
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 27 March 2012
Subject: Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard - Resolution of objections to the proposed Controlled Parking Zone and Prohibition of Waiting
Report of: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation.
Summary: To report to the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Services the receipt of objections to proposals for Controlled Parking Zone and Prohibition of Waiting on lengths of Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard and seek the Executive Member's views.

Contact Officer: Gary Baldwin – Traffic Engineer
gary.baldwin@amey.co.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Leighton Buzzard South
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

To improve highway safety and facilitate the free flow of traffic

Financial:

The cost of introducing the waiting restrictions will be approximately £3,500.

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:

None as part of this report

Sustainability:

None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Executive Member's views are requested.

Background and Information

1. Residents of Poplar Close have complained for some years about the indiscriminate on-street parking that takes place at the start and end of the school day. Doverly Down Lower School has a pedestrian access off Poplar Close and is therefore a popular road for parents to use when dropping off and collecting their children from school. The intensity of parking is an irritation to residents and on occasion private driveways have been obstructed.
2. A public meeting was held some months ago with the vast majority of residents attending. There was strong support for restrictions to address the school-related parking issue.
3. The proposals were formally advertised by public notice in February 2012. Consultations were also carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Leighton-Linslade Town Council and Elected Members. Local people and Doverly Down Lower School were also consulted.
4. A total of 29 representations have been received. Of those 6 are from residents of Poplar Close, 7 are from residents of Hillside Road (1 is also the parent of a Doverly Down pupil) and 16 from parents of children who attend Doverly Down Lower School. Copies of all of these are included in Appendix C and D and the comments are summarised below. A petition signed by 38 parents and carers of pupils attending the School has also been submitted. This echoes the concerns raised by the parents who sent individual representations. In addition, a reply has also been received from Bedfordshire Police.
5. The responses received from residents can be summarised as follows:-
 - a) Three residents say that the parking does not overly inconvenience them, but they don't want to object as this might upset neighbours who do support the scheme. They do have concerns about the impact on theirs and visitors parking.
 - b) One resident does not want the yellow lines to be continued across their driveway as they wish to be able to park there themselves.
 - c) One resident feels that double lines outside the school are sufficient and is concerned about the value of their property should the scheme be implemented.
 - d) There are concerns about the proposed double yellow lines on some lengths of Polar Close. One resident supports the scheme, but does not want double yellow lines at the front of their property.

- e) A resident that lives alongside the length of Poplar Close on the left hand side after entering Poplar Close wants the restrictions to apply across their frontage as that length will be the only place where people can park.
 - f) The residents of Hillside Road are concerned that the parking will be displaced into Hillside Road, thereby causing even greater difficulties than they currently experience. They feel that school parking will cause more problems on Hillside Road than it Poplar Close because it is a through route. Alternatives, such as waiting restrictions on one side of Poplar Close and Hillside Road have been suggested.
6. The responses received from school parents can be summarised as follows:-
- a) They are concerned that the proposal will have a negative impact on road safety because at present parents can set-down and pick-up their children in Poplar Close, which is a quiet cul-de-sac. The restrictions will force them to use busier roads, such as Heath Road, where the children will be exposed to more hazards.
 - b) They claim that the vast majority of parents do not obstruct driveways and generally drive and park responsibly.
 - c) All properties in Poplar Close have off-road parking, so residents are not greatly inconvenienced and in any event the parking is of short duration.
 - d) These difficulties occur outside many schools in the town and often the difficulties are worse than those experienced in Poplar Close.
 - e) Several parents support the proposed double yellow lines, but not the remainder of the scheme as it is considered to be disproportionate to the problems.
7. Bedfordshire Police accept the proposals and have raised no objection.

Conclusion and the Way Forward

8. The following observations relate to the residents comments as listed in paragraph 5. above.
- a) It is inevitable that if restrictions are introduced to tackle non-resident parking then this will also have some impact on residents' parking activity. However, this is likely to be of relatively minor inconvenience to residents as most of Poplar Close is only covered by No Waiting Monday to Friday from 8.30-9.30 and 3.00-4.00pm.
 - b) It was decided to extend the yellow lines across the driveways for several reasons. The proposal is for a Controlled Parking Zone, which requires upright signs at the entry to Poplar Close and yellow lines thereafter. If the yellow lines were broken for every driveway each length of yellow line would need to be signposted individually which would greatly increase the number of signs required. Also, drivers might be tempted to park in the gaps across driveways, thereby creating an obstruction to residents.

- c) The installation of double yellow lines outside the school in isolation is a possibility, but would transfer parking to adjacent lengths of Poplar Close. It is impossible to state with any certainty whether such restrictions would affect property values.
- d) The proposed double yellow lines have been used selectively on lengths of road where parking could create a road safety hazard, such as bends and junctions. As this is a relatively quiet cul-de-sac, this is not considered essential and the double yellow lines could be replaced with the single yellow line restriction used elsewhere in Poplar Close.
- e) It was felt that this length of road on the left hand side after entering Poplar Close could accommodate some parked cars as the road is straight at that point. However, the concerns of the resident are accepted and it would be feasible to extend the single yellow line to cover this stretch of road.
- f) It is likely that the proposals for Poplar Close will result in some migration of parking to Hillside Road. The proposed double yellow lines at the junction of Poplar Close and Hillside Road should ensure that it remains clear of parked vehicles. The situation will need to be monitored and if serious difficulties occur then consideration could be given to further parking controls in Hillside Road.

9. The following observations relate to the school parents' comments as listed in paragraph 6. above.

- a) Poplar Close is a lightly-trafficked cul-de-sac and therefore a relatively safe road for parents to set down and pick up their children. Heath Road is clearly a significantly busier road, so parents concerns are acknowledged. However, it is likely that some parents will use Hillside Road, which is not as heavily trafficked as Heath Road.
- b) Not surprisingly, there is a difference of opinion between residents and parents as regards to the level and severity of any inconvenience caused.
- c) It is a fact that all of the properties in Poplar Close have off-road parking, so residents are normally not being denied valuable on-street parking space as would be the case in a road where properties have no off-road parking. School gate parking is of short duration, but in common with most schools the parking is fairly intense during those times.
- d) Similar difficulties do occur at other locations and the implementation of restrictions in Poplar Close does set a precedent, which may generate requests for similar restrictions outside other schools across the Council's area.
- e) The implementation of double yellow lines in isolation is an option as it should keep the hazardous locations clear of parked cars. However, it would simply transfer the parked cars to adjacent lengths of Poplar Close.

10. The published scheme was developed after consultation with residents and at that time there was strong support for the parking restrictions. It is assumed that this is still the case, although the responses received from residents is rather mixed. The relatively few residents that did reply to the consultation letter have indicated that they are not greatly concerned about the school-related parking that occurs. However, most residents, but not all, do not want to oppose it for fear of upsetting those who are strongly in favour of the scheme.

