Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting

Date: 7 January 2013

Subject: Improvements to Existing Residents Parking Zones

(Dunstable and Leighton - Linslade

Report of: Jane Moakes, Assistant Director Community Safety and Public

Protection

Summary: To report to the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities

Services on the findings and recommendations of a study carried out in the existing Residents Parking Zones of Dunstable and Leighton -

Linslade.

Contact Officer: David Bowie

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Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Dunstable & Leighton - Linslade

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

To improve highway safety, facilitate the free flow of traffic and improve the amenity of streets for residents.

Financial:

There is currently no budget allocation for the amendment of parking restrictions within the existing Residential Parking Zones. If minded to approve then the cost of the combined works in all four RPZ's would be approximately £71,478.70

Legal:

Central Bedfordshire Council is the highway and traffic authority for the road network in area of Central Bedfordshire. An important function of the Authority is to manage on and off-street parking. To be legally enforceable, parking services must be compliant with the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Risk Management:

Failure to deliver efficient and effective parking enforcement would be detrimental to the safe and expeditious use of the road network and could be damaging to economic growth. Failure to deliver a cost neutral parking enforcement service could have detrimental financial implications to the Authority. Failure to deliver an effective approach to parking may result in reputational damage to the Council.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as part of this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Creating an attractive and accessible public realm has a part to play in getting people out and about. One objective of enforcing traffic restrictions is to ensure that the most vulnerable members of the community have fair access to the public realm. Disabled people, in particular, place a high priority on the provision and enforcement of disabled parking bays and the provision of dropped kerbs.

An efficiently managed parking system is therefore crucial for allowing equality of opportunity.

Community Safety:

The inclusion of improved parking measures within the areas under consideration is likely to have an overall positive effect on the local amenity, road safety and free movement of traffic.

Sustainability:

None as part of this report

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the findings and recommendations made in the report are accepted and approved for funding and implementation in financial year 2013/14.

Background and Information

- 1. This report follows an investigation into the operation of the existing Residents Parking Zones (RPZ's) in Dunstable and Leighton Linslade. The investigations were prompted by complaints from residents within the zones that they were having difficulties finding available on street parking in the evenings and at certain times during the day. As the council had increased permit cost's for financial year 2011/12 residents complained that the zones were not operating to their advantage as was originally intended.
- 2. The purpose of the Residents Parking Zones Study was therefore to assess and evaluate the operation of the existing residents parking zones and, investigate the potential to increase kerb side space, as well as considering the existing parking zone restrictions and operational times. The Study Reports would then identify areas or lengths of existing carriageway where the principal objectives could be achieved.

- 3. The four Residential Zones considered were as follows:-
 - The Central Linslade Parking Zone covering Church Road (whole length), New Road (whole length), Old Road (whole length excluding the north side between Stoke Road and Soulbury Road), Ship Road (whole length), Soulbury Road (south side from Old Road to Station Road), Station Road (whole length), Vicarage Road (whole length), Victoria Road (whole length), Waterloo Road (whole length), Wing Road (west side from Old Road to the south side of No. 120 but excluding Ivester Court).
 - Springfield Road, Linslade
 - Prince Regent Area Parking Zone, Dunstable covering Albion Street (from Princes Street to its junction with Edward Street/Matthew Street), Edward Street (whole length), Matthew Street (whole length), Princes Street (whole length), Regent Street (whole length), Union Street (south east side from High Street North to Princes Street), Victoria Street (from West Street to Union Street), Winfield Street (whole length)
 - Icknield Street, Dunstable

4.

Results and the Way Forward

5. Central Linslade Zone (Appendix A)

The Study Report has identified where this principal objective can be achieved, resulting in a potential increase of available kerb side residents parking bays by 295 linear metres with lines and signs (123 linear metres), the implementation of physical works e.g. kerb realignments etc. (18 linear metres), and, with innovative ideas, e.g. the construction of bays on a wide verge/footway parking half on and half off the footway by permitting half on and half off footway parking (154 linear metres).

The Study Report has established that there is scope to amend all the existing waiting restrictions within the Central Linslade RPZ area, to be converted to limited waiting between 8.30 am to 5 pm, thus giving local residents even greater flexibility and enhanced parking provision following the end of the working day. However, this will be dependent upon the weekly operational requirements of the waste collection and recycling operations, a matter which needs to be discussed and agreed before any further action is taken in this regard.

6. Springfield Road, Linslade (Appendix B)

The Study Report has identified three lengths of existing carriageway where this principal objective can be achieved, resulting in a potential increase of available kerb side residents parking bays by 42 linear metres with lines and signs only.

