
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 20th October 2009
Subject: Proposed Waiting Restrictions – A4012 Woburn Road, Hockliffe
Report of: Basil Jackson
Summary: To report to the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities the results of a consultation with residents of the A4012 Woburn Road and Old School Court, Hockliffe on the proposed introduction of waiting restrictions and to seek approval for a way forward for implementation.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
Nick.chapman@amey.co.uk

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Toddington

Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

that the proposal to introduce waiting restrictions on the A4012 Woburn Road be implemented as set out in this report.

Background and Information

1. Hockliffe Lower School, Hockliffe is included in a scheme in the Safer Routes to School initiative in this years work programme. The design proposals have taken into account the road safety issues highlighted in School Travel Plan prepared by Hockliffe Lower School, concerns raised by Hockliffe Parish Council, and also some other issues identified during site visits by engineers.

The measures proposed include a highlighted uncontrolled crossing point close to school's pedestrian entrance via the foot bridge, widening of the footway, improved road signing, a reduction in speed limit, and a proposal to introduce waiting restrictions for a short period during school start and finish times.

2. During site visits at school start times it was observed that vehicles were parked alongside the kerb immediately south of the existing crossing point. This parking obscured visibility of the school crossing patrol operation point. This underlined the need to restrict waiting close to the crossing point on the eastern side of carriageway.
3. Travelling northbound on the A4012 Woburn Road from its junction with the A5 in Hockliffe, there is a footway on the both sides of the carriageway. The footway on the west side terminates immediately after the uncontrolled crossing point located close to school's pedestrian entrance via the foot bridge. The footway on the east side extends further north from Hockliffe Village. It is 1.4m wide but reduces to 600mm width on the culvert. This is not sufficient width for the safe movement of pedestrians. As the carriageway at this location is 7m wide, it is proposed to reduce the carriageway width to 6.4m to achieve a minimal width of footway (1.2m). The visual width of carriageway will further be reduced to 6m when single yellow lines are laid. This should assist in reducing vehicle speeds.
4. Due to concerns over pedestrian safety and in particular school children, it is important to keep the uncontrolled crossing point along with widened part of footway clear of parked vehicles during school start and finish times. Therefore waiting restrictions for one hour during the am and pm school times are proposed.

It is also proposed to introduce a 'No Stopping' Traffic Regulation Order on the school keep clear markings in line with current council policy.

Following the consultation period on the proposals no objections have been received for the proposed reduction in speed limit (to 30mph) but two objections have been received to the proposed waiting restrictions.

No objections have been received to the 'No Stopping' proposal for the school keep clear.

The Way Forward

5. Of the two objections received to the waiting restrictions, one was from a resident of Old School Court, Woburn Road. This was on the grounds of insufficient parking space. The resident has to park one car on the road as the household has 2 cars but one parking space. The waiting restriction proposed would prevent this. Also, the resident has expressed concerns that proposing waiting restrictions at this location would cause a drop in the value of the property.

The other objection was received from a small business Cattery Ltd on the grounds that such restrictions to the south of their driveway would displace parents to park their vehicles around their access making it dangerous for their customers. To prevent this from occurring, Cattery Ltd has requested that the waiting restrictions are to cover their entrance.

6. The proposal to introduce 'No Waiting 8-9am and 3-4pm' (single yellow lines) on one side of the A4012 Woburn Road around Hockliffe Lower School premises will have very minimal effect on the existing resident parking. However, the restrictions would improve safety of school children and accompanying parents by increasing visibility to school crossing patrol operation site. Other than at school times the parking situation will be as at present.

The request for an extension of the proposed waiting restriction is not considered necessary for the same reason, although the displacement of parking will be monitored after implementation and if necessary further action taken.

7. The portfolio holder is requested, notwithstanding the two objections, to approve the implementation of the proposals as advertised on the basis of road safety outside the school gate.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The promotion of safety schemes in the vicinity of schools based on school travel plans is an ongoing Council priority.

Financial:

There is an allocation of £43,080.0 in the current years work programme for the implementation of Safer Routes to School for Hockliffe Lower School from which this work will be funded.

Legal:

None as a result of this report

Risk Management:

None as a result of this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as a result of this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None as a result of this report

Community Development/Safety:

None as a result of this report

Sustainability:

Widened footway and enhanced crossing point with waiting restriction in place may help encourage pedestrian movements thus a decrease in car use to drop off and pick up school children.