It is inevitable that any restrictions aimed at addressing the school parking issue will have an impact on residents. However it is felt that the restrictions would be fairer and equally effective if the proposed 'No Waiting at any time' (double yellow lines) on selective length of Poplar Close were replaced with the Monday to Friday restriction (single yellow lines). However, it is recommended that the double yellows at the junction of Poplar Close and Hillside Road be retained if the scheme goes ahead. The proposed gap in the restrictions on the left hand side after entering Poplar Close could be included within the single yellow line restriction as requested by the adjacent homeowner. It should be noted that such changes to the proposal would mean that the restriction would need to be re-advertised.

The parking that takes place at the start and end of the school day is fairly intense, but is of short duration. As residents all have off-road parking, the parking is likely to create relatively little inconvenience and is probably more of an annoyance. It should also be borne in mind that the implementation of such a scheme could set a precedent with residents of other residential streets affected by school parking demanding similar action.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Location plan

Appendix B – Public notice

Appendix C – Representations from residents of Poplar Close

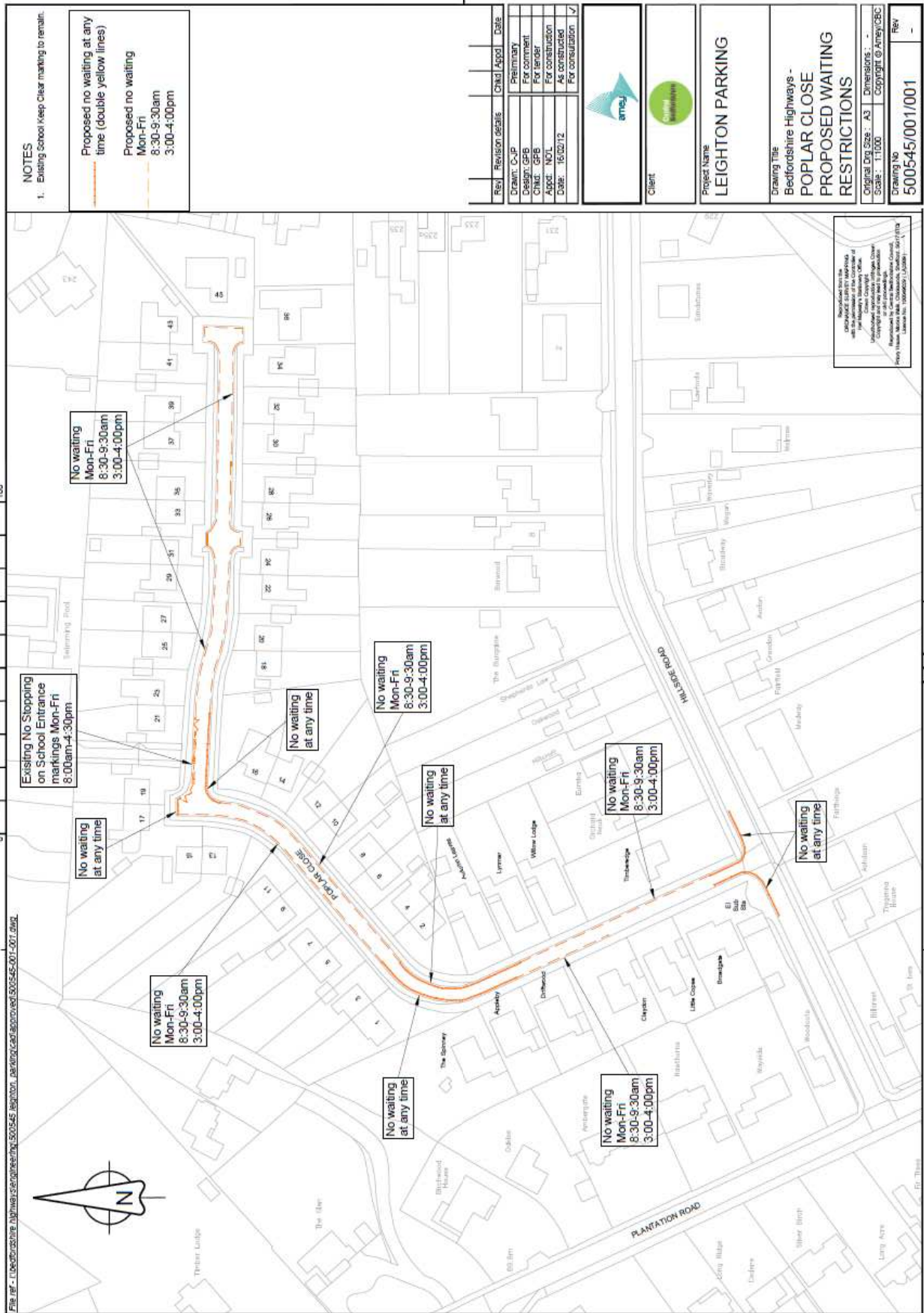
Appendix D – Representations from residents of Hillside Road

Appendix E – Representations from school parents

Appendix F – Petition header

Appendix G – Police reply

APPENDIX A





PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE INCLUDING A PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING IN POPLAR CLOSE AND HILLSIDE ROAD, LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Reason for proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary on the grounds of promoting road safety. Indiscriminate on-street parking, mainly at the start and end of the school day, frequently hinders the passage of vehicles and obstructs vehicular accesses. This creates an inconvenience to local residents. Therefore, Central Bedfordshire Council proposes to make a Traffic Regulation Order as follows:-

Effect of the Order:

To introduce a Controlled Parking Zone with a Prohibition of Waiting Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 9.30am and 3pm to 4pm (single yellow lines) in the following road in Leighton Buzzard:-

1. Poplar Close, for its whole length.

To introduce a Prohibition of Waiting (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in Leighton Buzzard:-

1. Hillside Road, north side, from a point approximately 5 metres south-west of the boundary of the properties named Timberedge and Orchard Neuk in a south-westerly direction for a distance of approximately 35 metres.
2. Poplar Close, both sides, from its junction with Hillside Road in a north-westerly direction to a point in line with the south-east flank wall of the property named Broadgate.
3. Poplar Close, west side, from a point in line with the boundary of the properties named Driftwood and Appleby in a generally northerly direction for a distance of approximately 47 metres.
4. Poplar Close, east side, from a point approximately 1 metre south-east of the boundary of the properties named Lynmar and Autumn Leaves in a generally northerly direction for a distance of approximately 40 metres.
5. Poplar Close, north side, from its north-western corner located approximately 8 metres north of the boundary of property nos.13 and 15 Poplar Close in a generally easterly direction for a distance of approximately 9 metres.
6. Poplar Close, south side, from a point approximately 11 metres north of the boundary of property nos.14 and 16 Poplar Close in a generally easterly direction for a distance of approximately 27 metres.

Further Details: of the proposal and plans may be examined during normal opening hours at Leighton Buzzard Library, Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1XR or online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations. 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. Please contact Gary Baldwin, tel. 0845 365 6116 or e-mail gary.baldwin@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 9th March 2012.

Order Title: if made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (District of South Bedfordshire) (Civil Enforcement Area and Special Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2008 (Variation No *) Order 201*

Technology House
239 Ampthill Road
Bedford MK42 9QQ

BASIL JACKSON
Assistant Director for Highways
and Transport

16th February 2012

APPENDIX C

We have recently received the letter and map showing the details of this proposed restriction, on our printed map it is indicated by an orange line that the restrictions do not apply outside our property 'Xxxx Xxxx'.