7. Prince Regent Area Residents Parking Zone (Appendix C)

The Study Report has identified where this principal objective can be achieved, resulting in a potential increase of available kerb side residents parking bays by 127 linear metres with lines and signs (100 linear metres), the implementation of physical works e.g. kerb realignments etc. (27 linear metres), with innovative ideas, e.g. the construction of bays on a wide verge/footway parking half on and half off the footway by permitting half on and half off footway parking (0 linear metres) and, an increase of approximately 12 linear metres of available kerb side parking bays for the local businesses and shopping premises in Albion Street in proximity to the Borough Arms Public House.

The Study Report has established that there is scope to amend all the existing waiting restrictions within the Prince Regent RPZ area, to be converted to limited waiting between 8.30 am to 5 pm, thus giving local residents even greater flexibility and enhanced parking provision following the end of the working day. However, this will be dependent upon the weekly operational requirements of the waste collection and recycling operations, a matter which needs to be discussed and agreed before any further action is taken in this regard

8. Icknield Street, Dunstable (Appendix D)

The study report has identified three lengths of existing carriageway where the principal objective can be achieved, resulting in a potential increase of available kerb side residential parking bays by 20 linear metres with signs and lines only.

9. The financial implications to the works proposed for each zone are advised as follows:-

	Total	£71,478.70
	Allow 15% Contingencies	£9,323,31
	Sub total	£62,155.39
		20,101110
•	Icknield Street, Dunstable	£3,107.70
•	Prince Regent Area Residents Parking Zone	£36,879.56
•	Springfield Road, Linslade	£3,398.92
•	Central Linslade Residents Parking Zone	£18,769.21

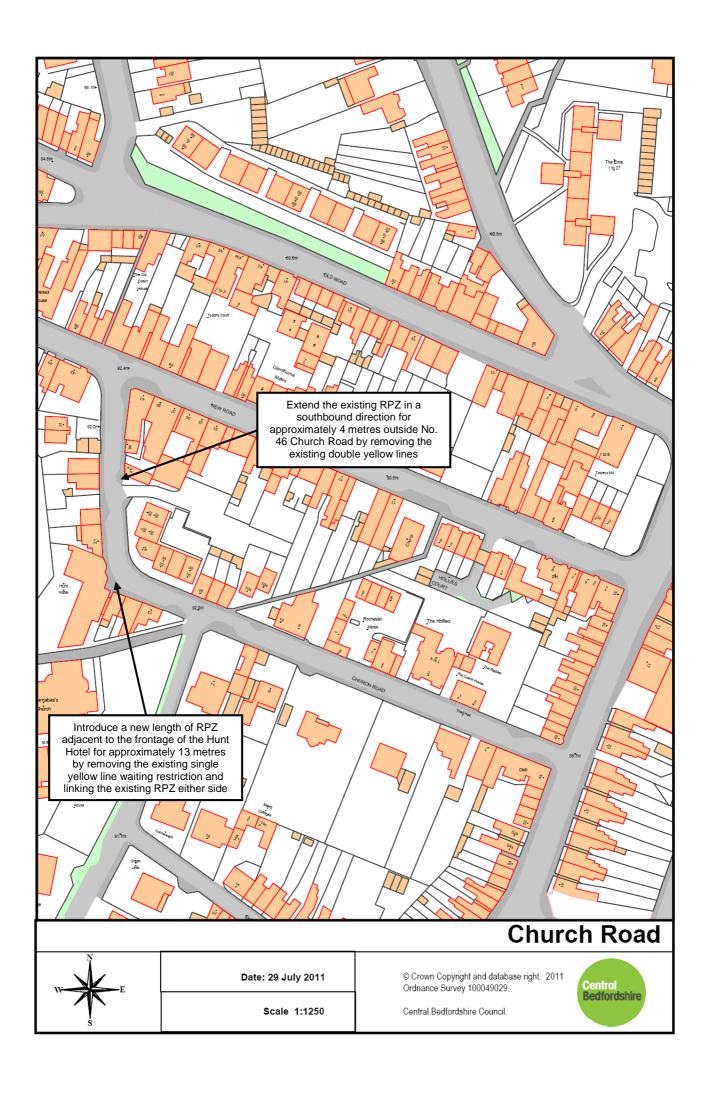
10. In addition to the above improvements the reports also advise that the existing Residents Parking Zones are made Permit Holders Only and that the two hour free stay common within the zones is removed with the exception of where there are local businesses present (for example New Road in the Central Linslade Zone).

