Meeting:	**Traffic Management Meeting**
Date:	**5th April 2011**
Subject:	**Bloomfield Drive & School Lane, Shefford - Resolution of objections to the proposed Prohibition of Waiting**
Report of:	**Basil Jackson, Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation.**
Summary:	To report to the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities the receipt of two objections to proposals for waiting restrictions in Bloomfield Drive and School Lane, Shefford and seek approval for the implementation of this scheme.

Contact Officer:	Piotr Bogusiewicz – Traffic Engineer piotr.bogusiewicz@amey.co.uk

Public/Exempt:	Public
Wards Affected:	Shefford
Function of:	Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

To improve highway safety and facilitate the free flow of traffic.

Financial:

Implementation of this scheme will cost £3k which is available within existing budgets

Legal:

None as part of this report

Risk Management:

None as part of this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as part of this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None as part of this report

Community Safety:

The proposal will improve road safety

Sustainability:

The proposal may encourage more school trips being made by more sustainable means of transport

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. (a) That the proposals to introduce No Stopping and No Waiting restrictions in Bloomfield Drive, Ampthill Road and School Lane, Shefford be implemented as set out in this report.

Background and Information

1. The Council has received complaints over a period of several years about indiscriminate parking in Bloomfield Drive and School Lane, Shefford at the start and end of the school day. This creates a road safety hazard and causes inconvenience and irritation to local residents. In response to these concerns the Council has allocated funding to introduce parking controls outside Robert Bloomfield Middle School and Shefford Lower School in Shefford.

2. The initial proposals as shown in Appendix A were drawn up and preliminary consultations were carried out in November 2010 with the emergency services, other statutory bodies, local residents, the Town Council and Elected Members.

3. As a result, 13 responses, as shown in Appendix D, were received; all from local residents. Some were opposed to the scheme, some offered support and/or alternative suggestions. The Police had no objections.

4. Following the residents' comments, the scheme proposals were amended in an attempt to address residents' concerns and requests. The major revision was the addition of No Waiting from Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 4.30pm on the west side of Bloomfield Drive. The revised proposals were formally advertised by public notice in February/ March 2011. Consultations were also carried out with the emergency services, other statutory bodies, the Town Council and Elected Members.

5. The advertised restrictions are shown in Appendix B and include the following:-
   - No Waiting at any time around the junction of Bloomfield Drive and Ampthill Road.
   - No Waiting at any time around the junction of School Lane and Ampthill Road, plus an additional length extending into School Lane.
   - No Waiting Monday to Friday from 8am to 4.30pm on the west side of Bloomfield Drive and on the east side of Bloomfield Drive opposite the school and extending a short distance into George Street
   - No Stopping Monday to Friday from 8am to 4.30pm on the school keep clear markings outside Robert Bloomfield Middle School.

6. During the formal consultation period 6 representations, including 5 objections, were received, and again, all of them from local residents. Copies of relevant correspondence are contained in Appendix E and the comments received are summarised below.

7. The main points raised by those responding to the formal consultation were as follows:-

a) If parents are unable to park in Bloomfield Drive they will be forced to park elsewhere, including Ampthill Road, which is busier and traffic speeds are higher, so more hazards are present.
b) Rather than introducing parking restrictions, more off-road parental parking should be provided at the school or drop-off and pick-up areas installed.
c) The existing restrictions should be better enforced and/or some police attention should be given to the area.
d) There are concerns that the restrictions will increase the number of cars being parked in School Lane, which is already at a high level.

8. In addition there were a number of representations received during the preliminary consultation that were not addressed by the amended proposals. Assurances were given that these would be taken into account at the end of the formal consultation stage. These are as follows:-

a) Parking is also a problem during evenings and weekends and the proposals will not address that.
b) Significant inconvenience will be caused to residents who park in School Lane as the restrictions will remove a number of parking places.
c) The restrictions in School Lane should apply during school times only and not at all times.
d) The restrictions in School Lane will push the parking further along the road, which will create more difficulties during school travel times.
e) The proposals for Ampthill Road will inconvenience residents.
f) Kingfisher Way was built to relieve the pressure on Bloomfield Drive, but is not used as such.

9. Bedfordshire Police accept the proposals and have raised no objection.

10. Shefford Lower School and Robert Bloomfield Middle School accept the scheme proposals and have raised no objections.

11. Shefford Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council's Elected Members accept the proposals and have raised no objections.

Conclusion and the Way Forward

12. In response to the objectors' comments, Bedfordshire Highways makes the following comments:-

a) It is acknowledged that the restrictions are likely to result in some migration of parking to adjacent roads, but it is difficult to predict which roads might be used. It is felt that the intensity of the current parking in Bloomfield Drive needs to be addressed and it is preferable to spread the parked cars over adjacent roads where their impact will be less. It will still be legally permissible for parents to stop on the single and double yellow lines, but not the school keep clear markings, for the purposes of setting down or picking up passengers. In addition, by restricting parking near to the school it is hoped that some parents will decide not to bring their children to school by private car and encourage them to consider walking or cycling.

b) The provision of off-road parking and/or drop off and pick up areas would be a costly solution, which neither the Council nor School are in a position to finance. In any event, some restrictions would probably still be needed to control on-street parking at several critical locations.
c) At the present time, there are in fact no parking restrictions for the Council's enforcement officers to deal with. The existing school keep clear markings are not supported by a legal Order and hence are unenforceable. The police do have powers to deal with obstruction, but this is not a high priority for them and is less straightforward to deal with than yellow line type restrictions.
d) It is possible that the imposition of restriction in Bloomfield Drive will result in more parents parking in School Lane. However, this is already heavy parked at the start and end of the school day and there is very little extra capacity for parking there. In addition, the current proposals include for yellow lines in School Lane, so any parked cars should not be parked in hazardous places.