Is this a misprint or is it the intention that these restrictions will not apply at this point ?

The PUBLIC NOTICE letter we received states clearly that the controlled parking will be for the 'whole length' of Poplar Close.

We would wish that the restrictions DO apply as it would make this intolerable for us as we would be the only property in the close without restrictions and would therefore suffer the consequences. It is bad enough at the moment and would make it even worse !

RE: Controlled Parking Zone, Poplar Close.

Dear Sir,

We are very pleased with the proposal of a controlled Parking Zone Monday to Friday.

We agree with the controlled Parking Zone Monday to Friday. Between 8-30am to 9-30am and 3pm to 4pm. in front of our property which is Autumn leaves.

However we strongly object to no waiting at any time in front of our property.

Yours faithfully,

Dear Mr Baldwin,

My wife and I purchased xx Poplar Close two years ago. The property has a dropped kerb access to our driveway.

We are aware of local objections to school users parking in the road but we have to say that their parking at the start and end of school does not inconvenience us at all.

Because we did not want to upset our new neighbours, we have not opposed their wishes to have a parking restriction.

However, we understand the proposed parking restrictions will include yellow lines across our driveway.

We will vigorously oppose this part of the restrictions - we purchased this property with the understanding we could park across our driveway and this is important to our family and our visitors.

We would be obliged if you would acknowledge receipt of this email.

Yours sincerely,

21 February 2012

Dear Sirs **Proposed Controlled Parking Zone**
Your ref **GPB/50497/3.12/500454**

I am in receipt of your letter dated 16 February in respect of the proposal to introduce a CPZ in Poplar Close.

We do appreciate that a number of our neighbours have suffered from inconsiderate parking by parents dropping of their children at the school and that there have been incidents of abusive or aggressive reactions by some of these people when confronted. We have only been in the Close for three months and have only had minor issues but wish to support our neighbours whose problems have been significant. However the proposal to introduce a CPZ will give us some issues.

The imposition of no parking at either end of the school day will mean we cannot have visitors during that time. This is an infringement of our existing rights and will have a significant adverse effect upon our enjoyment of the property. It will mean that we cannot have visitors, either personal or for work to be done at our property during those times. Contractors are not prepared to limit themselves to only work between 9:00 am and 15:30 without imposing financial penalties on us. We are not in a position to have all visitors parking off road.

We see from the plans provided that you intend to have no parking at any time outside some of the properties. Surely they cannot be happy with this?

It seems to us that in solving some residents' problems you are creating some for others.

What would be far better would be for a sign or signs to be erected which prominently declares that Poplar Close is for Residents parking only. There are a number of instances around the town where such notices exist and the problem of the use of Rosebury Avenue by coaches was solved in a similar fashion. We believe that this would influence the behaviour of most school visitors without seriously affecting the residents' day to day use of their properties. This solution would be much less expensive for Central Bedfordshire and if it is found after a period of time that this does not solve the majority of problems then a more dramatic solution could be considered.

Even if a more dramatic solution is necessary it is not necessary for this to apply throughout the year. It is only during school terms time that there is an issue so the CPZ signs could read "term time" so that the adverse effect on residents could be limited.

We hope that you will take our views into consideration. Please treat this communication as confidential.

Yours sincerely

16-8-296

We have just received your letter of 16 February regarding proposed controlled parking zone for Poplar Close. We have lived at Xxx for 5 years and have never had a problem with the on street parking at any time of the day, and see no need for the restrictions to be carried out.

We have no connection with the school but feel that the parents that drive their children into school need somewhere to park so that they can drop their children off at school.

This could also cause an inconvenience to residents and their families who may wish to visit during the proposed restriction times.

06 MAR 2012

re

ref: SPB/50497/3.12/500454

Leighton Buzzard.

LU7 3BS

1-3-12

Dear Sir,

We are objecting to the proposed controlled parking zone for Poplar Close. We definitely do not wish yellow lines outside our bungalow. We feel these are unnecessary as double lines outside school gates are adequate. Can you give us a guarantee that this will not affect our property value.

Await your reply.

Yours faithfully,

APPENDIX D

To the Transportation Manager

Dear Sir/Madam,

If the proposal is implemented as planned then it will cause chaos on Hillside Rd which after all is a through road and is not a cul-de-sac like Poplar Close.

It is further complicated by the fact that the drive entrances to the houses in Hillside Rd are not directly opposite each other so there really are not that many places to park sensibly except at either end.

May I suggest that the yellow lines are only implemented on ONE side of BOTH Poplar Close and Hillside Rd?

Lastly the first 35 metres of Poplar Close on the right hand side as the road is entered from Hillside Rd can easily accommodate responsible parking at any time.

Please consider this input before making a final decision.

Best regards
Xxxx Xxxxx
Hillside Rd
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 3BU

Attn – Transport Manager Beds Highways

Dear sir

Please take this email as my objection to the restricted parking you are planning to implement in Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard.

My house is directly opposite to Poplar Close in Hillside Road. I have suffered for many years from the poor parking of parents who drop their children off at Doverly Down School. On many occasions vehicles have been parked across my driveway blocking me in. When I confront the drivers the normal response is “my child is late for school, where else am I meant to park”. I have also witnessed several near accidents caused by the poor parking on Hillside Road by the parents, and once saw a motorcyclist knocked off his bike by a parent trying to park.

If you restrict the parking in Poplar Close you are going to further cause more incidents on Hillside Road which is already gridlocked from 8.45 to 9.15. Hillside Road is used as a cut through from Plantation Road to Heath Road. If you implement these parking restrictions in Poplar Close only you will inevitable cause more chaos and accidents in Hillside Road.

I witness firsthand the problems of Poplar Close and feel sympathy for the residents but all you are doing by implementing the parking restricts is moving the problem from a cul-de-sac to a busy road. My suggestion would be to increase the restriction to include Hillside Road or do not do it at all.

Best regards
Xxx Xxxxx
Hillside Road
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 3BU

We have just been advised by a neighbour of the proposed parking restrictions in Poplar Close and whilst we sympathise with the residents in Poplar Close, we believe that the proposed restrictions will simply move the problem to Hillside Road. If parents cannot park in Poplar Close they will park instead on both sides of Hillside Road. This will restrict the considerable volume of traffic that uses the road as a cut through from Heath Road to Plantation Road – this has been evidenced by the traffic hold ups that occurred during recent gas main works. Also from a health and safety point of view fire engines and ambulances would be obstructed in getting a clear passage through the parked cars on both sides of the road. In addition we know from experience that our drive is likely to be blocked by careless parking on the opposite side of the road

Surely it would make more sense to have parking restrictions only on one side of the straight part of Poplar Close and similarly extend parking restrictions only to one side of Hillside Road (alternating the timing of restrictions on each side of the road for the morning and afternoon – as they do in Rosebery Avenue for example).