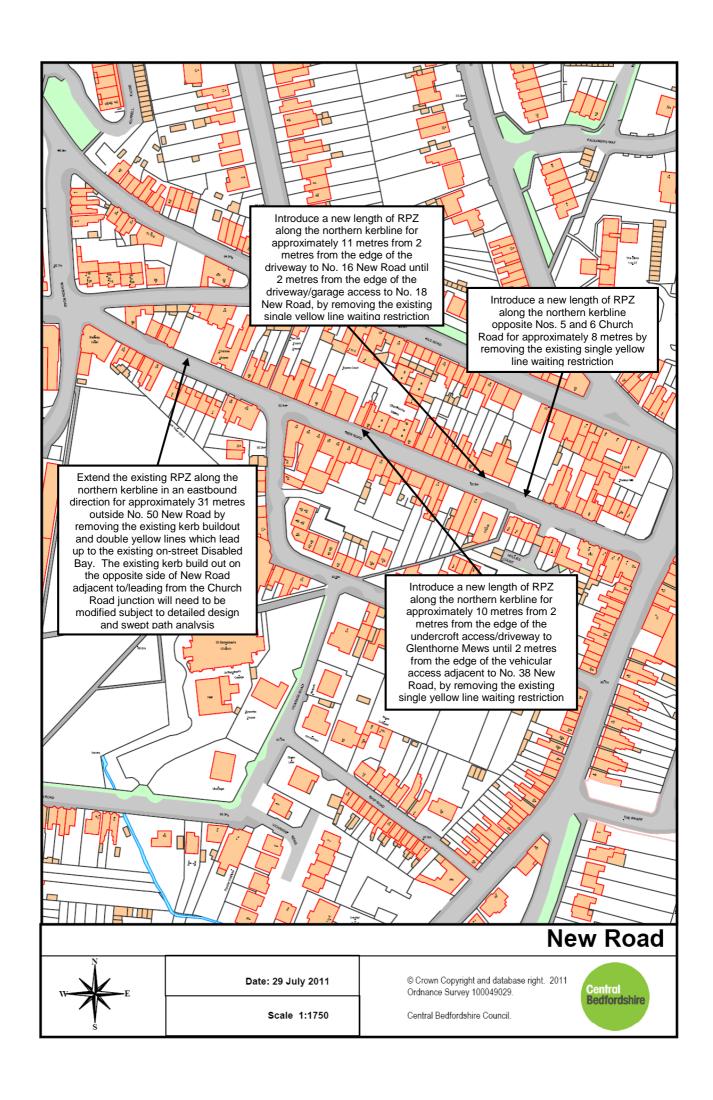
Appendices:

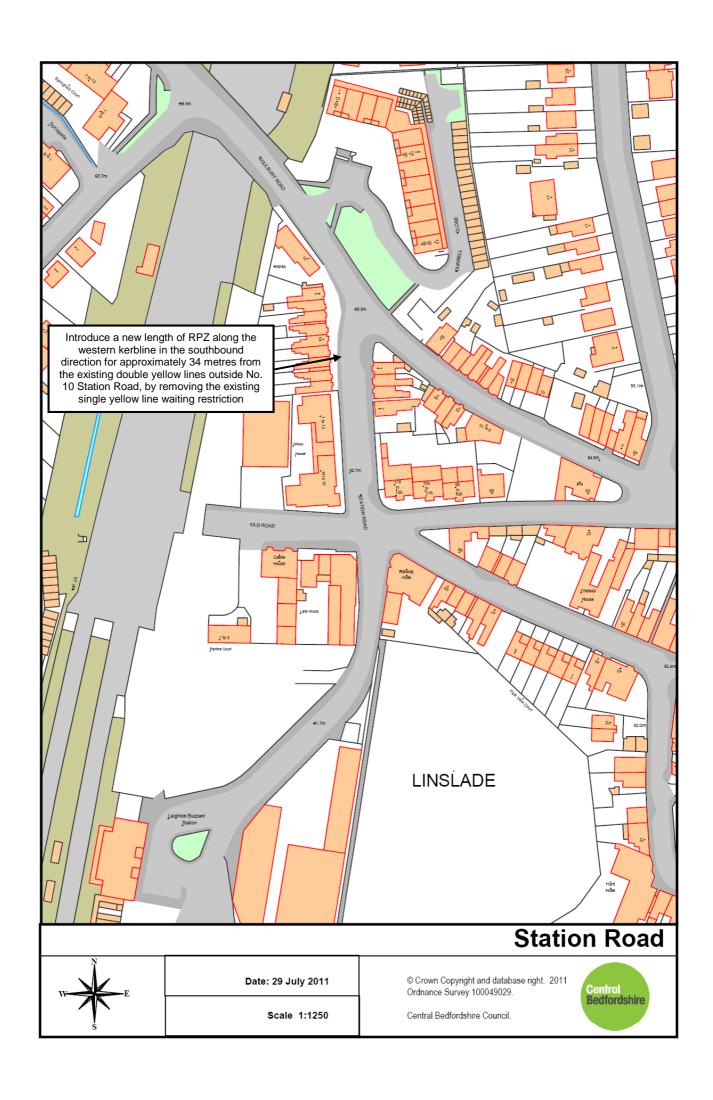
Appendix A – Proposals for Central Linslade Parking Zone