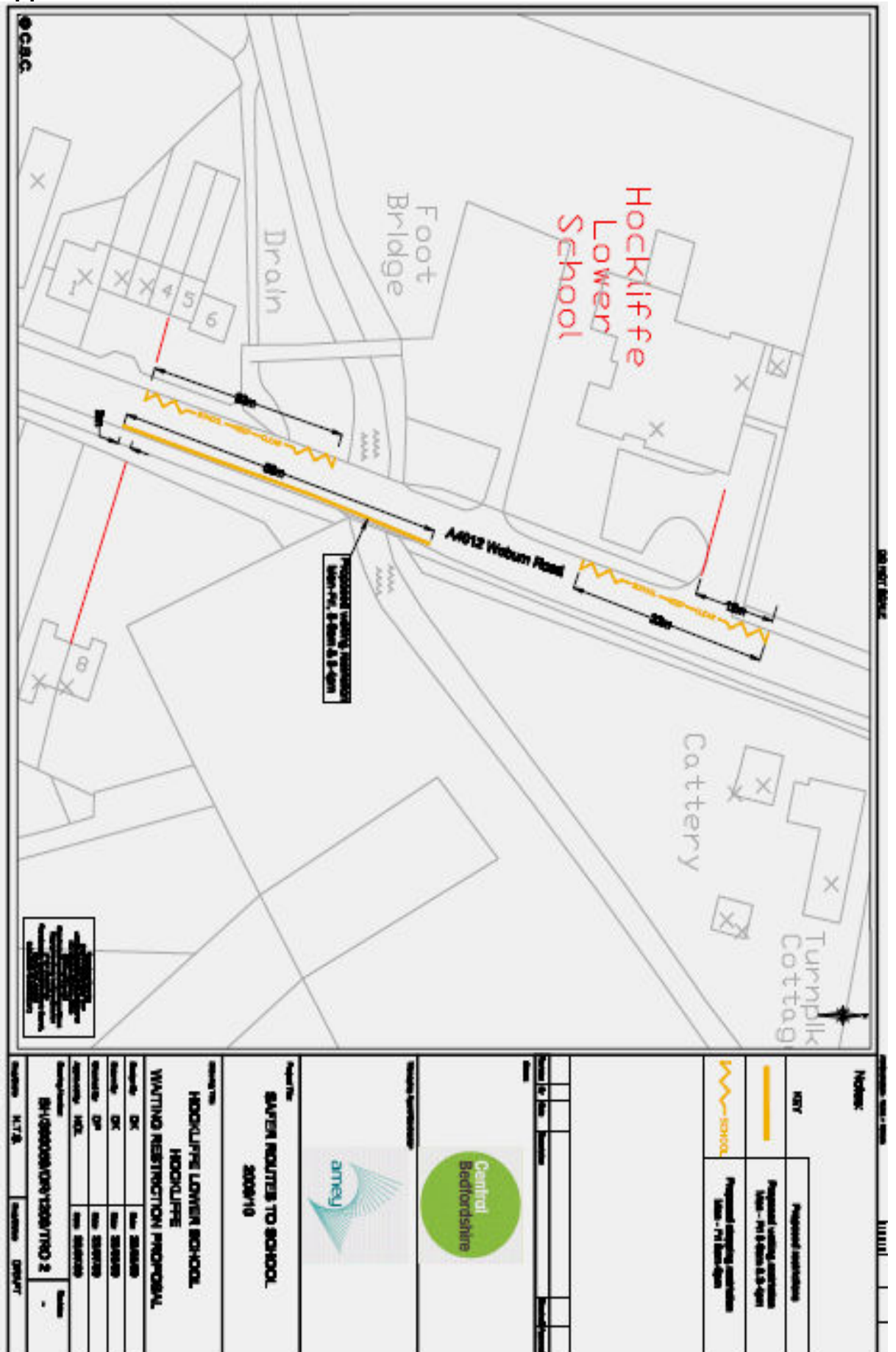
Appendices:



Appendix A – Plan of proposals

Appendix B – Copy of original notice

Background Papers
Objections

Appendix A



<p>Notes:</p> <p>KEY</p> <p>Proposed utility restriction  Proposed utility restriction 10m - 7m & 10m & 10-4pm</p> <p>Proposed utility restriction  SCHOOL 10m - 7m & 10m & 10-4pm</p>	
<p>Project Title:</p> <p>SAFETY ROUTES TO SCHOOL 2009/10</p>	
<p>Client:</p> <p>HOCKLIFFE LOWER SCHOOL HOCKLIFFE WANTING RESTRICTION PROPOSAL</p>	
<p>Author: DK</p> <p>Checked: DK</p> <p>Approved: GR</p> <p>Approved: MKL</p>	<p>Date: 28/04/09</p> <p>Date: 28/04/09</p> <p>Date: 28/04/09</p> <p>Date: 28/04/09</p>
<p>Project Reference: BH-1000008/09-1200/7/NO 2</p> <p>Scale: A1:7.5</p> <p>Revision: 01/07</p>	



PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE NO STOPPING AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS ON THE A4012 WOBURN ROAD, HOCKLIFFE

Reason for proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary on the grounds of promoting road safety. The waiting restriction is specifically aimed at keeping the School Crossing Patrol operation location free of parked vehicles during the school start and finish times. The No Stopping restrictions are aimed at keeping entrances to the Hockliffe Lower School free of parked vehicles during school opening hours where a 'Safer Routes to School' scheme is being promoted.

