
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 20 March 2014
Subject: Westfield Road, Dunstable – Consider Objection to Proposed No Waiting
Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways
Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services for the introduction of No Waiting at any time on lengths of Westfield Road, Dunstable.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
nick.chapman@amey.co.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Dunstable Northfields
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal will improve road safety and ensure the safety and punctuality of bus services.

Financial:

These works are associated with the Luton-Dunstable busway scheme which is a major LAMP funded scheme.

Legal:

None from this report.

Risk Management:

None from this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report

Community Safety:

The associated raised tables will improve road safety for all road users, but in particular vulnerable road users, including those travelling to and from the schools.

Sustainability:

The proposal will help to ensure that buses run safely and on time, which encourages greater use by the travelling public. Creating a safer street will support and encourage walking and cycling in line with approved CBC policy.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the proposals to introduce no waiting at any time in Westfield Road be implemented as published.

Background and Information

1. The level of on-street parking in Westfield Road, particularly at the start and end of the school day, hinders the movement of the larger buses operating the enhanced service in Dunstable. This is the service that utilises the new guided busway and it is critical that this operates in an efficient and timely manner. As a result, it is proposed to prohibit waiting on lengths of Westfield Road, but to compensate for the loss of parking capacity, it is proposed to construct lay-bys wherever space allows.
2. The concern with the revised parking arrangements is that drivers will be presented with a straight road, largely clear of parked vehicles, which is likely to encourage higher speeds. This is obviously not desirable in a residential street that contains a lower school and a nursery. Consequently, to counter that it is proposed to install two raised tables to moderate vehicle speeds and provide informal pedestrian crossing points.
3. The proposal was advertised by public notice in January and February 2014. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Dunstable Town Council and relevant Elected Members. Residents of Westfield Road were individually informed and notices were displayed on street.
4. One objection has been received. A copy of the correspondence is included in Appendix C. The main points raised are summarised below:-
 - a) The double yellow lines will prevent him being able to park outside his home, particularly when he wishes to carry shopping from the car to his home.
 - b) It is requested that dropped kerbs are provided, so that he can provide off-road parking.
 - c) The yellow lines will result in more parents parking near to his home at the start and end of the school day making it even more difficult to find a parking space.

5. No representations have been received to the proposed raised tables.
6. Bedfordshire Police have been formally consulted as part of the process and have raised no objections to the proposals.

Responses and Conclusion

7. The Highways Team response to the points raised above are as follows:-
 - a) The objector lives near to the junction of Westfield Road and Drovers Way and double yellow lines are proposed immediately outside his home, so he would not be able to park there. However, it is permissible for a car to be parked on double yellow lines for the purposes of loading/unloading and setting down/picking up passengers.
 - b) It is the intention to write to residents of Westfield Road asking if they wish to have a vehicle crossover installed whilst the works are taking place. It is possible to offer them a significant discount on the usual cost due to the fact that footway works will be taking place. However, the frontage of the objector's house lies outside the scope of the works, so it is not possible to offer such a generous discount. It is further complicated by the fact that his home is a flat and the building is surrounded by a sizeable grass area and it is unclear who owns this land. Consequently, it may prove difficult for him to provide off-road parking. However, it seems to be common practise for residents to park on the grass even though, in most cases, there are no dropped kerbs.
 - c) It is likely that on-street parking by parents will be transferred to other roads as a result of the waiting restrictions. However, the length of road outside the objector's house would have yellow lines, so parking should not occur there.
8. In summary, the yellow lines are required to ensure the safe and efficient operation of bus service and wherever possible lay-bys are being provided to offset the loss of parking spaces. In addition, it is expected that many residents will take up the offer of a discounted vehicle crossover, which should increase space for those who need to park on-street. All of the householders living on this stretch of Westfield Road were individually consulted and only one objection was received, which suggests that the majority support the proposal.
9. If the scheme is approved the works are expected to commence during the 2014 Easter school holidays.

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Public Notice for Proposed Road Humps
- Appendix B – Drawing of Proposed Road Humps
- Appendix C – Representations



PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE NO WAITING AT ANY TIME IN WESTFIELD ROAD AND DROVERS WAY, DUNSTABLE

Reason for proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary for facilitating the passage of buses. The restrictions are intended to keep the road clear of parked vehicles to ensure that the bus service can operate safely and without undue delays. Adjacent lengths of wide footway are being converted to parking bays to provide alternative spaces.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce No Waiting at any time on the following lengths of road in Dunstable:-

1. Westfield Road, north-west side, from its junction with Drovers Way extending in a north-easterly direction to a point approximately 7 metres south-west of the boundary of nos.221 and 223 Westfield Road.
2. Westfield Road, north-west side, from a point approximately 4 metres south-west of the boundary of nos. 215 and 217 Westfield Road extending in a north-easterly direction for a distance of approximately 21 metres.
3. Westfield Road, north-west side, from a point approximately 7 metres south-west of the boundary of nos.193 and 195 Westfield Road extending in a north-easterly direction for a distance of approximately 29 metres.
4. Westfield Road, south-east side, from its junction with Drovers Way extending in a north-easterly direction to a point approximately 33 metres north-east of north-east flank wall of no.189 Westfield Road.
5. Drovers Way, north-east side, from its junction with Westfield Road extending in a north-westerly direction to a point approximately 12 metres north-west of the south-east flank wall of nos.86-92 Drovers Way.

The two length of No Stopping on School Entrance markings Monday to Friday 8am-4.30pm on the above section of Westfield Road will be revoked.

Further Details may be examined during normal opening hours at Dunstable Library, Vernon Place, Dunstable LU5 4HA or online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices. 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.

Objections: should be sent in writing to 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 21 February 2014.

Order Title: If made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (Bedfordshire County 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**"

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG1917 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

30 January 2014

Appendix C



[Redacted]
Drovers Way,
Dunstable
Bedfordshire.
LU6 1AW.

To whom it ^{BG} may concern, I am writing to object about the double yellow lines, you are putting in Westfield Road. I live on the corner of this road near the school. I am a pensioner and it is going to be very awkward for me if I cannot park outside my flat. Especially difficult when I have to carry shopping in.

If they are putting new kerbs in when they do the yellow lines, why can I not have a dropped kerb put there so I can put it on the grass and later put paving slabs or a drive on it. As the parents park on my grass when they pick their children up from school, and I can see this getting worse when you do the yellow lines, so I will again have to keep on riding around the block until I can get a space. Or not move my car or go out school times. Waiting to hear from you

[Redacted]