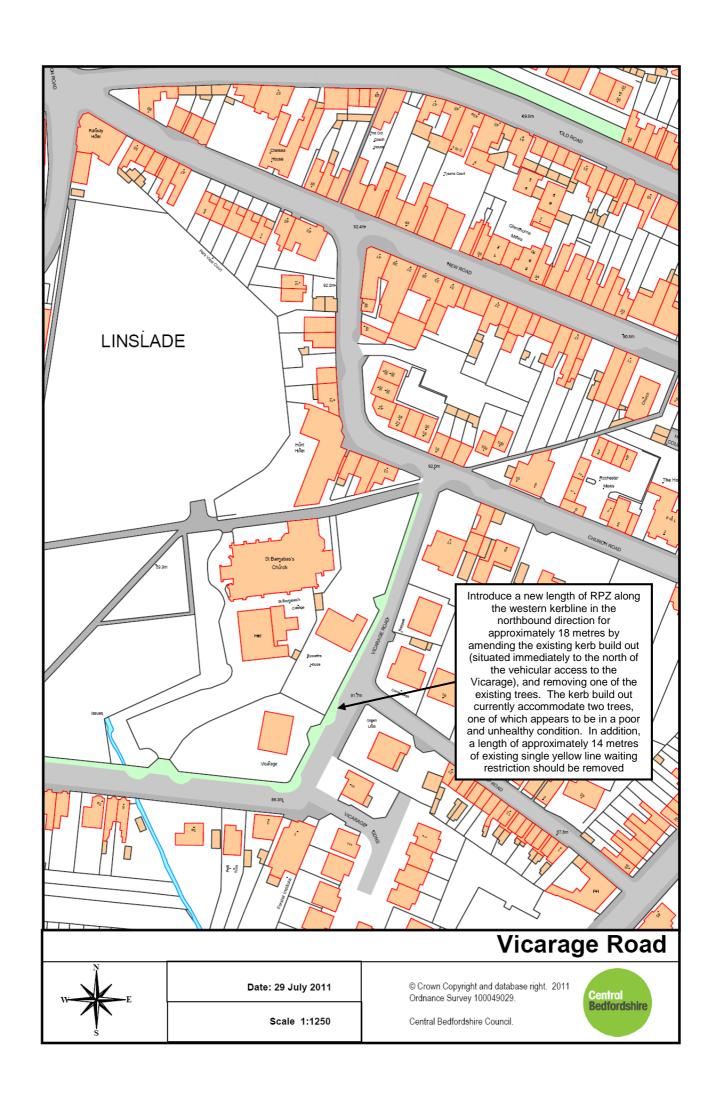
Appendix R – Proposals for Springfield Road, Linslade Parking Zone
Appendix C – Proposals for Prince Regent Area, Dunstable Parking Zone
Appendix D – Proposals for Icknield Street, Dunstable Parking Zone

