours of the single yellow line restrictions would be Monday - Friday 10.00 am-11.00 am. The different hours of operation for the proposed single yellow line restrictions would also be clearly identified on the signs that legally need to be erected to accompany the road markings.
20. Parking on this section of St. Mark's Avenue is currently unrestricted which means that parking can currently take place on both sides of the road and cause the problems highlighted by the objectors. During the survey work undertaken by officers as part of the development of the proposals, it was noted that parking was taking place on both sides of the road through the course of the day, particularly during school drop off and pick up times. Given that no complaints regarding parking on both sides of this section of St. Mark's Avenue had been received by the JTT prior to the advertisement of these proposals, it is fair to say that this issue seems to be causing very few if any problems for local residents. If anything this situation is likely to be improved by the introduction of 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions which would provide protected lengths of road where vehicles could safely pull over to allow other vehicles to pass at times when parking is taking place on both sides of the road.
21. Netheravon Road is a private road which has an extremely large junction bellmouth. The request to remove the proposed length of parking bay opposite the junction of St. Mark's Avenue and Netheravon Road has been made by two residents of Netheravon Road. They have plans to reduce the width of the junction bellmouth at this location to improve road safety, stop vehicles undertaking U-turns in the junction bellmouth and reduce the speed of vehicles entering/exiting Netheravon Road.
22. Whilst the proposed parking bay opposite the junction of St. Mark's Avenue and Netheravon Road would not impact on the objectors' proposals to narrow the width of junction bellmouth in any way, the suggested removal of the parking at this location could be accommodated without overtly impacting on the rest of the proposals.

The proposals will lead to an increase in the speed of vehicles using St. Mark's Avenue

23. Officers from the Wiltshire and Swindon Camera Safety Partnership have previously undertaken speed surveys of vehicles using St. Mark's Avenue. The results indicated that 51% of vehicles using the road were speeding, with particular speeding problems noted to occur outside the school at drop off and pick up times.

24. All reported personal injury accidents within the county are held on a database, which allows problem locations to be easily identified. Despite the results of the speed surveys indicating that there is a speeding problem along St. Mark's Avenue, the results of an investigation into recorded personal injury accidents show the road to have a good safety record, with only one recorded accident in the past three years. The recorded accident involved a pedestrian being slightly injured after being clipped by a car after stepping into the road outside St. Mark's Church. The Police investigation into this accident did not list speed as a contributory factor in the accident.
25. The proposals have been designed in such a way that they would help to reduce the speed of traffic using St. Mark's Avenue providing that vehicles use the parking bays on both sides of the road. However, officers acknowledge that extensive use of the parking bays on both sides of the road is most likely to occur at school drop off and pick up times. Outside of these times the existing problems with speeding along the road are likely to remain.
26. A request to introduce traffic calming into the St. Mark's Avenue area already sits on the County Council's list of schemes awaiting the allocation of funding.

Removal of Proposed 'No Waiting Monday - Saturday 8.00 am - 6.00 pm' Restrictions from St. Mark's Avenue between St. Mark's Roundabout and St. Mark's House

27. There is already a single yellow line restriction in place along St. Mark's Avenue between St. Mark's Roundabout and St. Mark's House. The restriction of the existing single yellow line is 'No Waiting Monday - Saturday 9.00 am - 6.00 pm'. If implemented the proposals would change this restriction to 'No Waiting Monday - Saturday 8.00 am - 6.00pm'.
28. Given that no complaints regarding the existing single yellow line restriction had been received by the JTT prior to the advertisement of these proposals, it is fair to say that the existing restriction appears to be causing very few, if any problems for local residents. However, officers acknowledge that parking on the single yellow line restriction at this location could potentially cause congestion for vehicles travelling along St. Mark's Avenue and vehicles exiting St. Mark's Roundabout into St. Mark's Avenue. The replacement of the single yellow line restriction at this location with a 'No Waiting At Any Time' restriction could be accommodated without overly impacting on the rest of the proposals.

Consideration of Other Objections/Comments Received

29. A summary of the other comments received from objectors to the proposals, together with the officer responses are attached as **Appendices 1 and 2**.

Options Considered

30. The following options have been considered:
- (i) Implementation of the proposals as advertised.
 - (ii) Modification the proposals in light of the objections received.
 - (iii) Abandonment the proposals.

Reasons for Recommendation

31. The changes to the proposals have been recommended for the following reasons:
- (i) The removal of the parking proposed opposite the junction of St. Mark's Avenue and Netheravon Road and its replacement with a 'No Waiting At Any Time' restriction would provide a further length of road where vehicles could safely pull over to allow other vehicles pass at times when parking is taking place on both sides of the road further up St. Mark's Avenue.
 - (ii) The removal of the single yellow line restriction along St. Mark's Avenue between St. Mark's Roundabout and St. Mark's House would avoid potential congestion problems that would affect vehicles travelling along St. Mark's Avenue or exiting St. Mark's Roundabout into St. Mark's Avenue.

Recommendation

32. That:
- (i) The proposals be modified in light of the objections received at the formal consultation stage. It is proposed that the following changes be made to the proposals:
 - The parking proposed opposite the junction of St. Mark's Avenue and Netheravon Road be removed and replaced with a 'No Waiting At Any Time' restriction.
 - The single yellow restrictions along St. Mark's Avenue between St. Mark's Roundabout and St. Mark's House be removed and replaced with a 'No Waiting At Any Time' restriction.
 - (ii) With the exception of the changes detailed above the remaining proposals be implemented as advertised.
 - (iii) Objectors are informed accordingly.

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

None.