We look forward to hearing from you

Regards,
Xxxxx Xxxxxx
Hillside Road
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 3BU

Dear Sirs

I have just been advised this evening by a neighbour of the proposed parking restrictions in Poplar Close. I believe that the proposed restrictions will simply move the problem to Hillside Road. If parents cannot park in Poplar Close they will park instead on both sides of Hillside Road as they do in fact do at the moment notwithstanding the present absence of restrictions in both Poplar Close and Hillside Road.

A considerable volume of traffic already uses Hillside Road as a cut through from Heath Road to Plantation Road and these crazy proposals will exacerbate this situation. Also from a health and safety point of view, fire engines and ambulances would be obstructed in getting a clear passage through the parked cars on both sides of the road. Driveways in Hillside Road are also likely to be blocked by this intensification of parking vehicles in Hillside Road.

As an alternative I suggest parking restrictions only on one side only of both the straight part of Poplar Close and one side of Hillside Road and possibly alternating the timing of restrictions on each side of the road for the morning and afternoon.

Please see sense on this - it is not a solution to transfer a problem from Poplar Close to Hillside Road.

Yours sincerely

Xxxx Xxxxx

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to voice an objection to the extensive proposals for the controlled parking zone in Poplar Close.

I am a parent of children who attend Doverly Down school. I have never driven round, or parked in Poplar close, however, I do have grave concerns about the adverse effect these plans will have on myself and other pedestrians.

Whilst I would welcome fewer cars in the area this is an unrealistic expectation and so these proposals will only serve to move the traffic elsewhere. Currently the Doverly parents who drive into Poplar close all park on the same side of the road (the right). This allows my children and I to walk on the left hand side of Poplar close without cars parking on the pavement beside us. The only exception to this rule is when a few of the residents, and their visitors, park over the pavement. This happens frequently outside number 7 and yesterday a car was parked across the pavement outside Claydon (not a parent), blocking more than half the pavement at a part of the close where there is no pavement the other side.

If the cars are moved to Hillside road I would be surprised if they are parked with such uniformity. Hillside road is a much busier road than Poplar close and parents will be forced to try to cross that road between parked cars. Worse still, some parents may be forced to park on Heath road, creating even more traffic chaos on a main road and danger to children.

I fully support the proposals for all of the double yellow lines and I would support the single line all the way around the left hand side of Poplar Close. I would also support the single yellow line on the right hand side between 18 and 36, to reduce the amount of traffic. However, if any restrictions are put in place which will move traffic to Hillside road the council needs to consider how to control the parking on that road to ensure pedestrians are able to cross the road safely. These proposals do not consider this. A sensible solution would be to restrict parking to one side of both roads and to put double yellow lines on unsafe areas such as corners.

Your proposals just create a similar (or a worse) problem else where.
Which is wholly unsatisfactory and not a solution to the problem.

May I finish by saying how disgusted I am that there is no mention in the proposal of the safety of children who walk to school, and no consideration of the effects that moving the traffic to a busier area will have on those crossing that road.

Yours sincerely

Xxxxx XXXXXXXX
Hillside road
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 3BU

Dear Sir or Madam,

I want to object to the proposals for the Controlled Parking Zone in Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard.

I believe the proposal as it stands today will not promote overall road safety as it will purely create a problem in Hillside Road where I live (Xxxxx, Hillside Road, LU73BU).

As a parent of children at Doverly Down School I have sympathy with the residents of Poplar Close. I have seen a small minority of parents park thoughtlessly and illegally when dropping off children in Poplar Close. However I do not think that the proposal is an appropriate response to a small amount of bad parking. I therefore believe that any new road scheme should seek to try to create a safe way to control parking rather than just transfer the problem to the next road across i.e. Hillside Road.

Hillside Road cannot take the parking volume which is currently taken by Poplars Close. I note a few issues;

- The current volume of school parking if moved wholesale to Hillside Rd would result in parked cars on both sides of the road which would seriously impeded the flow of traffic.
- Hillside Rd takes a much higher density and higher average speed of traffic as a thoroughfare
- Most private drives in Hillside Road are off-set to each other across the main road. This makes parking vehicles difficult to avoid being opposite someone's drive. Once a car is opposite your drive it is then very difficult to enter the road safely.
- Recent gas work in our road has shown how quickly even minor obstructions can create major blockages to traffic flow. Even the most modest of additional parking would create this effect on a daily basis.

Much of the parents parking in Poplar Close is safe and considerate. There are good stretches of straight roadway which parents can currently use and as they do today they all park on one side leaving the road un-obstructed for BOTH cars and pedestrians. Similarly only some parts of Hillside Road are suitable for parking.

Therefore I would suggest a one sided restriction in both Poplar Close and Hillside Road. This would continue to spread the volume of parking across areas making it appropriate for parking whilst maintaining the safe use of the road, driveways and footpaths.

Please keep me informed of any further consultations, meetings or modifications in this matter using this e-mail address or my details below.

Regards,
Xxxxxx
Hillside Road
LU73BU

(Additional comments from above resident)

It was good speaking with on the phone just now and I appreciate the time you spent with me.

I could perhaps just add that I support all of the double yellow line proposals as they would stop some of the parking on corners which does impeded the flow of traffic which must contribute to the general levels of frustration which must occur for the residents of Poplar Close.

As mentioned I would like to attend any consultation meeting so please do let me know when that will be.

Dear Sir,

We wish to object most strongly to the implantation of restricted parking in Poplar Close

We live on the bend in the middle of Hillside Road and the traffic is already very heavy due to cars cutting through from Plantation Road to Heath Road.

When the residents of Poplar Close purchased their property, they were aware of Doverly Down School being there and knew that some parents would have to park their cars there. We feel it is very unfair, if this restricted parking goes ahead, that they pass their parking problem on to us in Hillside Road who already have a traffic problem.

We hope you will reconsider your proposal as it will not solve any problems, just transfer them from one road to another.

Yours faithfully

APPENDIX E

5 March 2012

xx Riverside
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 3HX

FAO: Transportation Manager
Bedfordshire Highways
Woodlands Annex
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7NU

Ref: The Proposal to introduce a controlled parking zone with a prohibition and restriction of waiting in Poplar Close and Hillside Road, Leighton Buzzard

Dear Sir

Following the Public Notice of the above proposal, dated 16.02.12, I would like to present my objections to the proposed Order to restrict parking in Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard via the introduction of single and double yellow lines, for the reasons given below.

Re: – Promoting road safety

With the restrictions in place, the parents/carers of pupils at Dovery Down School, who for varying reasons need to use a car to drop-off and collect their children, will be forced to seek alternative nearby parking in Hillside Road, even Plantation Road and Heath Road, as parking within the school grounds is insufficient to cater for the Lower School and the Dovery Acorns Pre-School. This does not promote road safety as parents/carers will have to unload school children, younger siblings and pushchairs onto much busier roads than Poplar Close. Increased parking in the above named roads will potentially hinder through-traffic and further hinder visibility for parents/carers and children crossing these 30mph roads on their route to and from school.