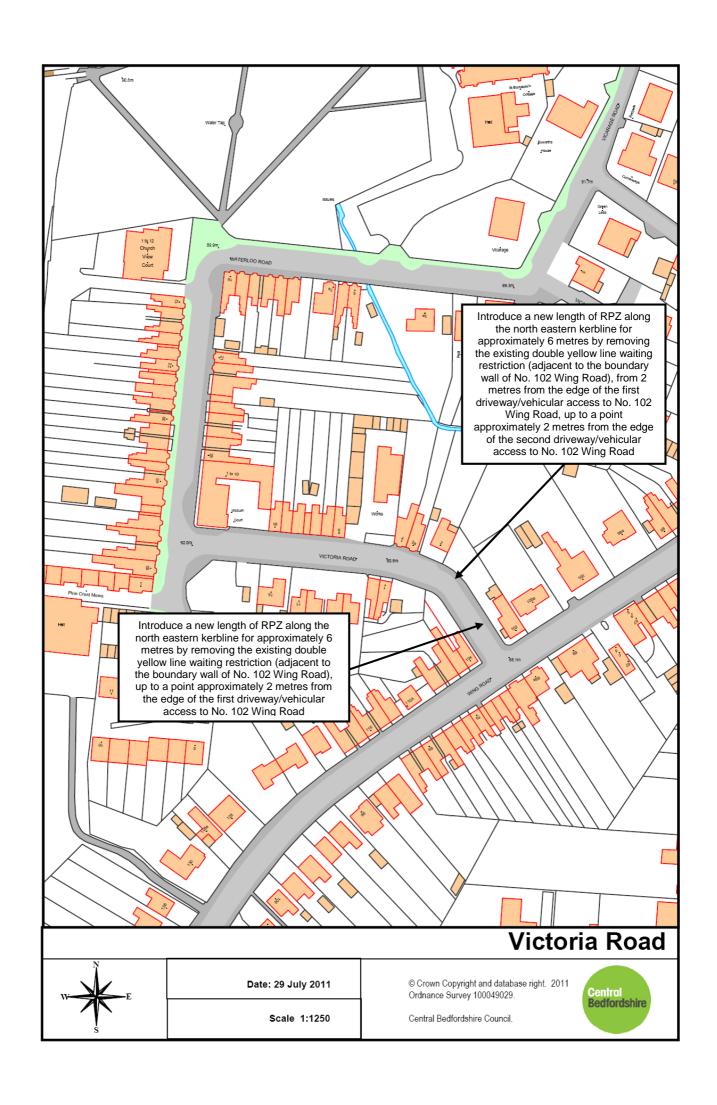
APPENDIX A

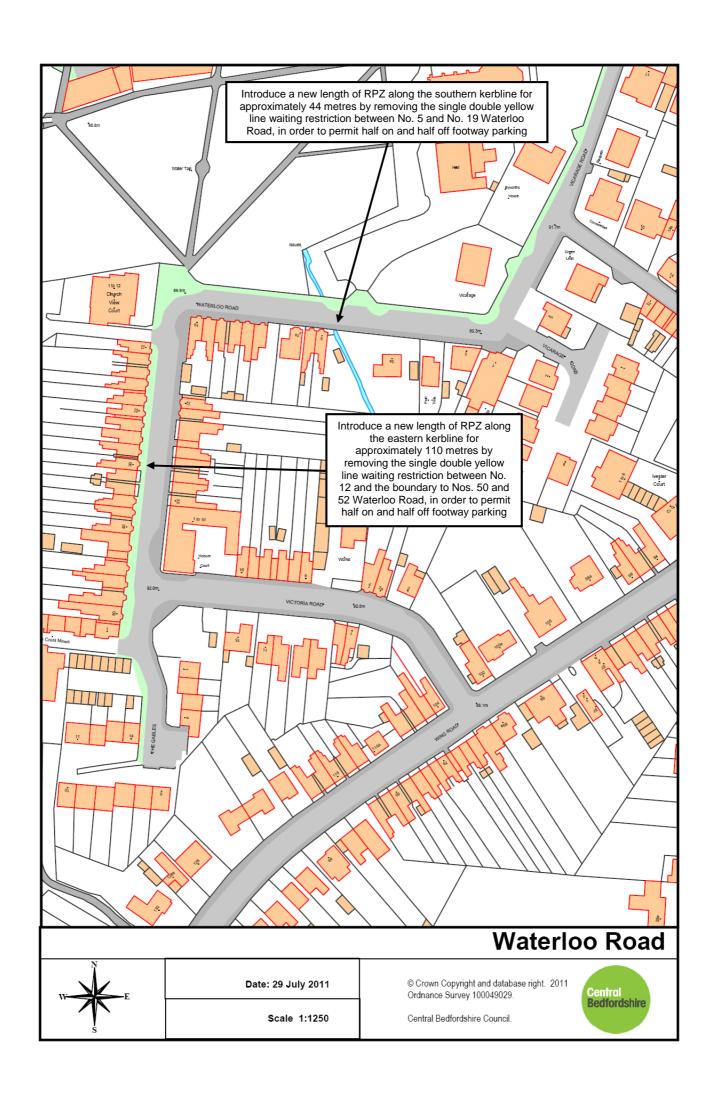