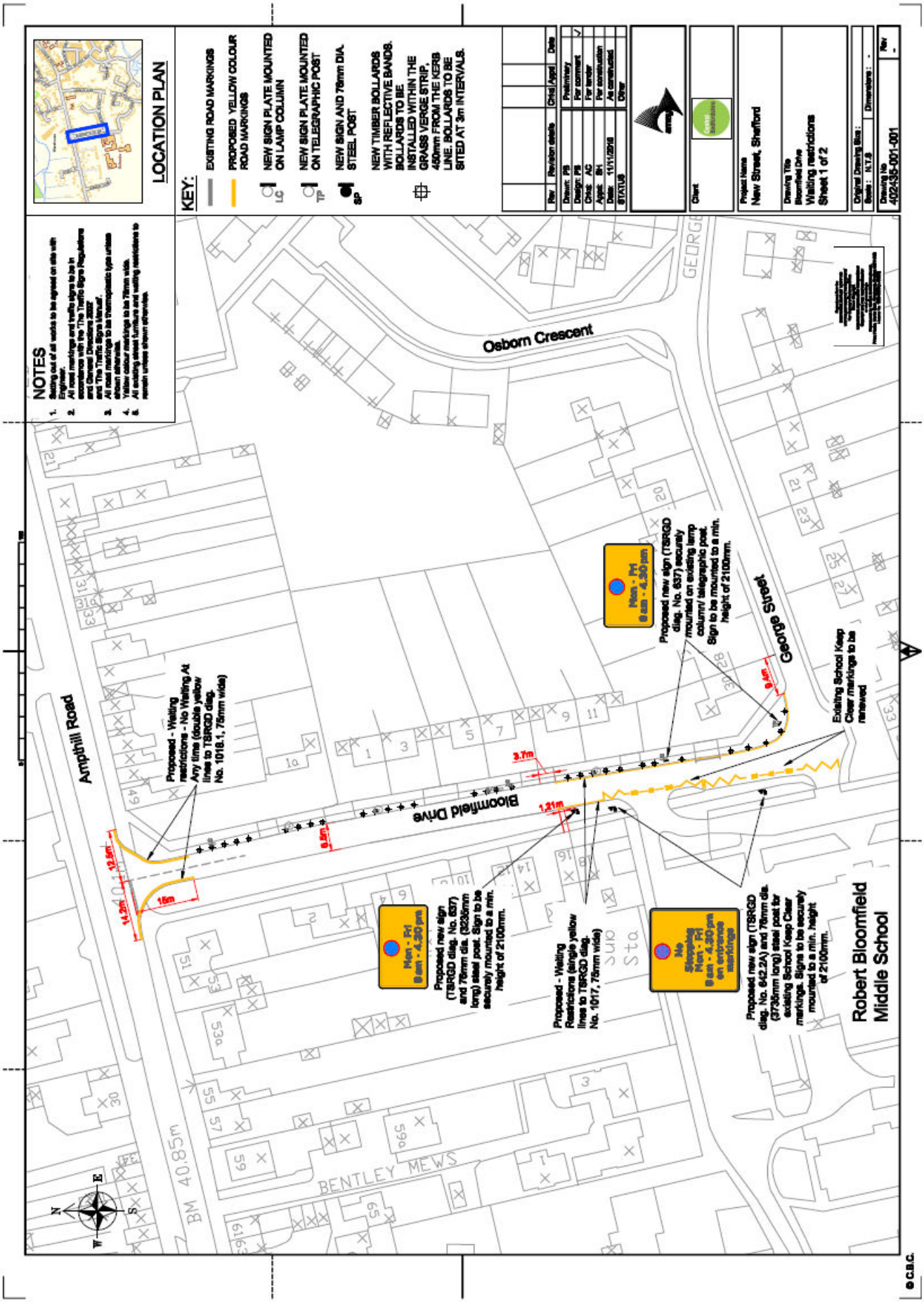
13. In response to the comments received during the preliminary consultation that could not be incorporated into the revised proposal, Bedfordshire Highways makes the following comments:-

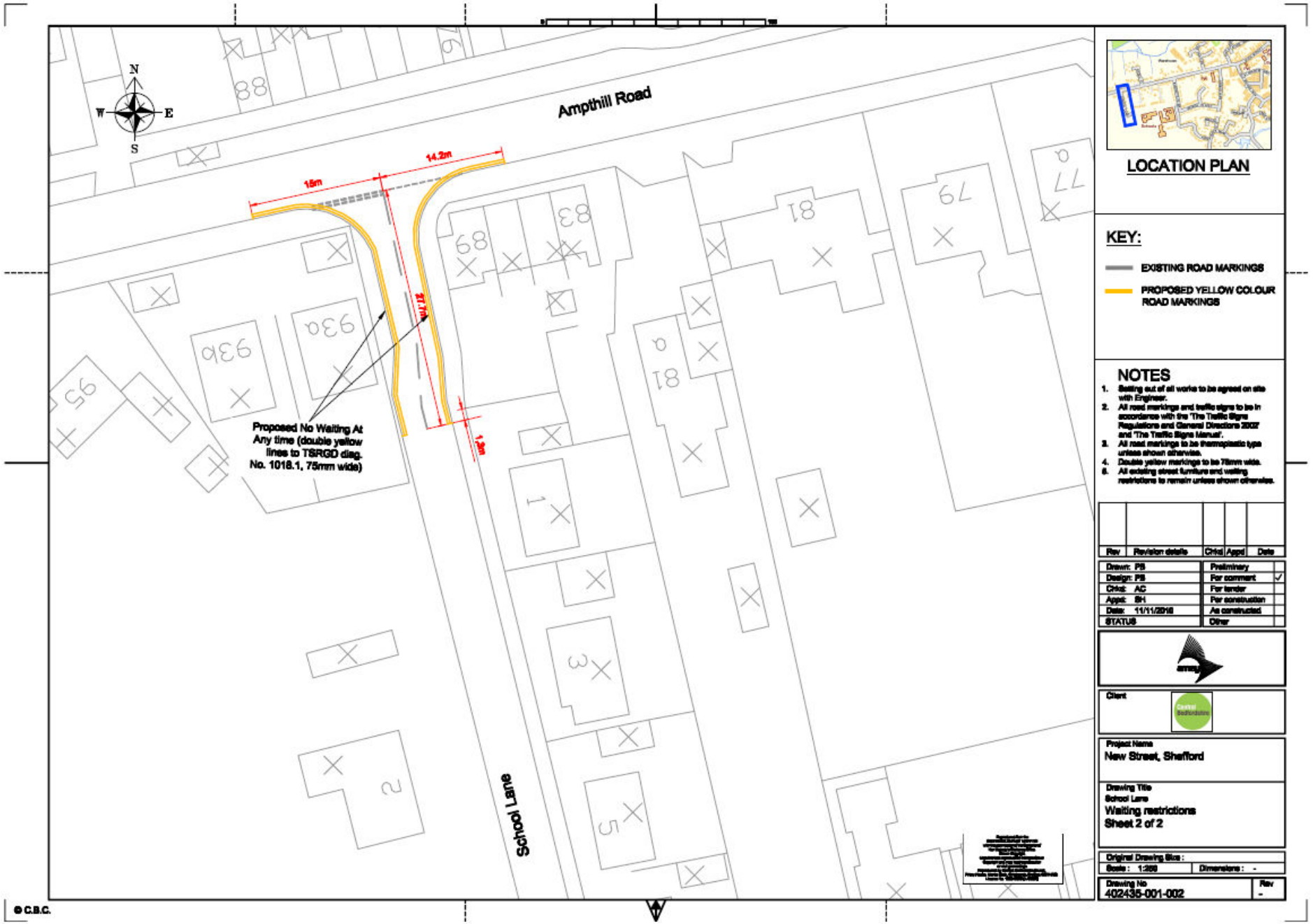
a) There are activities taking place during the evenings and weekends that generate parking in Bloomfield Drive, but this is usually less intense than during the normal Monday to Friday school travel times. Hence, it was decided to propose restrictions that would apply from Monday to Friday between 8am and 4.30pm. This would give residents the opportunity to park there during evenings and weekends when their need for parking is greater.
b) It is estimated that the restrictions would result in about four fewer spaces being available. This number is not regarded as a significant loss of parking spaces and is dictated by the accessibility and road safety requirements. Roadside space will remain in School Lane, which should satisfy residents' needs.
c) Where parking restrictions are introduced mainly on road safety grounds, such as around junctions, they usually apply at any time because any hazards exist at all times. This is the case in School Lane. In addition, the double yellow lines that are used to mark at any time restrictions are likely to suffer less abuse than single yellow lines which would be used to mark a lesser restriction.
d) It is accepted that the restrictions in School Lane may result in parked vehicles being pushed further into that road. However, the main hazard that needs to be addressed is the conflict between turning vehicles at the junction of Ampthill Road and School Lane. If the parking restrictions are implemented the situation will be monitored and if necessary further restrictions could be considered.
e) The proposed restrictions in Ampthill Road only cover the immediate junctions with Bloomfield Road and School Lane and these are lengths of road where cars should not be parked.
f) Kingfisher Way does provide an alternative means of access to the schools, but is not an attractive alternative for some parents probably because it would involve a fairly lengthy detour and Kingfisher Way has limited on-street parking spaces near to the schools.