Re: – Indiscriminate on-street parking hinders the passage of vehicles and obstructs vehicular access

On any school day, there are possibly 10 to 20 cars parking along the entire length of Poplar Close (fewer in fine weather/summer term). The vast majority do not obstruct driveways and make use of the turning areas. Spot checks/fines might deter any offenders, although I personally have never seen a school parent obstruct a driveway.

On the occasions when I have found it necessary to use my car, it has always been possible to drive unimpeded from one end of Poplar Close to the other, as the parents tend to park their cars on the right hand side as you enter.

Re:– Inconvenience to local residents

The inconvenience seems not to be shared by all residents. Poplar Close residents are not being deprived of on-road parking because each property has its own driveway.

The school day starts at 08:55, so parents are generally parked from approx. 08:40 to 09:00am. At the end of the day, parents are parked from approx 15:15 to 15:40. Vehicles move slowly, quietly and cautiously, as no-one wants to see a child get injured or to cause an accident.

It is my observation that the passage of vehicles in Poplar Close is no more restricted or inconvenient than in other areas of Leighton Buzzard. Parents of Heathwood School regularly park in residential streets such as Cotefield Drive, Heath Park Road and Chiltern Gardens, without restriction. Likewise parents dropping off and picking up outside Beaudesert Lower School park on Appenine Way outside the school and on residential side roads without restriction. Parents using cars to take and fetch children to St. Leonards Lower School in Heath and Reach also park in Thrift Road and on Linslade Road, in most cases reducing traffic to single lane only.

As part of the considerations for this proposal, I would like to ask you to make further observations of the parking in Poplar Close before making a decision and to give feedback to parents of Doverly Down School as to how parking could be improved, if it is still considered to be 'indiscriminate'. Bright single and double yellow lines in a quiet cul-de-sac for the sake of less than an hour a day of school parking, seems a drastic measure to take. Could a traffic sign regarding considerate parking be made visible at the entrance to Poplar Close instead?

I know that my objections are echoed by many Doverly Down School parents. Poplar Close is a quiet, safe road in which to drop-off and pick up 4-9 year olds at a well-regarded lower school for less than an hour in total each school day, term-time only. No-one would want to see an accident caused as a result of 'forcing' parents/carers to seek alternative parking on busy roads where there are huge lorries and buses speeding along at 30mph+.

I would welcome your response in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Hi,

I have just received a letter from Doverly Down Lower School explaining that you plan to introduce a controlled parking zone in Poplar Close. I would like to object to this proposal, I think it is disgraceful that you can consider doing this outside a school entrance. The residents of Poplar Close seem to have a big issue with the parking at the school – did they not realise that there was a school when they moved there??

People do not block residents driveways, there is always clear access, albeit congested at school drop off and pick up times.

I find it ridiculous that you can propose to remove the provision for drop off and pick up in this area and not offer alternative parking – where are we supposed to park to safely drop our children off – have you thought about that clearly not.

This is just another example of Leighton Buzzard council making knee jerk reactions without adequate consideration – you only have to look at the laughable traffic calming measures imposed in the town to see that the council does not consider drivers. Whether you like it or not people have to drive around the town so please don't make it even more difficult.

Dear Sirs,

I would like to strongly object to the proposed plans for controlled parking zones in Poplar Close and Hillside Road. I use Poplar Close daily while taking my children to Doverly Down School and have never parked indiscriminately nor hindered passage of vehicles or obstructed vehicular access. Further more, in the 3 years that I have been taking my children to school I have not once witnessed such parking by anyone else. In fact the only poor driving I have witnessed has been from Poplar close residents themselves, one of whom very nearly reversed into myself and several small children while reversing out of their (unobstructed) driveway without looking!

The school has been open for more than 30 years, the residents of Poplar close bought their homes knowing the close proximity to a school. I agree that parents should not be blocking driveways or roads, but this simply is not happening. The parents are parking sensibly, we are aware of regular complaints being sent to the school. Many have been approached by angry residents (myself included), not for obstructing access, but for parking partially on the crass verge. To the best of my knowledge this is not a parking offence, however in an effort to appease residents most now park fully on the road. We are parking on the road for about 30 minutes a day in total. I simply cannot agree that parking is causing any inconvenience to residence.

The school does have a car park but this is not big enough for all parents who drive to use, and with the main entrance to the school being on Poplar Close it seems ridiculous for parking in this road to be disallowed.

I would be very interested to know if the council has inspected parking in Poplar Close. If not I would strongly urge that you do so before introducing any parking restrictions. I would not object to restrictions if it was in fact the case that residents were being inconvenienced, many are elderly and I would not want to impact on their ability to leave or enter their properties. However, if the council found, as I suspect they would, that parking was non obstructive in any way I would strongly object to myself and many other parents and children being the ones to be inconvenienced.

Thank you for your time. I do hope the proposed plans are reconsidered.

Yours faithfully

To whom it may concern,

Objections as listed below;

- (1) The order is considered necessary to promote road safety? In order to justify such a statement what level of road traffic accidents has occurred within Poplar Close in the last ten years? How many residents/ other community members have suffered personal injury or death as a result of cars parked within the street?
- (2) by imposing such restrictions the issue of what amounts to a short term parking requirement by community members who use Doverly Down Lower School, will merely move to Hillside or Plantation Road.
- (3) the proposed cost of this proposal is not proportionate to any problem that may exist. What enforcement operations have been carried out by the police / local authorities to measure the alleged problem. On that point what data has the local authority used to measure the problem, over what time scale.

Yours sincerely

Xxxxx Xxxxxx (parent of children who attend Doverly Down Lower school)
xx Queen Street

xx Pennivale Close
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 3ES

Transportation Manager
Bedfordshire Highways
Woodlands Annex
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7NU

1st March 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to **strongly oppose** the proposed parking restrictions for Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard. My reason for opposing is quite simply for the safety of my child and others who attend Dovery Down Lower School.

The proposed parking restrictions will force parents to park on Heath Road which will cause major obstruction to what is already an extremely busy main road and I like many other parents are reluctant to park our cars on this road due to the danger it poses to our children. I would like to know if serious consideration to ALL road users has been taken into account when putting together this proposal for parking and waiting restrictions?

Under the proposal you will be forcing children (all under the age of 10) to vacate their parent's car on a busy main road where I suspect it will only be a matter of time before someone is injured.

I wonder if the residents of Poplar Close have thought about the repercussions of these restrictions and I am quite certain they would not want to put any child's life in danger (by forcing their parents to park on Heath Road) for the sake of the inconvenience of having cars parked outside their house for a maximum of an hour a day and I would like to point out that in the 8 years that I have been taking my children to the school I have not personally witnessed the road being obstructed by any vehicle and I believe that most parents are considerate when parking.

I accept that a compromise will need to be made but under the current proposal I feel that this is a very one sided 'win' situation and the parents and more importantly the children are going to lose.

Extremely frustrated and angry

Dear Transport Manger,

We object to the proposal for restricted waiting as we feel there is no safety issue in this case and parking causes no obstruction and little or no inconvenience for such short periods of time.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Mr & Mrs Xxxxx
xx Church Street,
Leighton Buzzard

I am writing to object to the proposal of introducing a controlled parking zone, including a prohibition and restriction of waiting in Poplar Close.