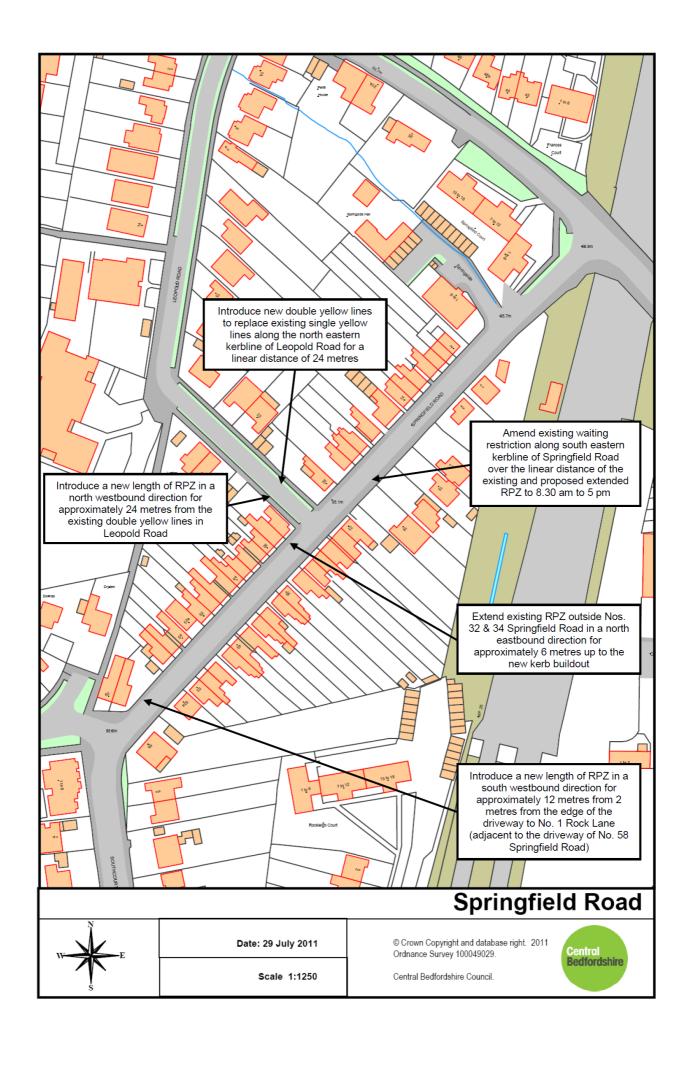




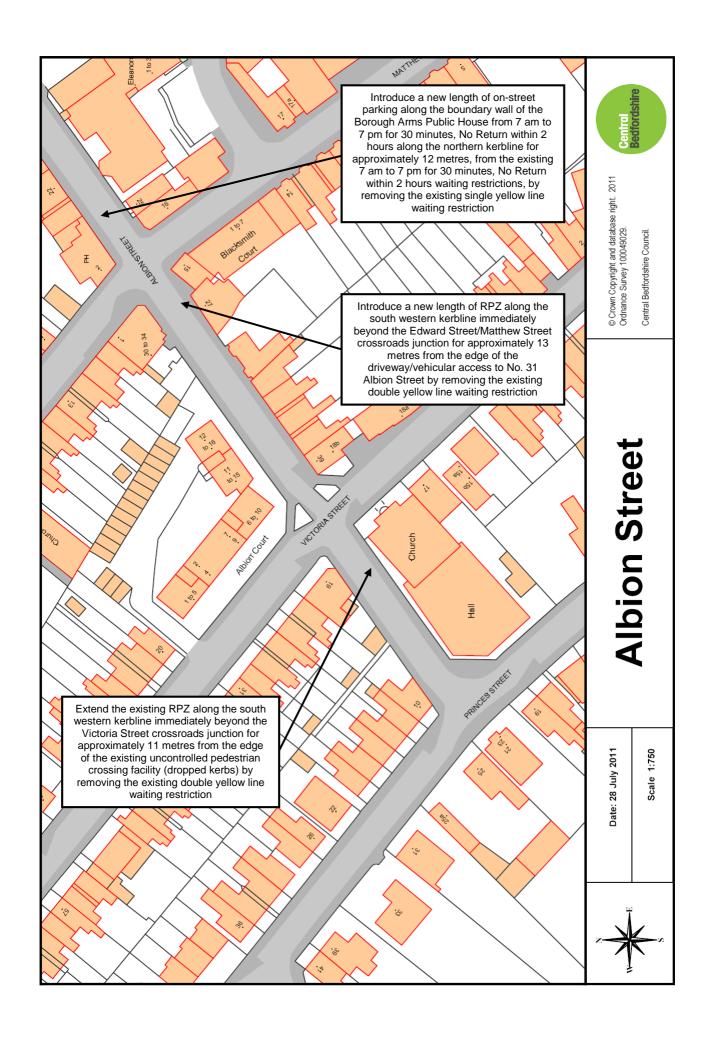