14. In summary, it is felt that the advertised restrictions strike the right balance between addressing the main concerns about parking at these locations, whilst not creating unreasonable inconvenience to residents. Consequently, it is recommended that the proposals proceed as advertised.

Appendices:
Appendix A - Location plan (Preliminary consultation)
Appendix B - Location plan (Statutory consultation)
Appendix C - Public notice
Appendix D - Responses received to Preliminary consultation
Appendix E - Representations to Statutory consultation

APPENDIX A


LOCATION PLAN
KEY:
EXISTING ROAD MARKINGS
PROPOSED YELLOW COLOUR ROAD MARKINGS
NEW SIGN PLATE MOUNTED ON LAMP COLUMN
NEW SIGN PLATE MOUNTED ON TELEGRAPHIC POST
NEW SIGN AND 76mm DIA. STEEL POST
NEW TIMBER BOLLARDS WITH REFLECTIVE BANDS. BOLLARDS TO BE INSTALLED WITHIN THE GRASS VERGE STRIP, 450mm FROM THE KERB LINE. BOLLARDS TO BE SITED AT 3m INTERVALS.
NOTES
Setting out of all works to be agreed on site with Engineer.
All road markings and traffic signs to be in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 and The Traffic Signs Manual.
All road markings to be thermoplastic type unless shown otherwise.
Yellow colour markings to be 75mm wide.
All existing street furniture and waiting restrictions to remain unless shown otherwise.
Osborn Crescent
George Street
Bloomfield Drive
Ampthill Road
BENTLEY MEWS
Robert Bloomfield Middle School
Proposed - Waiting restrictions - No Waiting At Any time (double yellow lines to TSRGD diag. No. 1018.1, 75mm wide)
Proposed new sign (TSRGD diag. No. 637) securely mounted on existing lamp column/ telegraphic post. Sign to be mounted to a min. height of 2100mm.
Existing School Keep Clear markings to be renewed
Proposed new sign (TSRGD diag. No. 637) and 76mm dia. (3235mm long) steel post. Sign to be securely mounted to a min. height of 2100mm.
Proposed - Waiting Restrictions (single yellow lines to TSRGD diag. No. 1017, 75mm wide)
Proposed new sign (TSRGD diag. No. 642.2(A) and 76mm dia. (3735mm long) steel post for existing School Keep Clear markings. Signs to be securely mounted to a min. height of 2100mm.
Mon - Fri 8 am - 4.30 pm
No Stopping Mon - Fri 8 am - 4.30 pm on entrance markings
9.4m
3.7m
1.21m
6.5m
12.5m
14.25m
15m
Drawing No 402436-001-001
Rev -
Sheet 1 of 2
Waiting restrictions
Bloomfield Drive
New Street, Shefford
Client
Central Bedfordshire
Drawn: PB
Design: PB
Chkd: AC
Appd: BH
Date: 11/01/2018
BT/KTJB
Preliminary
For comment
For tender
For construction
As constructed
Other
Rev Revision details Chkd Appd Date
© C.B.C.


N
W
E
S
Ampthill Road
14.2m
15m
11.7m
1.2m
Proposed No Waiting At Any time (double yellow lines to TSRGD diag. No. 1018.1, 75mm wide)
School Lane
88
89
83
81
79
77a
93a
93b
95
1
3
5
2
LOCATION PLAN
KEY:
EXISTING ROAD MARKINGS
PROPOSED YELLOW COLOUR ROAD MARKINGS
NOTES
1. Setting out of all works to be agreed on site with Engineer.
2. All road markings and traffic signs to be in accordance with the 'The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002' and 'The Traffic Signs Manual'.
3. All road markings to be thermoplastic type unless shown otherwise.
4. Double yellow markings to be 75mm wide.
5. All existing street furniture and waiting restrictions to remain unless shown otherwise.
Rev
Revision details
Chkd
Appd
Date
Drawn: PS
Design: PS
Chkd: AC
Appd: BH
Date: 11/11/2016
STATUS
Preliminary
For comment
For tender
For construction
As constructed
Other
Client
Project Name
New Street, Shefford
Drawing Title
School Lane
Waiting restrictions
Sheet 2 of 2
Original Drawing Size :
Scale : 1:250
Dimensions : -
Drawing No
402435-001-002
Rev
-
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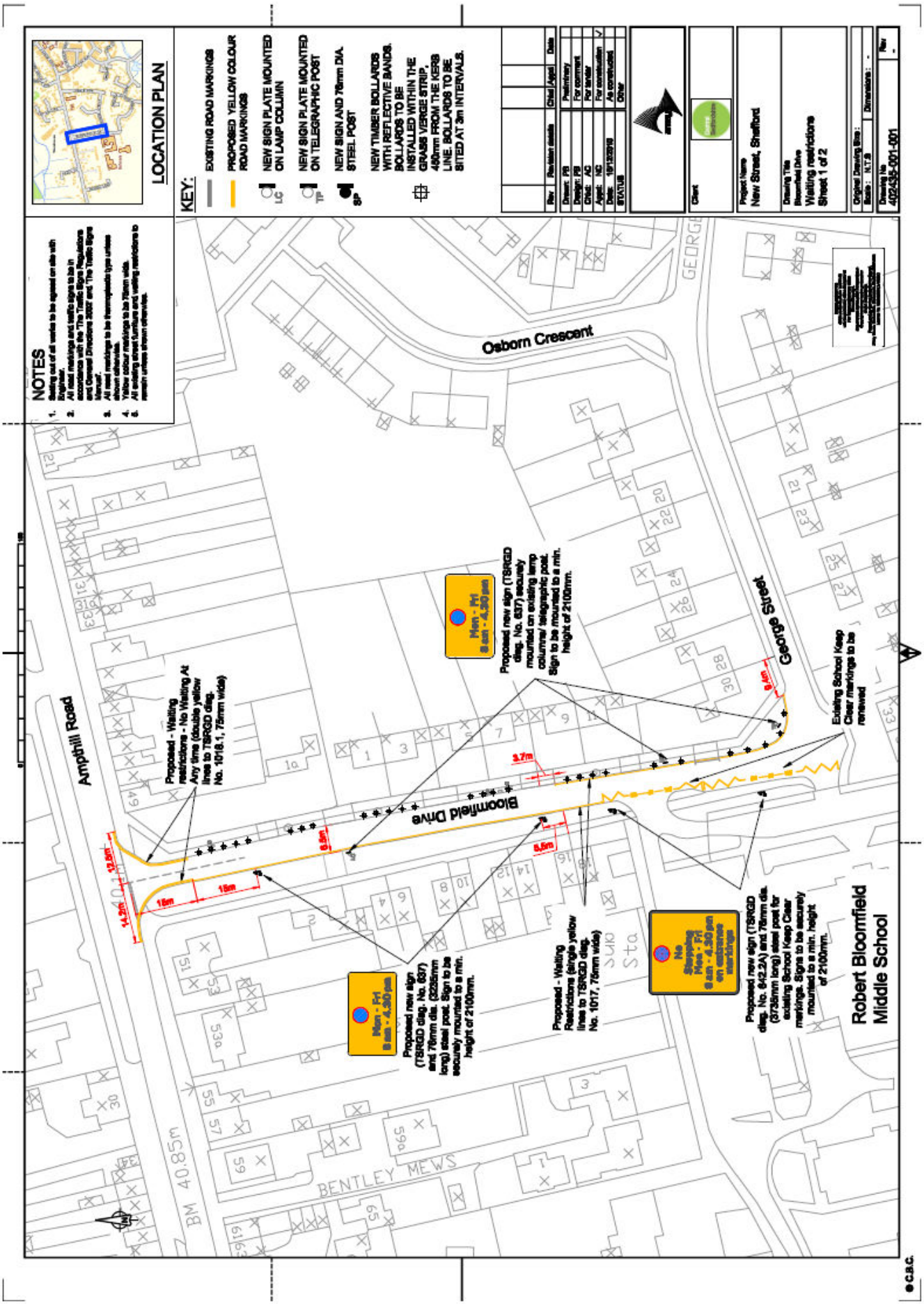
APPENDIX B