I have a number of reasons for these objections, these are as follows:

Doverly Down school was built in the 1960's (information obtained from <http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/LeightonBuzzard/DoverlyDownSchoolLeightonBuzzard.aspx>)

It is interesting to note the majority of residents have lived in Poplar Close for less than 10 years, with 25% of residents having lived there for less than 5 years. These residents moved into their properties knowing full well that in this road (Poplar Close) there is an access point into Doverly Down School.

It is disappointing this proposal offers no solutions or alternatives for dropping off and collecting children, should this proposal get passed. Doverly Down's main entrance off Heath Road is only a single lane with 2 passing points and would not be able to cope with an increased volume of traffic. Passing this proposal would only result in vehicles queuing on Heath Road in both directions, or worse case, *parking* on Heath Road which would be dangerous to the parents, children and other road users alike, all of which would cause major traffic hold-ups and problems on what is already a very busy road during these times.

All this proposal achieves is to push this problem onto neighbouring roads, forcing parents to park on Hillside Road and Plantation Road and walking up Poplar Close. This will then no doubt upset these residents - at what point do you draw the line? Do you just keep painting yellow lines on the road or come up with a viable solution that works for everyone?

I appreciate that some parents may not be considerate in their parking but a surely a better solution would be to warden the road at these busy times and punish those who are not considerate in their parking.

I am sure most parents, like me, try to walk into school whenever possible. However, when you have 2 or more children, all going in different directions, sometimes it's just not! I am sure that some parents drive into school when in reality they could walk but this would be a minority of people and forcing a minority of people into walking will still not offer a solution to the majority of those who no choice but to drive.

It is very frustrating that this proposal only deals with the complaints from the residents of Poplar Close and offers no solution to the parents who use this road to take and collect their children to and from Doverly Down School.

These are my objections, thank you for taking the time to read them.

Kind Regards

Dear Sirs

I refer to the application to introduce controlled parking in Poplar Close.

I object to the making of the Order for the reasons set out below, which I deal with by responding to the purported reasons for the proposal:

Promoting public safety

No evidence is provided that public safety is at risk currently. It is true that parents park on Poplar Close to gain access to the rear entrance of Doverly Down Lower School but, in my experience (as a parent of a child at the school who walks to school along Poplar Close), the parking is considerate and allows children to exit their cars on a quiet cul de sac, thereby promoting their safety. I rarely see Poplar Close residents at school drop off or pick up times and so do not believe that the parking causes them a safety risk. Please would you let me know what evidence is relied upon to justify this reason? If parking is no longer allowed, parents will be forced to park on Hillside Road or Heath Road (as the Doverly Down car park is already at capacity at the relevant times). This causes a much greater cause for concern in relation to the safety of children and road users as these roads are far busier and much less suitable for parking for a school drop off.

Frequently hinders the passage of vehicles and obstructs vehicular accesses

I use this road very regularly and have never seen any difficulties in terms of vehicular access. With one car parked on the road at any location, there is plenty of room for another vehicle to pass.

Residents of Poplar Close all have driveways and, as far as I can see, are not regular road users at the relevant times of the day. Does evidence exist to show that vehicular access is difficult?

Creates an inconvenience to local residents

For the reasons set out above, I do not believe that any inconvenience is caused to residents. Of course, I understand that residents probably do not like the parking but this is not the same as inconvenience being caused to them. To my mind, this is an example of "Not in My Back Yard", which is clearly not a good enough reason to make this Order. In fact, if the Order is made, the parking will simply move to someone else's Back Yard, creating significant safety issues as stated above.

As a general point, many parents of children at the school do not, because of the distance from home, have the option to walk to school and so parking restrictions on Poplar Close are unlikely to reduce the number of cars; it will just create pressure points in other areas near to the school.

Please would you kindly acknowledge receipt of my objection.

Regards

x Oxendon Court
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 3HD

March 4 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

OBJECTION to proposal to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone with a Prohibition of Waiting in Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard

I write to object to part of the proposed Order to introduce traffic control measures in Poplar Close and Hillside Road, Leighton Buzzard.

Grounds for this objection

I object to the proposal to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone along the whole length of Poplar Close. The grounds for my objection are that this part of the overall proposal is a disproportionate and inappropriate solution to the problem of on-street parking by parents of Dovery Down Lower School pupils. By disallowing parents from parking on Poplar Close at these times then the parents will need to park elsewhere and this will simply 'move the problem' to surrounding roads (especially Hillside Road) and also create new road safety risks by increasing the need for children to cross busy roads to reach the school entrance on Poplar Close.

There may of course be parents who can choose to leave their cars at home and walk to school instead but in many cases parents need to commute to work immediately after 'drop off' at school or immediately before 'pick up' and/or live some distance from the school, and so choosing not to drive is not an option.

Support for the remainder of your proposal

I support the proposal to introduce double yellow lines at the various points listed on the Public Notice (on Hillside Road and Poplar Close). I think that this measure alone will achieve your stated objectives of promoting road safety, improving the passage of vehicles and preventing vehicular access from being obstructed.

I suggest that the Council takes the following actions for a set period of time and then reviews the situation:

1. introduce the double yellow lines outlined in the Public Notice
2. monitor any inconsiderate and/or illegal parking at the start and end of the school day

Yours sincerely

Dear Sirs

I write in response to Central Bedfordshire Council's proposal to introduce a controlled parking zone including a prohibition and restriction of waiting in Poplar Close and Hillside Road, Leighton Buzzard.

I object to the proposal on the following grounds:

1. The proposal states the "Order is considered necessary on the grounds of promoting road safety". However, the safety of children arriving at school should be of paramount importance. If the controlled parking zone with a prohibition of waiting Monday to Friday from 8.30a, to 9.30am and 3pm to 4pm is introduced for the length of Poplar Close then it will mean parents will be forced to find alternative parking at school run times. Dovery Down Lower School is lucky enough to have its own car park for parents and teaching staff accessed from Heath Road, however, this car park is currently fully utilised at both school run times. It is therefore likely that parents will be forced to park on the much busier roads of Hillside Road, Plantation Road and Heath Road. In turn, this will mean children (of school age and pre-school if accompanying older siblings) will be alighting from cars on roads with more traffic volume and with vehicles travelling at higher speeds. This 'solution' is not promoting road safety, indeed arguably just the opposite. The layout of Poplar Close means traffic can only travel at a low speed making it a much safer environment for young children; as it is a cul de sac there is also a low volume of traffic.

Doverly Down School is a well regarded Lower School with pupil's ages ranging from 4 – 9 years. At school pick-up and drop-off times children are always accompanied by parents/guardians/carers when in Poplar Close and are closely supervised in crossing the road. Children are not freely roaming Poplar Close.

The demographic spread in the Doverly Down Lower School catchment area is such that a large proportion of children who attend the school now come from outside the catchment area. As a result, many parents have to drive to school to ensure children arrive for the start of the school day. Parents are very aware of the need to park in a safe and appropriate place but with good access to the school entrances. The demographic situation is unlikely to change in the future.