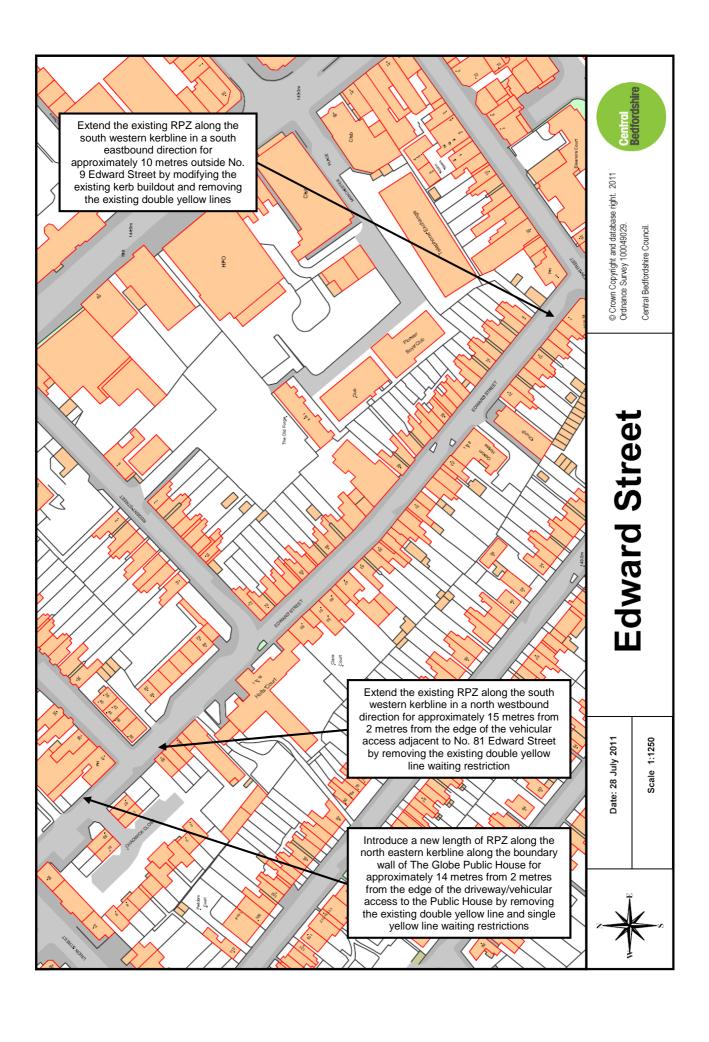


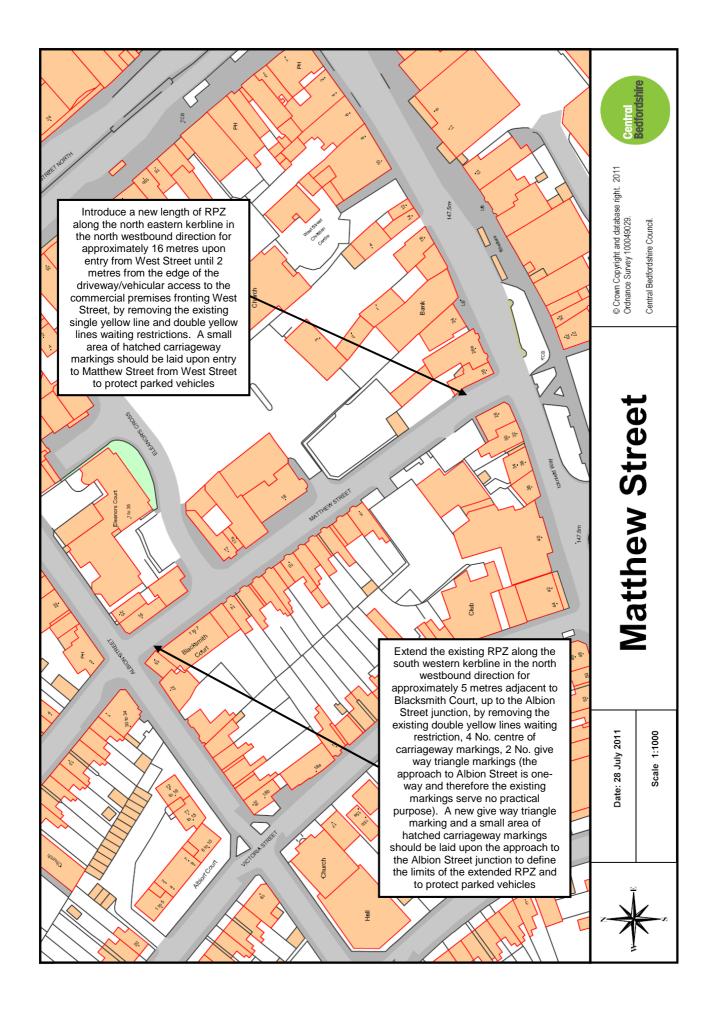
APPENDIX B