LOCATION PLAN
KEY:
EXISTING ROAD MARKINGS
PROPOSED YELLOW COLOUR ROAD MARKINGS
NEW SIGN PLATE MOUNTED ON LAMP COLUMN
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NOTES
Osborn Crescent
George Street
Bloomfield Drive
Ampthill Road
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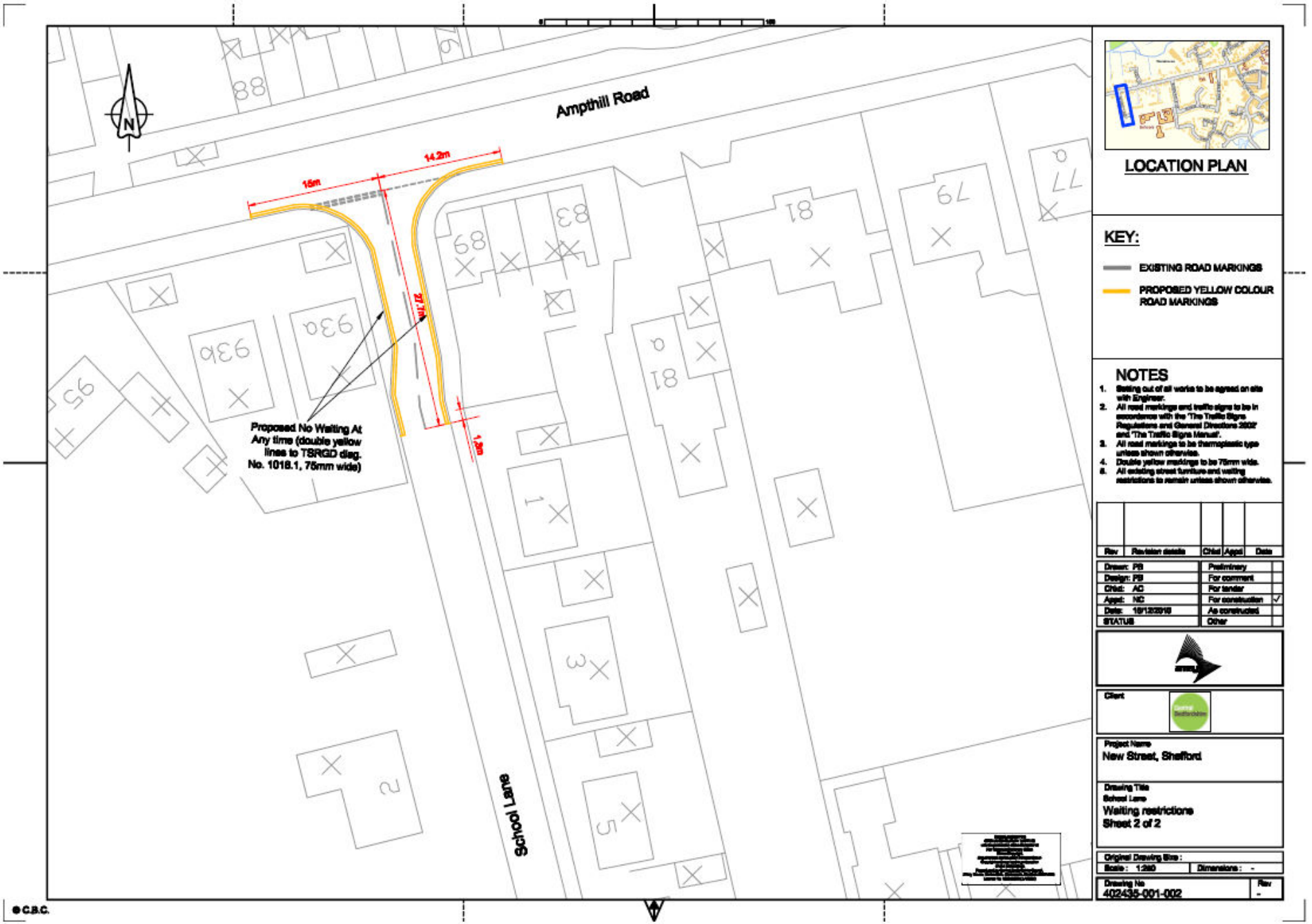
14.2m
12.5m
18m
18m
9.5m
9.5m
9.5m
3.7m
BM 40.85m
Rev
Revision details
Chkd
Appd
Date
Drawn: PB
Design: PB
Chkd: AS
Appd: NC
Date: 19/12/2019
STATUS
Preliminary
For comment
For tender
For construction
As constructed
Other
Client
Project Name
New Street, Shefford
Drawing Title
Bloomfield Drive
Waiting restrictions
Sheet 1 of 2
Original Drawing Size :
Scale : N.T.S
Dimensions : -
Drawing No
402439-001-001
Rev
-
© C.B.C.



LOCATION PLAN

KEY:

EXISTING ROAD MARKINGS

PROPOSED YELLOW COLOUR ROAD MARKINGS

NOTES

1. Setting out of all works to be agreed on site with Engineer.
2. All road markings and traffic signs to be in accordance with the 'The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002' and 'The Traffic Signs Manual'.
3. All road markings to be thermoplastic type unless shown otherwise.
4. Double yellow markings to be 75mm wide.
5. All existing street furniture and waiting restrictions to remain unless shown otherwise.