2. The proposal also states the current situation creates "an inconvenience to local residents" Cars are usually parked in Poplar Close for around 30 minutes in the morning (approximately 8.40am – 9.10am as school starts at 8.55am) and around 30 minutes maximum in the afternoon (approximately 3.15pm – 3.45pm as school finishes at 3.30pm). This may be inconvenient to residents but only for a very brief period during the day. When weekends and school holidays are taken into consideration this only constitutes a small proportion of time. It would appear that the introduction of controlled parking is a disproportionate response to the situation. Introducing controlled parking could also be extremely inconvenient for residents themselves as their visitors (personal and business) would be unable to park in Poplar Close during the prohibited times, unless on a private drive.
3. Having been a parent of a child at the School since September 2010 I have never witnessed a situation where parent parking in Poplar Close has hindered the passage of resident vehicles. I am aware, however, of very occasional inconsiderate parking. This could easily be resolved with an on-the-spot fine/caution for that particular person rather than a 'blanket' approach to prohibit parking at certain times. I have no objection to placing double yellow lines opposite the school entrance and at the corners marked on the proposed plan as this will always ensure cars are parked in an appropriate place and with consideration for others.

I trust the above objections will be taken into consideration before a decision is made on the proposal. I would also recommend that before a decision is taken (and public money spent) an appropriate officer of the Council should visit Poplar Close to view the situation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Xxxxx Xxxxxx
xx Columba Drive
Leighton Buzzard
Beds LU7 3 YN

(Parent of child who attends Doverly Down Lower School)

FAO The Transportation Manager,

I am writing to raise my objections to the proposed scheme at Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard. This road is used on a daily basis in term time by parents who either live too far away to walk or who are going straight to work from the school run. Unfortunately, this road is populated entirely by elderly, retired residents who object to this fact and have had the time to pursue your department relentlessly until they get what they desire, which is the power to stop any school traffic from using the road.

I would like to point out that no one who lives in that road bought their house before the school had an entrance off Poplar Close, therefore they were all aware of the parking situation when they moved to the road.

The onsite parking at Dovery Down Lower School is not sufficient to allow all parents who need to drive to park off the roads, they have to park somewhere. By placing restrictions on the parking in Poplar Close all you will do is force these cars to park elsewhere, meaning that they will park on the surrounding roads instead. I had a conversation with your department at the end of last year and I was told that you would never put parking restrictions in place if it meant that the problem would be pushed out onto other roads. This is exactly what you are doing and exactly what will happen.

Cars already use part of Hillside Road, and people will be left with no choice other than to park on Heath Road by the school's main entrance. As you are aware this is a very busy main road. In the morning it is rush hour and full of traffic leaving town heading for Milton Keynes and other places, and coming into town in the other direction for work and schools. There is another lower school a few hundred yards further up the road, and in the morning and evening this road is busy with traffic from that school too. If cars are forced to park on this road it will lead to traffic congestion and there is no doubt that in the near future there will be an accident caused, either involving two vehicles or more worryingly involving a child getting in or out of a vehicle who gets hit. I am in no doubt that this is not a situation the council wants to force.

The proposed scheme in Poplar Close is very extreme given the fact that the vast majority of people park considerately and that the cars are there for a very short amount of time both morning and evening. I believe it would be possible for you to restrict parking on certain stretches of the road whilst still allowing a certain number of cars to park there.

Residents and their visitors regularly park on the kerbs and block pavements forcing prams out into the road to pass.

I would like to ask if the restrictions you are proposing do go ahead whether you will actually patrol this road at all? The residents frequently have workmen and the like parked on the kerbs at school times and I guarantee you that they will not stop using the road the way they want to. Their only desire is to stop the parents parking on 'their' road. Once the lines are in place and parents are banned they will park wherever they please. The residents can be extremely rude and aggressive towards even small children who stray onto the edge of driveways with parents who are walking. Only yesterday I witnessed the man who lives at number 2 angrily waving children away from his drive, they were still stood on the pavement and one is only four years old. He came out of his house to shout at them. The point I am making is that they have made this parking issue their own personal vendetta, they have the time to harass you until you give in. They do not own the road, and as long as their driveways are not blocked and they can leave or enter the road at school times as easily as possible then there is no reason to stop all parking in that road.

I do hope you will reconsider your plans and if you do put restrictions in place that they will be ones that are fair for the residents and the other road users, not just ones that are used to silence the residents. And that they will also be ones that do not create parking problems on the surrounding roads or cause accidents.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms X Xxxxx. Concerned parent who walks to school 99% of the time!

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the proposal of introducing a controlled parking zone, including a prohibition and restriction of waiting in Poplar Close.

I have a number of reasons for these objections, these are as follows:

Doverly Down school was built in the 1960's (information obtained from <http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/LeightonBuzzard/DoverlyDownSchoolLeightonBuzzard.aspx>)

It is interesting to note the majority of residents have lived in Poplar Close for less than 10 years, with 25% of residents having lived there for less than 5 years. These residents moved into their properties knowing full well that in this road (Poplar Close) there is an access point into Doverly Down School.

It is disappointing this proposal offers no solutions or alternatives for dropping off and collecting children, should this proposal get passed. Doverly Down's main entrance off Heath Road is only a single lane with 2 passing points and would not be able to cope with an increased volume of traffic. Passing this proposal would only result in vehicles queuing on Heath Road in both directions, or worse case, parking on Heath Road which would be dangerous to the parents, children and other road users alike, all of which would cause major traffic hold-ups and problems on what is already a very busy road during these times.

All this proposal achieves is to push this problem onto neighbouring roads, forcing parents to park on Hillside Road and Plantation Road and walking up Poplar Close. This will then no doubt upset these residents - at what point do you draw the line? Do you just keep painting yellow lines on the road or come up with a viable solution that works for everyone?

I appreciate that some parents may not be considerate in their parking but a surely a better solution would be to warden the road at these busy times and punish those who are not considerate in their parking.

I am sure most parents, like me, try to walk into school whenever possible. However, when you have 2 or more children, all going in different directions, sometimes it's just not! I am sure that some parents drive into school when in reality they could walk but this would be a minority of people and forcing a minority of people into walking will still not offer a solution to the majority of those who no choice but to drive.

It is very frustrating that this proposal only deals with the complaints from the residents of Poplar Close and offers no solution to the parents who use this road to take and collect their children to and from Doverly Down School.

I not only have my own children to transport in the mornings and the afternoons - I am a registered childminder and must stress the importance of risk to my children and those that I childmind. I have a duty of care to these children and with the movements I have to do at school times, would only put them in danger should this TRO be put in place on Poplar Close.

These are my objections, thank you for taking the time to read them.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the proposal of introducing a controlled parking zone, including a prohibition and restriction of waiting in Poplar Close.

I have a number of reasons for these objections, these are as follows:

Doverly Down school was built in the 1960's (information obtained from <http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/LeightonBuzzard/DoverlyDownSchoolLeightonBuzzard.aspx>)

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It is very frustrating that this proposal only deals with the complaints from the residents of Poplar Close and offers no solution to the parents who use this road to take and collect their children to and from Doverly Down School.