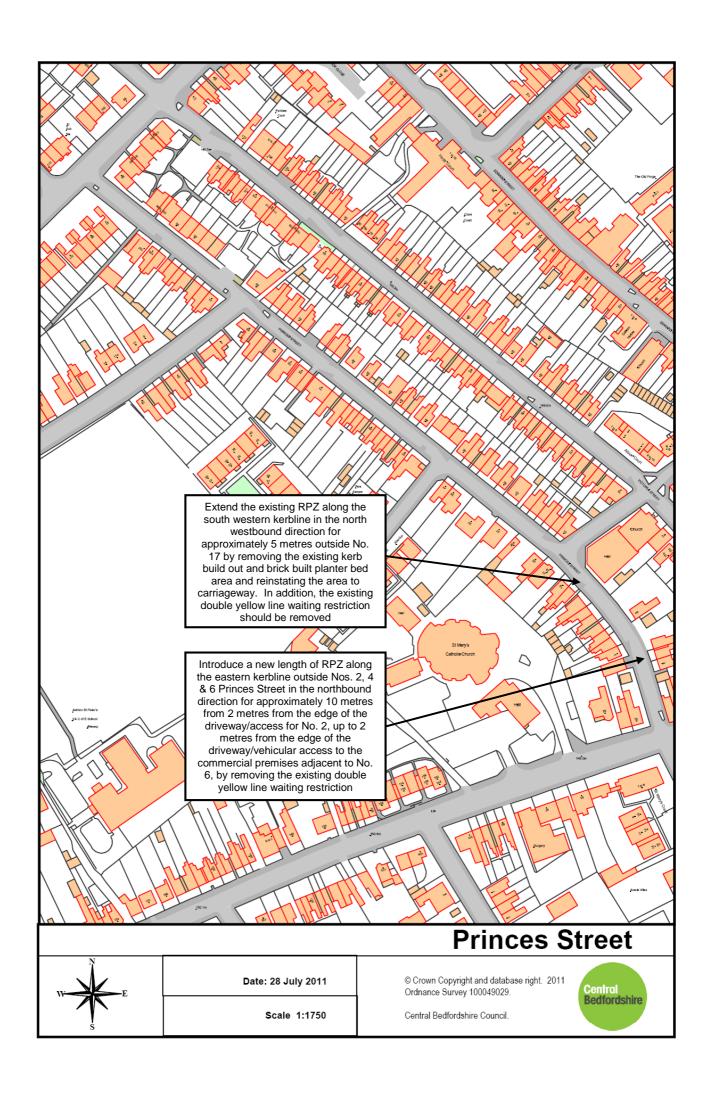


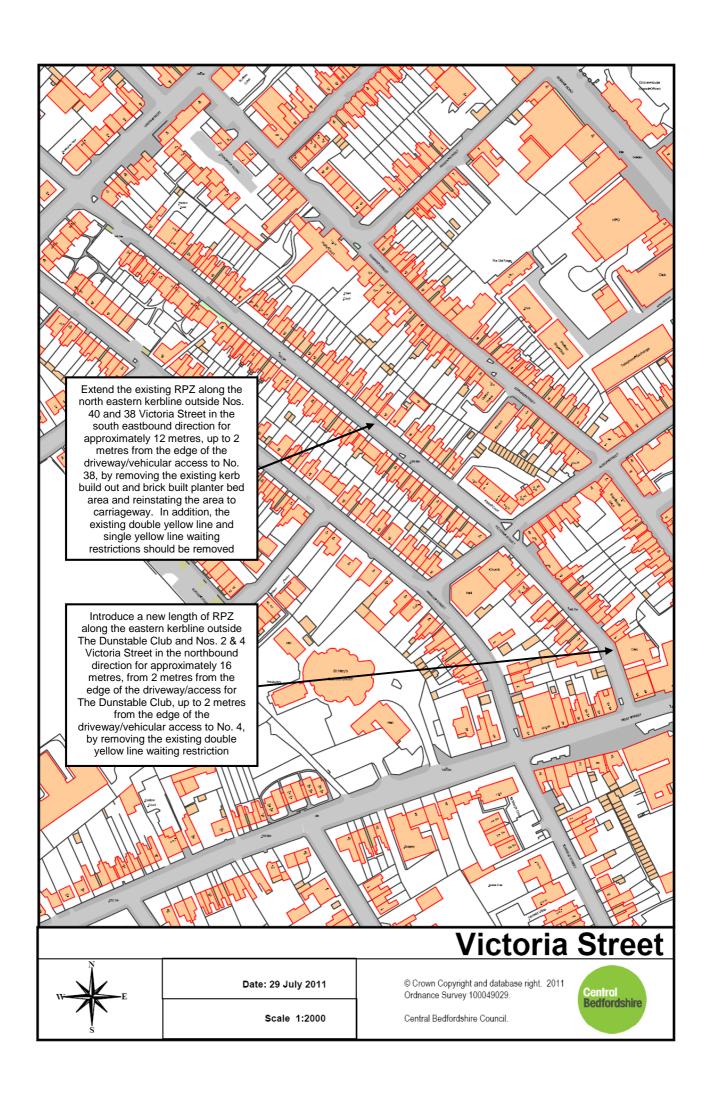
APPENDIX C











APPENDIX D