Rev	Revision details	Chkd	Appd	Date

Drawn: PB	Preliminary	
Design: PB	For comment	
Chkd: AC	For tender	
Appd: NC	For construction	✓
Date: 19/12/2019	As constructed	
STATUS	Other	

Client

Project Name
New Street, Shefford

Drawing Title
School Lane
Waiting restrictions
Sheet 2 of 2

Original Drawing Size :	
Scale : 1:250	Dimensions : -
Drawing No 402435-001-002	Rev -

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A PROHIBITION OF STOPPING AND A PROHIBITION OF WAITING ON AMPTHILL ROAD, SCHOOL LANE AND BLOOMFIELD DRIVE, SHEFFORD.

Reason for proposals: The proposed Order is considered necessary on the grounds of promoting road safety. The restrictions are aimed at keeping specific lengths of road clear of parked vehicles, particularly at the start and end of the school day. Therefore, Central Bedfordshire Council proposes to make a Road Traffic Regulation Order as follows:

Effect of the Order:

To introduce No Stopping Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 4.30pm inclusive on the school entrance markings on the following lengths of road in Shefford:

1. Bloomfield Drive, outside Robert Bloomfield Middle School.

To introduce No Waiting At Any Time on the following lengths of road in Shefford:

1. Ampthill Road, south side, from a point approximately 14.2 metres east of the centreline of School Lane in a westerly direction to a point approximately 15 metres west of the centreline of School Lane.

2. Ampthill Road, south side, from a point approximately 12.5 metres east of the centreline of Bloomfield Drive in a westerly direction to a point approximately 14.2 metres west of the centreline of Bloomfield Drive.

3. School Lane, both sides, from the southern kerb line of Ampthill Road in a southerly direction for a distance of approximately 27.7 metres.

4. Bloomfield Drive, both sides, from the southern kerb line of Ampthill Road in a southerly direction for a distance of approximately 15 metres.

To introduce No Waiting Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 4.30pm on the following lengths of road in Shefford:

1. Bloomfield Drive, west side, from a point approximately 15 metres south of the southern kerb line of Ampthill Road in a southerly direction to a point approximately 10 metres south of the boundary between property nos 16 and 18 Bloomfield Drive.

2. Bloomfield Drive, east side, from a point approximately 3.7 metres south of the boundary between property nos 7 and 9 Bloomfield Drive in southerly direction to a point approximately 9.4 metres west of the boundary between property nos 28 and 30 George Street.

Further Details of the proposal and a plan may be examined during normal office hours at Central Bedfordshire Council at the address below and during normal opening hours at Shefford Library, 1 High Street, Shefford, SG17 5DD. These details will be placed on deposit until 6 weeks after the Order is made or until it is decided not to continue with the proposal. Contact Piotr Bogusiewicz, Bedfordshire Highways on 0845 365 6149 or email Piotr.Bogusiewicz@amey.co.uk for further advice on this proposal.

Objections should be sent in writing to the Transportation Manager, Bedfordshire Highways, Woodlands Annex, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7NU or e-mail centralbedsconsultation@amey.co.uk stating the grounds on which they are made by 16th February 2011.

Technology House
239 Ampthill Road
Bedford MK42 9QQ

Basil Jackson
Assistant Director for Highways
and Transport

21st January 2011

APPENDIX D

Dear Sirs,

Regarding the proposed waiting restrictions in Bloomfield Drive, Shefford I have no objection.
However, the waiting restrictions at the top and bottom end of the road will still not address the problem of school traffic parking on the grass verge/pavement particularly on the East side of the road between properties numbered 1a - 7. This is not only a safety hazard to pedestrians, especially to parents with prams but with the grass getting churned up into a mud bath it creates an eyesore to all residents in Bloomfield Drive.

The school and local police are sympathetic to this problem but seem unable to come up with a solution and as welcoming as the proposed waiting restrictions are I do not see them addressing this additional problem.

Yours faithfully

XXX
X Bloomfield Drive
Shefford

Dear Sir / Madam

I live at XX Ampthill Road , Your proposal to yellow line the side of my property in School Lane means that my neighbour and I would not be able to park our cars beside my property , Both our vehicles are parked in a sensible manner causing no obstruction to anybody . The problems in School Lane and Ampthill Road are caused by parents parking everywhere dropping off there children ,

Yellow lines will not stop this problem, as they will carry on parking over the road and on the pavement areas.

I do not see why my neighbour and I should be penalised because of the unreasonable parking of others .We have put up with 15 min of mayhem in the mornings and the afternoon for many years. The only people affected to your proposal would be my neighbour and I.

A letter from yourselves and the school informing all parents that parking in school lane is prohibited would be a better proposal.

Look forward to your reply

XXX

To: The Transportation Manager, Bedfordshire Highways.

I refer to your letter of 16 November 2010 and wish to raise some objections to the proposals.

As I see it the problem with these plans are that they will considerably increase the existing problems for all those residents of Bloomfield Drive who will not have, on their side of the road, either parking restrictions and/or bollards.
The problem could only be resolved if the plans are altered to include measures to prevent vehicles parking across or over hanging residents driveways and to have bollards on all grass verges on both sides of the road. Alternatively I would ask you to simply consider making the whole of Bloomfield Drive a residents only parking area.
I would point out that the Robert Bloomfield School has grown considerably in size over the years and also now puts on more events, social activities and parents evenings. Added to this there is now also the all weather sports facility. All of which has led to increased traffic and parking in Bloomfield Drive, not only during the day but in the evenings as well, seven days a week. The problems this has caused to residents has to date been largely ignored. There has not been any consultation. Residents have difficulty getting in and out of their drives and as a result have to constantly think of this when planning any activity. There is also the noise and anti-social behaviour the residents have to contend with, such as litter and front gardens being treated as part of the public footpath. A further problem is the ice cream van, which parks

in the road to catch the school traffic. Its engine causes noise and gives off diesel fumes. The queues for ice creams also leads to residents front gardens being trampled on.
I personally need to be able to reverse my car into my driveway, it is narrow like other driveways in Bloomfield Drive and I can only get out of the car easily from the driver's side. This also makes it safer when taking my car out of the drive as a clearer view of the footpath is given. Any obstruction of the driveway makes reversing into it much more difficult.
Please do not misunderstand this email and take it as a catalogue of complaints. I understand what you are trying to achieve and indeed applaud it but I fear that again it is from the limited perspective of the school that the proposals arise and residents human rights will be ignored. Unless the plans are extended they will cause myself and other residents further problems when they are already often quite intolerable.
Please will you acknowledge receipt of this email.

Regards

XXX. Resident
XX Bloomfield Drive,
Shefford, Beds.

Dear Mr Bogusiewicz

As a resident in this area for over thirty years I welcome the proposed changes, however I do feel that these changes will only rectify some of the issues. The roads in this area can also become clogged and dangerous outside of the hours of 0800 -1630. Such as when there are sports tournaments at the weekends and when Robert Bloomfield Middle School hold events in the evenings. I have seen many near misses when children are almost knocked down as they dodge the congested traffic in the dark, leaving events like school disco's. I and my neighbours have been the victims of angry parents frustrated by not being able to park or move their cars as they ferry their children to various functions.

