

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – CLLR PHILIP WHITEHEAD

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

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REFERENCE: HT-17-16

REVIEW OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS – MERE TOWN CENTRE

Purpose of Report

1. To:
 - (i) Consider objections to proposed amendments to the layout of waiting restrictions in Mere Town Centre.
 - (ii) Recommend implementing the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) with amendments to the Council's proposals as set out in **Appendix 4**.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The proposed TRO meets one of the key priorities of the Council's Business Plan. That priority being:
 - Outcome 2 – People in Wiltshire work together to solve problems locally and participate in decisions that affect them.

Background

3. Wiltshire Council was approached by Mere Town Council via the South West Wiltshire Community Area Transport Group and asked to review the waiting restrictions within Mere Town Centre in order to improve traffic flow and the parking for the local businesses.
4. There were three main areas of concern:
 - Access for large vehicles, in particular the school bus, on Water Street between Salisbury Street and Ivy Mead.
 - Improving the parking provision for local businesses within the town centre.
 - Resolving the issue of hold ups on Salisbury Street caused by parked vehicles narrowing the carriageway to a single lane, with a lack of forward visibility.

Summary of Proposals

5. One TRO was advertised as part of this scheme and proposed:
 - (i) To amend the restriction placed on the limited waiting parking bays in The Square and Boar Street from waiting limited to 30 minutes, return prohibited within 1 hour Monday - Saturday 9.30am – 4.00pm for All Vehicles under 3.5t maximum gross weight to waiting limited to 1 hour, return prohibited within 1 hour Monday to Saturday 9.00am - 6.00pm for all vehicles under 3.5t maximum gross weight.

- (ii) The introduction of additional limited waiting bays in The Square and Church Street with a waiting limited to 1 hour, return prohibited within 1 hour Monday to Saturday 9.00am - 6.00pm for all vehicles under 3.5t maximum gross weight restriction.
- (iii) To replace the short section of no waiting Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm restriction in The Square with a no waiting Monday to Saturday, 9am to 6pm to compliment the proposed amendments to the parking bays.
- (iv) The introduction of no waiting at any time at the junction of The Square and Angel Lane.
- (v) The introduction of no waiting at any time on the north side of Salisbury Street between 'Vogue Cottage' and a point opposite the access road to the car park.
- (vi) The introduction of no waiting at any time on the south side of Salisbury Street between 'Court Cottage' and the access road to the car park.
- (vii) Remove the No vehicles except loading restriction on The Square outside of The Co-operative Store.

6. A plan showing the Council's advertised proposals is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Summary of Responses

- 7. 5 representations were received in total. 3 of objection, all from residents, 1 of comment from the Wiltshire Councillor and 1 of support from a Mere Town Councillor. A summary is attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 8. 2 residents were objecting to the extension in times of operation of the parking bays and also that additional lengths were to be introduced. 1 was objecting to the introduction of no waiting at any time outside of Scone Cottage. The Wiltshire Councillor made comment on both of these items. A summary of the correspondence received, together with officer's comments, is attached as **Appendix 3**. The objections are all associated with the loss of parking for residents.
- 9. As the matter was initially raised by Mere Town Council and the Wiltshire Councillor for Mere, George Jeans, further discussion was facilitated between the two to afford a practicable solution.

Proposed amendments to the advertised TRO

- 10. After discussion with Mere Town Council and the Wiltshire Councillor, George Jeans, (the official communication can be found in **Appendix 5**) it has been agreed that the following amendments will be made to the proposed order:
 - (i) There was an error on the plan published with the TRO, which showed the bays as being subject to a 'Waiting limited to 30 minutes, return prohibited within 1 hour Monday to Saturday, 9.00am – 6.00pm' restrictions rather than proposed restriction of 'Waiting limited to 1 hour, return prohibited within 1 hour Monday to Saturday, 9.00am – 6.00pm'. However, as both the published order and press advertisement contained the correct restriction it is not considered that this will need re-advertisement.

- (ii) The time restriction placed on the limited waiting parking bays in The Square and Boar Street will proceed as proposed and be amended from waiting limited to 1 hour, return prohibited within 1 hour Monday - Saturday 9.00am – 6.00pm. This will allow residents to park between 5.00pm and 10am.
- (iii) The introduction of additional limited waiting bays and a 'No waiting at any time' restriction in Church Street will not proceed; this will afford the residents additional on-street parking.
- (iv) The proposed length of 'No waiting Monday to Saturday 9am to 6pm' will not proceed and will remain as 'No waiting Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm'.
- (v) The proposed length of limited waiting outside of The George will be shortened by 4 metres to allow vehicular access to be maintained to the private garage at this location.

Safeguarding Considerations

- 11. There is no risk to the Council as a result of these proposals.

Public Health Implications

- 12. There are none in this scheme.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

- 13. The proposed changes to the layout of waiting restrictions require the laying of road markings and the erection of signs on the public highway. Doing so would have an impact on the visual aspect of the area. However, there are currently restrictions already in existence, subject to the provision of both road markings and signs, and therefore the resultant impact from the Council's current proposals would be minimal.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

- 14. There are none in this scheme.

Risk Assessment

- 15. There is no risk to the Council as a result of these proposals.

Financial Implications

- 16. The funding for this scheme will all be funded via the allocation given to the discretionary highways budget available to the South West Wiltshire Area Board.

Legal Implications

- 17. The introduction of new waiting restrictions requires the processing of a TRO. The process of introducing a TRO is governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and associated procedural regulations. Failure to adhere to the statutory processes could result in the restrictions being successfully challenged in the High Court.
- 18. In line with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 changes made to a TRO at this stage that are considered to be less onerous and therefore do not need to be re-advertised for public comment.

Options Considered

19. To:
- (i) Implement the proposals as advertised in **Appendix 1**.
 - (ii) Implement the proposals with amendments as set out in **Appendix 4**.
 - (iii) Abandon the proposals.

Reason for Proposal

20. In light of the comments received during the consultation period, it is felt that the proposal is the most appropriate course of action to balance the issues faced by residents and provide increased parking for local businesses and/or improving traffic flows.

Proposal

21. That:
- (i) The Traffic Regulation Order be made with the amendments as listed above and in accordance with **Appendix 4**.
 - (ii) Objectors and commenters be informed accordingly.

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

- Letters of comment
- Letters of objection
- AutoTRACK drawings