I not only have my own children to transport in the mornings and the afternoons - I am a registered childminder and must stress the importance of risk to my children and those that I childmind. I have a duty of care to these children and with the movements I have to do at school times, would only put them in danger should this TRO be put in place on Poplar Close.

These are my objections, thank you for taking the time to read them.

Dear Sir

I am writing with regard to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order in Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard.

Having read the order it seems that the residents have not taken into consideration the safety of the children. The proposal does not mention any safety aspect at all and is just based on the fact that residents have minimal disruption for what would be a maximum of 15 minutes in the morning and mid afternoon. The proposal is just based on residence inconvenience (which I believe is minimal) and has not taken into consideration the bigger picture and the possible impact the single yellow lines could have.

Although I would like to object to the single yellow lines I am not objecting to the double yellow lines in the proposed areas as per the proposal. I feel this is actually a safety issue and one that should not be over looked.

Regarding the single yellow lines I do feel that if these were to be put in place then safety issues would actually be generated. I have been parking in Poplar Close for just over a year now as my daughter is a pupil at Dover Down Lower School. I always park with due diligence and would never obstruct anyones driveways or park on the verge. You will also find this is the case with the majority of people. Within this period of time, and to my knowledge previously, there have been no accidents or incidents of any kind due to school traffic in Poplar Close and I therefore do not feel it is justified putting the single yellow lines in place. The road is inevitably busier at school drop off and pick up times however this is only ever for a short period of time. People are aware of how the residents feel and I do believe they do their utmost to ensure minimum disruption during this period of time.

If single yellow lines are put in place then the congestion will be moved to the main roads which will increase the chance of an accident. Plantation Road, Hillside Road and Heath Road are very busy roads. With the introduction of single yellow lines in Poplar Close the parents will have no choice but to park in these areas which will create a hazard to those attending the school and also general passers by. We will create an accident waiting to happen!

Kind regards
Xxxx Xxxxxxxx

Linslade
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 2QD

March 9 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

OBJECTION to proposal to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone with a Prohibition of Waiting in Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard

I write to object to part of the proposed Order to introduce traffic control measures in Poplar Close and Hillside Road, Leighton Buzzard.

Grounds for this objection

I object to the proposal to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone along the whole length of Poplar Close. The grounds for my objection are that this part of the overall proposal is a disproportionate and inappropriate solution to the problem of on-street parking by parents of Dovery Down Lower School pupils. By disallowing parents from parking on Poplar Close at these times then the parents will need to park elsewhere and this will simply 'move the problem' to surrounding roads (especially Hillside Road) and also create new road safety risks by increasing the need for children to cross busy roads to reach the school entrance on Poplar Close.

There may of course be parents who can choose to leave their cars at home and walk to school instead but in many cases parents need to commute to work immediately after 'drop off' at school or immediately before 'pick up' and/or live some distance from the school, and so choosing not to drive is not an option.

Support for the remainder of your proposal

I support the proposal to introduce double yellow lines at the various points listed on the Public Notice (on Hillside Road and Poplar Close). I think that this measure alone will achieve your stated objectives of promoting road safety, improving the passage of vehicles and preventing vehicular access from being obstructed.

I suggest that the Council takes the following actions for a set period of time and then reviews the situation:

1. introduce the double yellow lines outlined in the Public Notice
2. monitor any inconsiderate and/or illegal parking at the start and end of the school day

Yours sincerely

To whom it may concern,

With regards to the proposed parking restrictions in and around Doverly Down school, Poplar Close entrance, I contest the proposal on the following grounds:

- Poplar close has been used as the main entrance to the school since it was opened some 30years ago. The majority of the residence of Poplar close have bought their houses since this time fully aware if the schools entrance.
- As a parent of a pupil at the school I am in good authority to pass judgement on the quality if parking in Poplar close and I have not witnessed any violations or inconsiderate parking.
- Generally cars begin arriving at school from approx 8:45am and have left by 9:05am due to the school whistle being blown at 8:55. Parents generally arrive from 3:20pm and have left by 3:40pm. Consideration should be given to the Poplar close entrance to the school being locked outside of these hours. Whilst it is acknowledged that the road is busy during these times, favourable weighting should be applied when assessing the short duration of usage by school traffic.
- The alternative entrance to the school does not hold sufficient capacity to service the additional Poplar close capacity, and nor was it designed to. It is appreciated that it is not in the councils remit to ensure sufficient parking in a school however overall safety and welfare of the children needs to be considered very closely.
- If parents are unable to park in Poplar close then parking will spill out onto the next available roads, namely Plantation road and Heath road. Both of which are significantly busy roads and I would fear for the safety of the children given the volume of traffic not to mention the increased problems for commuters with cars parked along side the roads. I refer to earlier road traffic accidents involving pedestrians along Heath road.
- It appears to me that the residence if Poplar close are making a stand based on their own convenience. Of course they are entitled to enter and exit their property freely but it does not seem that they are prevented from doing so anymore than any other resident of a busy road. The only difference is is that they do not have to contest with significant traffic throughout the day and are presented with less than an hour 5 days a week if congestion.

All things considered I Would urge you to consider the potential dangers in blocking parking in Poplar close against the continued issues if the residence should parking continue. Risks can not be taken with children's

Lives and going to school should not present an increased risk from their normal daily lives. Some parents are not in a position to walk their children to school, and with the back entrance to the school not a suficient option I am extremely concerned about the resulting overspill onto two over Leighton's busiest roads and the potential resulting dangers.

I trust that you will consider my issues with the importance in which they deserve.

Kind regards,
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

APPENDIX F

Petition to OPPOSE PLANS TO INTRODUCE A PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING IN POPLAR CLOSE AND HILLSIDE ROAD, LEIGHTON BUZZARD (SINGLE YELLOW AND DOUBLE YELLOW LINES)

Petition Summary:

The introduction of parking restrictions in Poplar Close will force parents/guardians/carers to seek alternative parking solutions on neighbouring roads which will threaten the safety of our children. Increased parking on busier through-roads will obstruct visibility for parents and children using and crossing these roads. Parents will have to unload children, younger siblings and pushchairs in roads with heavier traffic.

We do not agree that the passage of vehicles in Poplar Close is hindered and that vehicular accesses are obstructed by frequent indiscriminate parking.

We do not agree that parking in Poplar Close for less than 1 hour per day, term-time only, causes an inconvenience to local residents to the extent that double yellow and single yellow lines are needed to prevent parking at each end of the school day.

Action Petitioned For: **We the undersigned are concerned parents/guardians/carers of pupils at Doverly Down Lower School, who wish to object to the planned parking restrictions outside the Poplar Close entrance to the school.**

148430

APPENDIX G

Proposed Controlled Parking Zone – Poplar Close, Leighton Buzzard

<p>This Authority has considered the proposals as outlined in your letter and offer the following comments for further consideration.</p> <p>Comments</p>	
<p>This Authority has considered the proposals as outlined in your letter, together with the reason(s) given, is accepted by this authority, therefore no objection with be offered.</p>	<p>✓</p>

Name: - JOHN HOUGHLIN

Address BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Signed: 