I am concerned that the problem with poor parking and grid locked roads will be moved around the corner into George Street at peak drop off and pick up times, making that road as dangerous as the roads you are now attempting to clear of traffic. At previous town consultation events I, and other residents have suggested that New Street, George Street and Bloomfield Drive become a one way system, with traffic entering into New Street and leaving via Bloomfield Drive with a continuous double yellow line on the right hand side, this would keep traffic moving and prevent the terrible issue of gridlock that happens on a daily basis. A traffic calming measure and a small Zebra crossing on Bloomfield Drive would also be an added safety measure for the many children who cross the road and hopefully slow down the drivers as well.

Yours sincerely,

XXX

Dear Piotr

I live at X School Lane Shefford and I received a letter dated 16 November 2010 regarding the above proposal. As I will be directly affected I would like to make the following comments.

I understand the need for some parking restrictions at the junction with Ampthill Road when the school is open. The situation at present is not safe and has not been for some time. However this is only a problem during school opening times. The section of road is used outside of school hours for parking by some residents of Ampthill Road who park there to avoid causing an obstruction on Ampthill Road itself. If double yellow lines are installed the residents parking will inevitably be pushed further up School Lane which seems unnecessary, as they are generally not there during school hours.

I would suggest that a more equitable solution for all would be ‘No waiting Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 4.30pm (single yellow line) to the section of road proposed in your letter. This would make things safer during school hours but at the same time still leave residents from Ampthill Road somewhere to park overnight, close to their homes.

I trust that you will take my comments into account when making your final proposals.

Regards

XXX
XX School Lane
Shefford, Beds

Dear Mr. Bogusiewicz,

Re. Your Ref. PB/45383/3.12 - Proposed waiting restrictions, School Lane, Shefford.

My family and I live at No.X, School Lane in Shefford, and do agree that something needs to be done with parking in the Lane and the parking on and around the junction between School Lane and Ampthill Road. At the present time anyone making a right hand turn into School Lane has to do this from the right hand side of the main road because of cars parked on the left. We do however feel that your plan as it stands will not work for the following reasons.

All of the cars that park at the bottom of School Lane on a daily basis are not residents of School Lane, they actually live on Ampthill Road. They park in School Lane because it is quieter than Ampthill Road and I am sure that they feel that they are less likely to get broken wing mirrors etc on the lane. If you put double yellow lines at the bottom of School Lane, you will not force those residents to park on Ampthill Road, they will purely park further up School Lane.

This is where the problems start. Over the years, we have seen many near misses at the top/middle of school lane with children nearly being hit by cars when trying to get into a car. The lane is very narrow, and the parents of the school children do have a tendency to completely fill up the lane. Passing places are so sparse on the lane, and because there is so much traffic going up and down the lane at these times, tempers do appear to get somewhat frayed, and drivers accelerate up the lane to try and get through without being stopped again. Forcing more cars onto the lane will only excasserbate this problem. Children do play and can get rather excited at going home time, and with cars charging up and down the road, it is quite dangerous for the parents and children to get loaded up into their cars on the lane.

The school isn't a small site. Is there anyway of extending the car park to allow parental parking? My wife and I feel the lane would be much safer for all concerned (including our own small children) if it could be made resident permit parking only (for School Lane residents only). Because of the small number of residents on the street, this would make a dramatic difference to the safety of the lane and the children and parents who travel along it every day.

Finally, it is my belief that the Lane has yet to be adopted by the council and is thus a private road. We contacted the local police last year to ask them to issue penalties for parents who were continually parking in front of the driveways along the Lane preventing the residents from getting their cars out of the Lane. We were told that as the road was private they could not enforce such a request. Bedfordshire Police would not therefore enforce double yellow lines on a private road, it is not their concern. I am not sure however, where Amphill Road finishes and where School Lane starts legally. I would also like to point out that the residents of School Lane part-own the lane because it is private, and as such should have a final say in whatever decisions are made concerning the Lane.

To sum up, both my wife and I would prefer to have parking restrictions placed upon the entire lane, not just at the north end.

We look forward to hearing your comments in due course.

Regards,

XXX

Dear Mr. Bogusiewicz

I agree that the junction with Ampthill Road is unsafe in its current state and that this should be addressed. It must be noted however that drivers will already be aware that it is an offence to park within approximately 15 feet of a junction but continue to park there in any event. We have contacted Shefford Police in the past to ask them to enforce this restriction as we believed the junction to be unsafe. We

were told that the Police were not able to enforce this as they simply could not give every person that ever parked too close to a junction 'a ticket' or they would not get time to do anything else. Perhaps the Council could explain how they think that the double yellow lines will make a difference on the part of either the local residents or the Police! Perhaps it might make more sense in the first instance for the Police to have a friendly word with the local residents who do park their cars on or around the junction.

Whilst the Lane may be quiet at the moment during the day I do not believe that this will remain the case once local residents are prevented from parking on or around the junction. In reality there are only 10 safe parking spaces along School Lane (2 in front of each of the 5 houses). If the Council's solution was to be implemented, local traffic alone would take up a considerable number of those spaces. I do not accept that the Council's proposals will only remove 4 parking spaces from the junction as we have seen more than 4 cars regularly parked there. Pushing these additional 'local resident's' into the Lane leaves the School traffic no alternative but to park far more than 10 cars in the Lane. Drivers often attempt 3 point turns in the road (as they cannot drive to the top of the Lane to turn properly because of the weight of traffic). This requires them to mount the path and into driveways in order to complete the turn successfully. (Knocking over our wall on regular occasions). Children often run along the path in front of or behind parents and are not tall enough to be seen above the cars by drivers mounting the path to turn their vehicles. Adding more traffic to the road will only add to the dangerous environment as there will be more cars for children to 'run out' from behind! In addition parents regularly accelerate their cars up and down the Lane to jump into the next passing place before being blocked from moving. This could have fatal consequences for children coming out onto the road to get in and out of cars. I note that you have not addressed my previous suggestion that the School traffic should be allowed into the School car park in order to drop off, pick up and turn vehicles around.

I have noted your argument that this is only an issue for 20 minutes at each end of the day. I would however argue that it takes only a second for a car to knock a child over! If the council insists that the only solution to the problem is to enforce the restrictions on the junction and push the traffic into the Lane without addressing the consequences then we put you on notice that we have made you aware of the increased danger which will result from your actions.

I await your further comments.

Yours sincerely

xxx
x School Lane, SHEFFORD, Bedfordshire

We are pleased to receive the proposed restrictions for Bloomfield Drive. However we are aware that this will cause some problems for those of us that live on the west side(not that this is anything new!!) due to our very narrow shared drives, when cars park right up to the edge of our drives it impossible to negotiate the car on your own side of the drive, particularly if you have to reverse into your drive. Another factor on Bloomfield Drive is the Ice-cream van which parks when th children come out of school this adds to the parking problems and is also a nuisance factor as they crowd across the grass and sometimes on the gardens inevitably leaving litter as well.

Your sincerely,
XXX,

xxx, Bloomfield Drive

To The Transportation Manager - Bedford Highways
Ref: PB/45381/3.12

Dear Sir,
With reference to your letter of the 16th November 2010, regarding the proposed restrictions to Bloomfield Drive, Shefford, I understand that the bollards to be erected on the East side of Bloomfield Drive is to stop cars being parked on the grass verge only. This means that non residents will still park nightly and daily on that side near to the entrance from Ampthill Road.