Therefore, Central Bedfordshire Council proposes to make a Road Traffic Regulation Order as follows:

Effect of the Order:

A. Introduce no waiting, 8am to 9am and 3pm to 4pm Monday to Friday inclusive on the following length of road in Hockliffe:-

On the eastern side of the A4012 Woburn Road, Hockliffe which extends from a point approx 2 metres south of the boundary between property Nos 7 and 8 Woburn Road in a north easterly direction for a distance of approx 56 metres.

B. Introduce No Stopping, 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday inclusive on the following lengths of road in Hockliffe:-

On the western side of the A4012 Woburn Road, Hockliffe which extends from the boundary between the property Nos 4 and 5 Old School Court in a north easterly direction for a distance of approx 32 metres.

On the western side of the A4012 Woburn Road, Hockliffe which extends from a point approx 12 metres north of the northern flank wall of Hockliffe Lower School in a south westerly direction for a distance of approx 32 metres.

Further Details: of the proposed Order and a plan may be examined during normal office hours at Customer Service Centre, Central Bedfordshire Council, High Street North, Dunstable and normal opening hours at Dunstable Library, Vernon Place, Dunstable. These plans will be placed on deposit until 6 weeks after the Order is made or until it is decided not to continue with the proposal. Phone Deepak Kaphle on 08453 656057 for further details.

Objections: should be sent in writing to the Orders and Commons Registration Officer, Countryside Access Service, Central Bedfordshire Council, PO Box 1395, Bedford MK42 5AN, stating the grounds on which they are made by 14th September 2009.

Order Title: if made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (Bedfordshire County Council (Civil Enforcement Area and Special Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2008) (Variation No *) Order 200**".

PO Box 1395
Bedford MK42 5AN

Basil Jackson
Assistant Director for Highways

11th August 2009

Objections

Orders and Commons Registration Officer
Countryside Access Service
Central Bedfordshire Council
PO Box 1395
Bedford
MK42 5AN

10th September 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with regards to the proposed plans to make the parking on the A4012 outside the school restricted

I object to the plans due to the fact that we have two cars in our household with only one parking space this means that we use that part of the road to park our vehicle on. The working hours my partner and myself have to do mean we will be directly affected by the plans.

The alternatives for parking will be the A5, which is far too dangerous due to the volume of traffic along the road. We could park on the same side of the road by our house which is again near the A5 but this will cause huge problems with traffic building up around the traffic lights and will not be safe for the children walking to school and crossing the road.

I completely agree the speed of the traffic along the A4012 by the school is too fast and I will fully support anything that will reduce the speed. However how do our cars not being there have any bearing on this?

The school has a lolly pop lady who helps the children cross the road safely and I fail to see how our car causes a problem? If she stands on the same side of the road as the school she will have complete visibility as no one parks on that side, which will however change if these plans get implemented. The only problem I see is the parents who park all along both sides of the road to drop their children off. Surely a village like Hockliffe only has children from the village attending to the school so why are these parents who are concerned about their children's safety not helping the situation and walking to school?

Another concern is the resale value of my home. If you restrict the parking this will have a direct impact to our neighbour's property values and ours, which is already struggling due to current climate.

Please let me know if these plans go ahead the proposal you have for alternative parking for ourselves and other people that are in the same situation, of which I can think of four of my neighbours.

Yours Faithfully

Orders & Commons Registration Officer
Countryside Access Service
Central Bedfordshire Council
PO BOX 1395
Bedford
MK42 5AN

Dear Sir,

We would like to object to the planning permission proposed to enforce a 'no waiting' area on the A4012, Woburn Road. Our residence and business is the boarding cattery opposite the school and we already suffer from taxis and parents using our drive to turn in and parking in front of our driveway. This makes it dangerous for our customers and us when trying to pull into or out of our driveway. The new 'no waiting' lines are sure to increase this and no doubt some of the parents will begin to use our drive as a car park.

Due to this we would like to propose that the no waiting mon-fri area is extended (on our side of the road, opposite to the school) in front of our property to cause fewer disagreements and hazards.

Many thanks for your time, if you need to contact either of us for more discussion, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,