

Appendix 1



Bedfordshire
county council

Committee/Date:	Development Control Committee 16 th September 2008
Title:	Petition – Poor Visibility Long Close, Stondon. Request for Parking Restrictions.
Council Priority:	Local Transport Plan policies that address the priority of safer roads
Report of:	BASIL JACKSON – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT
Directorate:	ENVIRONMENT
Contact:	Debbie Poynton, Bedfordshire Highways
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Action required:	To note the situation with regard to parking at Long Close and agree that no action is taken to introduce parking restrictions at this location.
Electoral divisions affected:	Silsøe and Shillington - Councillor Rita Drinkwater
Appendices:	1. Petition 2. Location Plan 3. Aerial Photograph 4. Photographs 5. Assessment
Status:	Open

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The Committee is requested to recommend to Councillor Wootton, Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste, to note the situation with regard to parking on Station Road / Long Close, Lower Stondon and agree that no action is taken to introduce parking restrictions (double yellow lines) at this location.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1. A petition with 36 signatures by local residents was presented by Councillor Rita Drinkwater to the County Council meeting on the 14 February 2008 requesting the introduction of parking restrictions on Station Road at its junction with Long Close, Lower Stondon.

3. REASON FOR DECISION / REPORT

- 3.1. The County Council considers all petitions presented to it and responds accordingly.

4. PROPOSAL / DETAIL OF REPORT

- 4.1 A petition with 36 signatures by local residents was presented by Councillor Rita Drinkwater to the County Council meeting on the 14 February 2008.
- 4.2 Residents are requesting that parking restrictions be introduced along a length of Station Road on each side of the junction with Long Close for a distance of 10 metres.
- 4.3 A number of concerns have been raised by residents regarding the number of vehicles parking along Station Road at the junction with Long Close. The parked vehicles cause poor visibility for motorists exiting Long Close on to Station Road.
- 4.4 Station Road is subject to a 30mph speed limit and provides access to several residential roads. Long Close is a private residential road.
- 4.5 Residents have suggested that the use of a mirror would be beneficial to motorists exiting Long Close. Unfortunately, the use of visibility mirrors is not supported by Bedfordshire Council. Visibility mirrors can cause both an obstruction and a distraction to drivers. It is therefore intended to take no further action in respect of this request.
- 4.6 During a number of site visits there were vehicles parked along Station Road close to the junction with Long Close.
- 4.7 Concerns from local residents regarding the provision of waiting restrictions at this location have been received. A number of residents living close to the junction are blue badge holders and concerns have been raised that if yellow lines were introduced at this location greater than the 10m from the junction access to their property would be affected. The severity of their disability prevents the residents walking any distance particularly if they parked within Long Close as the footway is on an incline up to the junction with Station Road.
- 4.8 Residents have previously been advised by local Police that parking is permitted at this location but not for a given distance from the junction.
- 4.9 Enforcement by Police has recently been carried out at this location. Residents have previously been advised by local Police of where to

park to avoid causing an obstruction but some have failed to respond and have been issued with a fixed penalty parking ticket.

- 4.10 The Police have stated that the courts are reluctant to pursue prosecution for obstruction unless waiting restrictions are also present. There is a view from the police that because of the layout of this junction there is a potential safety issue and they would support the introduction of waiting restrictions.
- 4.11 Accident records show that between 1 May 2005 and 30 April 2008 the last three years for which records are available, there have not been any recorded personal injury accidents along Station Road and its junction with Long Close.
- 4.12 It is not current policy to introduce waiting restrictions at junctions on an ad hoc basis. There are many such junctions throughout the County and it would be impossible and impractical to introduce restrictions at them all. In cases where there is specific support from the police restrictions would be considered but still subject to the normal assessment process as outlined below.
- 4.13 The removal of parked vehicles along Station Road close to the junction with Long Close would improve access for motorists and improve visibility for motorist and pedestrians.
- 4.14 Throughout the year we receive a large number of requests for a whole range of works and it is therefore necessary for us to prioritise such requests by considering the following criteria;
 - Road safety
 - Congestion relief
 - Capacity Improvement
 - Environmental Impact
 - Promotion of integrated transport
 - Improving accessibility
 - Council policy
 - Cost
- 4.15 Using this criterion an assessment has been carried out to prioritise this request for the introduction of waiting restrictions. Using a point based assessment form (Appendix 1).
- 4.16 Following the assessment each request is then put into one of three categories – Low 1- 10 points, Medium 11 – 35 points and High priority 35 + points.

4.17 The forward programme for minor Traffic Regulation Orders currently stands at approximately 70 locations with 50 locations scoring 15 + points. Station Road / Long Close scored 8 points and is a low priority. No funding is available to undertake low priority works.

4.18 Parking at Station Road / Long Close will continue to be monitored and should circumstances change this request would be reconsidered under the present assessment scheme.

5. **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

5.1 Dangerous parking and obstruction of the highway is a prosecutable offence, residents may consider contacting the Police who may consider using their existing powers of enforcement to resolve the matter.

6. **CONSULTATION**

6.1. None as a result of this report

7. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

7.1. Financial implications/risks including value for money

7.1.1. None as a result of this report

7.2. Legal implications/risks

7.2.1. None as a result of this report

7.3. Human Resources implications/risks

7.3.1. This report and recommendation does not have any implications under the Human Rights Act 1998.

7.4. Equality & Diversity implications/risks

7.4.1. None as a result of this report

7.5. Sustainability implications/risks

7.5.1 None as a result of this report

8 CONCLUSION

Members are advised to note:

- 8.1 That this request has been assessed as low priority and as a result would not be likely to be funded in the foreseeable future.
- 8.2 Parking at Station Road / Long Close will continue to be monitored and should circumstances change this request would be re-considered under the present assessment scheme.

Background Information

Petition
Location Plan,
Aerial photograph
Photographs
Assessment

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