If a yellow no parking line could be extended from the entrance for the length of Bloomfield Drive, there would be a clear way for all the School traffic from 8.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. also for all the evenings and weekend events that the School holds during the year.

This would save money as the bollards would not be required.

Yours sincerely,
Mr XXX
X Bloomfield Drive,
Shefford, Beds.

I refer to your letter of November 16th outlining the proposed changes to parking in Bloomfield Drive, Shefford, and wish to raise objections to the plans.

While I agree with the proposal to put no parking lines on the corners of Bloomfield Drive I feel 15M is excessive as this will just condense the present problem into the middle part of Bloomfield Drive and the residents there will suffer even more. The plan to put bollards on just one side will cause havoc on the other and the school traffic will be parking all over the grass verges and making them unsightly. Bloomfield Drive is a quiet and peaceful residential place when there are no school functions on. I feel ,we the residents, are being unfairly punished for the completely unreasonable way parents behave when taking their children to school or picking them up.

Kingfisher Road was actually built to relieve some of the school traffic from Bloomfield Drive but it is only used by the buses and is even closed when a function is on during the evening when we get real problems here. One solution would be to make Kingfisher Road the IN gate of the school and Bloomfield Drive the OUT gate with the school providing a drop off/ pick up point and make Bloomfield Drive resident only parking.

All the parking problems are caused by school traffic because the school has grown so much, so the school should help solve the problems the residents are having.

Regards

XXX, Resident XXX
Bloomfield Drive, Shefford, Beds.

FAO. Mr Nick Chapman, Transportation Manager, Bedfordshire Highways

Dear Sir

RE PROPOSED YELLOW LINING TO AMPTHILL ROAD / SCHOOL LANE, SHEFFORD
Drawing no. 402435-001-002

We live at xxx Ampthill Road, on the corner of School Lane. You have invited us to comment on your proposals by way of your letter dated 16 November 2010.

Whilst we understand the idea restricting parking during the school day, it seems to us to be excessive and un-necessary to prevent parking at other times. We have lived here since School Lane was constructed and we are unaware of any problems occurring in the evenings or at weekends. School Lane is barely used at these times and the proposals would remove a few useful parking spaces for the residents in the area. We therefore recommend single yellow lines to allow no waiting on Mondays to Fridays for the appropriate hours.

Yours sincerely,

XXX

Dear Nick,
I am writing in regards to the proposed waiting restrictions on School Lane. As a resident at number XX Ampthill Road I am concerned that the proposed restrictions would prevent me and my wife from parking our car near to our house. This would mean difficulty to us, with having to park either in a different street or much further up school lane. This would cause concerns to us from a security point of view being unable to keep an eye on the car regularly and having to walk to and from the car often in the dark in a poorly light area. We often have to carry things such as heavy shopping from the car and this proposal

would make this harder. Also other residents often object to us parking in front of their properties when parking further away.
We are aware of the problems of parking and safety on School lane and are always careful to park a safe distance from the junction. However we feel that this proposal would unfairly impact upon us.

Yours faithfully

XXX

Piotr,
Thank you for your response. I fully understand the legal reasons for the 15m lines. I was just worried everything would be crammed into the middle part of Bloomfield Drive. As for the single yellow line on my side of the road I can see real problems with this being enforced, parents who dont care about blocking drives will not think twice about parking there on most days when there is no parking warden/police officer present. It is also penalising the beleaguered residents. I have two daughters who will both be living at home soon and both drive, I have room for two vehicles on my drive so where is my other daughter going to park, where are my elderly neighbour's carers going to park, where are residents' visitors going to park. Surely it must be made residents only parking otherwise we are being penalised for living there and it could affect the value of our properties. It is also not just during the day we have problems with school traffic, in fact it is often worse in the evenings when there is a function on at the school. I say again, a point you didn't answer in your reply, the answer lies with the school. Kingfisher road was actually built to relieve Bloomfield Drive of school traffic and it is not being used properly, they dont even open that entrance for evening functions, there should be a pick up/drop off point within the school with the traffic coming in one entrance and out of the other, after all these are middle school children, not infants or juniors.
I sincerely believe that you have not got the right answer with your proposals, its a shame that the school could not be more proactive in briefing parents about parking and road safety for their children and encourage more people to walk to school or at least walk the last part.

Regards

XXX
Resident-XXX Bloomfield Drive, Shefford

APPENDIX E

Dear Sirs

Formal Objection to Proposed Parking Restrictions in Bloomfield Drive, Shefford.

I have been made aware of the above-mentioned proposed parking and stopping restrictions to Bloomfield Lane, Shefford.

I currently park in Bloomfield Drive in the mornings and afternoons to drop off and collect my children and my nephews from Shefford Lower School and Acorn Pre-School. Ages range from 3 years to 6 years and therefore they are clearly unable to be dropped off and left to make their own way to school without the need for me to park. We live over a mile from the school and therefore it is not practical to regularly walk this distance twice daily with small children. With 300+ children at Shefford Lower School alone, you will appreciate there are many parents like me. The majority of parents park considerately and safely, although there are a few who park illegally and there is obvious congestion at peak times. There is NO parking provision at Shefford Lower School.

Whilst it is clearly appropriate to stop illegal or dangerous parking, Bloomfield Drive is a wide road with ample room for car parking on one side of the road (the most sensible being the side on which you propose to impose no stopping restrictions).

By stopping parking here for parents, you will not improve the safety of the children. Far from it. The problems will simply be moved on to the main road (Ampthill Road) where traffic moves faster and there is far more risk of accidents. In addition, some parents are going to be tempted to drop off their children and let them walk the final part of the journey. This is clearly not improving their safety and the school have sent a communication asking parents not to do this following an incident of a child being approached by a stranger in a car.

Surely the answer lies in enforcing the current parking restrictions and sensible/legal parking. There is very rarely any police/ community support presence and it is my belief that an occasional patrol and moving on of the cars in prohibited or dangerous areas would be a far more sensible and SAFE approach to this problem. Unfortunately, there is always going to be congestion around these schools at peak times - there is NO parking provision at Shefford Lower School or Robert Bloomfield. Placing parking restrictions in all of Bloomfield Drive, a wide side-street with good access for school drop-off and pick up, will simply move the problem to other roads which are likely to be even more dangerous. I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this objection.

Yours sincerely

XXX, XX Elgar Drive, Shefford

Dear Sir

RE: Objection to proposed waiting restrictions in Bloomfield Drive, Shefford

We cannot see how this proposal will promote road safety in the area of Robert Bloomfield and Shefford Lower schools. It will only serve to move young children and their parents from a quiet residential road to a busy main road.

Many parents (or, often, grandparents) do not have the option of walking to the schools either because of the distance involved or the danger of negotiating narrow pavements at busy times with several small children.

It is obviously even less safe if parents drop their children off without parking and even worse if children are standing outside the school waiting to be picked up. You will, of course, be aware that children attend the Acorn pre-school on this site from the age of three and there are several hundred children in Shefford Lower School under the age of seven.

There is some congestion in Bloomfield Drive for short periods at start and end of school but this means that the traffic moves very slowly. The only safety problems are caused by a minority of motorists who park illegally. The existing “No Stopping” zone outside Robert Bloomfield School is never enforced, so some use it as an additional parking area. These people will, presumably, ignore your proposed new restrictions as they know that there is little risk of being caught.

If your are going to spend taxpayer's money it would be better to provide some safe drop-off and pick-up facilities at Shefford Lower School and Robert Bloomfield School.

We think that the Central Bedfordshire council should be looking to improve facilities for council tax payers rather than making their lives more difficult and hazardous

Yours sincerely
XXXX

Shefford
Bedfordshire
SG17 5JA
11th February 2011

Dear Piotr Bogusiewicz

I have received an email through Shefford lower school about plans to put yellow lines and bollards around the school both down school lane and bloomfield drive.

Whilst I understand the importance of child safety, residents not wanting cars parked outside their house and being able to get emergency vehicles and buses along these roads at school drop off and pick times, I feel that these measures will put children at more risk.

The plans to put double yellow lines around the end of both school lane and bloomfield drive are very sensible as are the plans to put them on the corner of bloomfield drive and george street.

However I feel that if the whole of bloomfield drive is to become essentially a no parking road at these times this will mean that parents will have to park along the main ampthill road where cars are travelling faster and the risk of a child getting seriously injured is quite high.

Parents like myself who have to get off to work will still drive and will have to park on the main road leading to congestion on that road where getting children out of cars safely will become more of an issue and any mistakes could have more serious consequences. A child being hit by a car driving at 30mph or more (as cars do along there) or a lorry delivering to the nearby drinks distributor will have more risk of a fatality than a child being hit by a car parking or driving slowly down bloomfield drive.

Please could I ask that these considerations are taken into account when looking at these proposals and that the yellow lines are only put just outside robert bloomfield school and at the ends of both of the roads in question.

Many thanks

Dear Sirs

<u>Formal Objection to Proposed Parking Restrictions in Bloomfield Drive, Shefford.</u>

Bloomfield Drive houses the entrance to Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford Lower School and Acorn Pre-school in Shefford. I and many other parents, grandparents and carers currently park in Bloomfield Drive to drop off and collect our small children from Shefford Lower School and Acorn Pre-School. The age of the children attending these settings ranges from 2 years 9 months and therefore they are clearly too young to be dropped off without the need for parking. The distance to school from our home (in excess of a mile) prevents me from regularly walking to & from school with my 2 young children. There must be very many others in a similar situation.

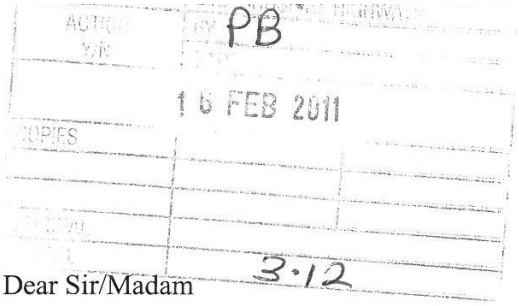
There is no parking available for parents at Shefford Lower School or Acorn Pre-school and therefore the local roads must be used for parking. The majority of parents park considerately and safely in Bloomfield Drive, a wide road with ample room for car parking, particularly on one side of the road - the side which is identified for restrictions on stopping.

By preventing parents from parking in Bloomfield Drive, you will certainly not be improving safety for children - the problems will simply be moved on to the main road (Ampthill Road) where the risk of serious accidents is considerably higher. In addition, some parents may resort to dropping off their children nearby to walk the rest of the way to school unsupervised which would clearly present other risks.

Perhaps occasional monitoring by the police/community support officers at peak times may be the answer to inconsiderate parking rather than imposing restrictions which will make matters more difficult for responsible parents and may result in more significant risks to children's safety.
Please acknowledge receipt of this objection.

Yours faithfully

XXX



Lucas Way
Shefford
Beds

February 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to proposed waiting restrictions Ampthill Road, Bloomfeild Drive and School lane Shefford, Bedfordshire.

I am writing to object to the above proposed restrictions.

I believe the proposed restrictions create a very large problem affecting many people in the town.

As a resident of Shefford and a parent of four children I can understand both sides to the argument but feel it is not good enough to move the problem rather than offer suggestions or sort the problem.

Due to being forced to stop parking in the school car park, parents who are dropping off or collecting their children have no choice but to park along the side of the road. If more restrictions are placed parents will have nowhere safe to park and I feel this will impact on the safety and flow of traffic on Amptill Road.

It is unrealistic to expect that parents will not park in this area they will simply cause obstructions elsewhere. Residents of quieter nearby streets will be inconvenienced by these restrictions and the problem is simply being moved further down the street.

The safety of the children will not be improved until something is done about the lack of safe parking. I would suggest that this would be a better way to spend public money rather than imposing more restrictions causing inconvenience to the hundreds of parents that this affects.

I agree that the area is congested and people should be discouraged from driving there when possible, but with a fast growing population in Shefford, car parking facilities are needed.

Many parents have no choice but to drive to school, they are often coming directly from and going to work or from dropping other children elsewhere. It is unacceptable that the school car park has been closed as this seems a far safer option than parking alongside main roads with young children in tow.

9, School Lane,
Shefford.
Beds.
SG17 5XA.

Dear Sir,

While I appreciate that attempts are being made to reduce parking and improve safety both near Robert Bloomfield Middle School and Shefford Lower School, I'm afraid I must object to the present proposals.

The traffic on School Lane has greatly increased during the last ten years as further extensions etc. have been added to the school site.

Originally there was supposed to be a parents car park at Shefford Lower School but now parents park on the road.

The existing yellow lines and box outside the school gates are ignored by many and this is dangerous.

All traffic coming up to drop off children must turn immediately outside of the school gates and this causes chaos.

With cars parked and others turning this creates a dangerous situation - an accident waiting to happen.

Sometimes cars drive up onto the grass verge in order to get down the street.

Parents sometimes arrive as early as 2.30 to park and wait for their children.

The scramble to get parked in School Lane will increase when cars can no longer park elsewhere.

What time will they arrive then? In order to get a 'prime spot' for parking then possibly at 2.00.

Parents sometimes park across residents drives. At other times they park at the exact edges of the drop-kerb. However, if they do this then it is difficult for us to reverse our cars as the road is not wide enough for us to turn.

A more practical solution as far as Shefford Lower School is concerned would be to flatten the bund, put in a turning circle, and provide more parent parking. (Or make the parents walk!).

This would ease the present chaos. A small road like School Lane should not have to be the only entrance and exit to Shefford Lower School.

Yours faithfully.

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

PB.
25 NOV 2010
4.09

PROPOSAL

School Lane and Bloomfield Drive,Shefford

This Authority has considered the proposed Traffic Regulation Order as outlined in your letter and offer the following comments for further consideration. **Comments**	
This Authority has considered the proposed Traffic Regulation Order as outlined in your letter, together with the reason(s) given, is accepted by this authority, therefore no objection with be offered.	✓

Name:- JOHN LOUGHLIN

Address BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Signed:- John Loughlin