
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 2 June 2014
Subject: Consideration of the following petitions that have been submitted to the Council:-

1. Windsor Avenue, Leighton Buzzard
2. St John's Street, Biggleswade
3. Sundon Lower School
4. Glebe Avenue and Lyall Close, Flitwick
5. Brookes Road area, Flitwick
6. Brook Close, Dunstable

Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways
Summary: This report is note the receipt of petitions submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and determine a way forward.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Leighton Buzzard North, Biggleswade North, Toddington, Flitwick and Dunstable Central
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

None from this report

Financial:

There is currently no budget allocated to undertake this work.

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:

None from this report

Sustainability:

None from this report.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Executive Member for Community Services notes the receipt of the petitions and approves further investigation of the issues raised, including the submission of a more detailed report to a future meeting.

Background and Information

1. Petitions have been received relating to highway matters in various areas. The issues raised have not been investigated in any detail, but the following outlines the subject matter of the petitions. The full wording of each petition, any accompanying correspondence and locations plans are included in the Appendices to this report.

2. Windsor Avenue, Leighton Buzzard

The petition, signed by 103 residents, requests the Council to undertake an investigation into parking problems in their road and present options to residents.

3. St John's Street, Biggleswade

The petition, signed by 39 residents, states that the road is already heavily trafficked and is expected to increase significantly due to the proposed development at Potton Road, Biggleswade. The road is narrow, which results in larger vehicles, such as lorries, buses, farm vehicles and ambulances having to mount the footway to enable traffic to pass one another. School children are required to cross the road on a daily basis and there are concerns about their safety. The petition asks that the Council takes positive action to resolve the situation.

4. Sundon Lower School

The petition, signed by 106 parents of children attending Sundon Lower School, asks for a zebra crossing and dropped kerbs to be installed outside the school. At present there is no dropped kerb, so parents and carers are struggling to mount the kerb. In addition, there is no safe crossing point, which puts people walking to the school at risk.

The headteacher of Sundon Lower School has written a letter in support of the petition and requests that the barrier outside the school gate be replaced with something more substantial.

5. Glebe Avenue and Lyall Close, Flitwick

The petition, signed by 23 residents, asks the Council to introduce alternate side parking restrictions in Glebe Avenue to ensure the free passage of traffic and pedestrians and to enable residents to have unhindered access to their driveways. The main concern is with the volume and location of long-term parking in this road.

A petition from residents of Lyall Close has also been received. This contains 68 signatures and supports the Glebe Avenue petition on the basis that Lyall Close suffers similar parking issues and any restrictions introduced in one road would probably transfer parking to the other.

6. Brookes Avenue area, Flitwick

The petition, signed by 52 residents of Brookes Road and adjacent streets, asks for resident parking bays to be installed in order to alleviate problems caused by commuter parking.

7. Brook Close, Dunstable

The petition, signed by 32 residents of Brook Close, asks for parking restrictions particularly at the entrance to the road to address indiscriminate parking. There are concerns about access difficulties for larger vehicles, including emergency vehicles.

8. It is recommended that the five petitions be investigated in more detail and a report be considered at a future Traffic Management Meeting.

Appendices

Appendix A – Petition and location plan relating to Windsor Avenue, Leighton Buzzard

Appendix B – Petition and location plan relating to St John's Street, Biggleswade

Appendix C – Petition, supporting correspondence and location plan relating to Sundon Lower School

Appendix D – Petition, supporting correspondence and location plan relating to Glebe Avenue and Lyall Close, Flitwick

Appendix E – Petition and location plan relating to Brookes Road, Flitwick

Appendix F – Petition and location plan relating to Brook Close, Dunstable

Appendix A

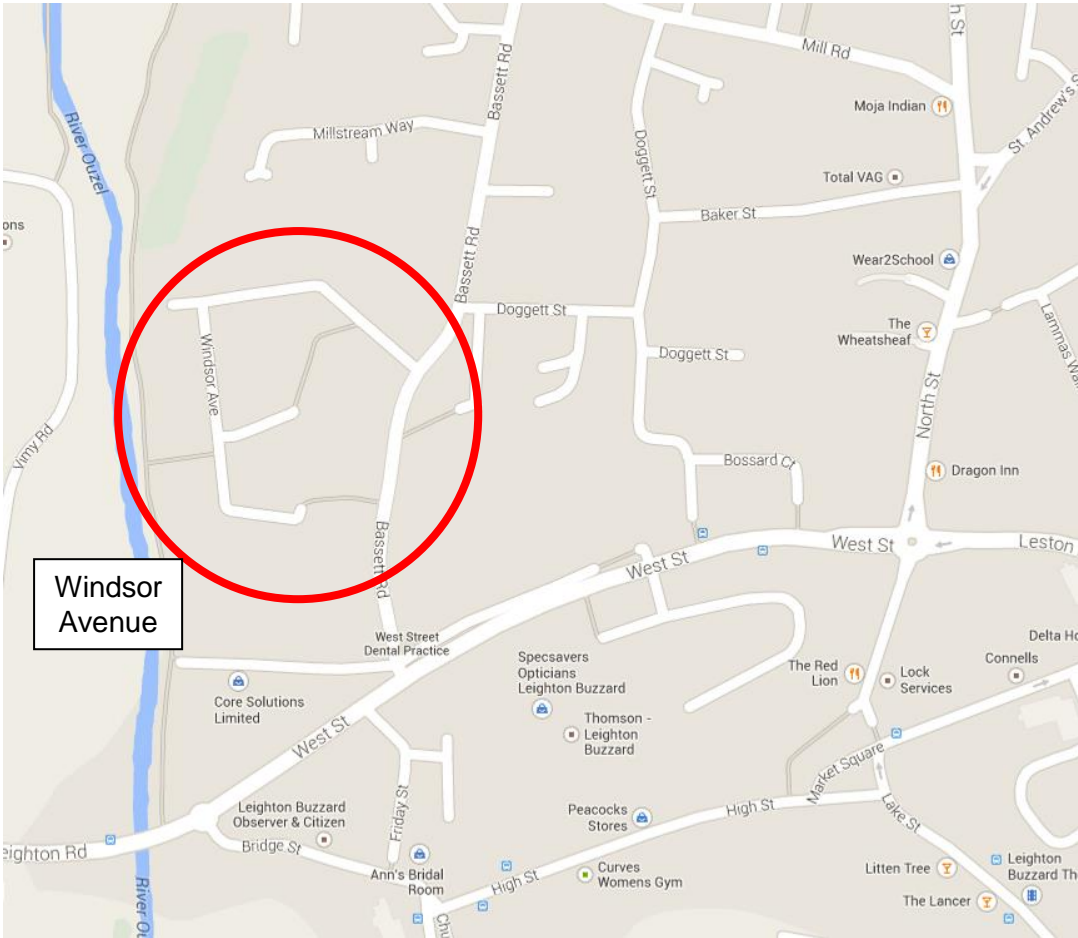
WINDSOR AVENUE PARKING PETITION

For the attention of Cllr. Brian Spurr

Please find enclosed the petition from the residents of Windsor Avenue (both houses and flats) requesting that the Council address the parking problems in Windsor Avenue.

- 103 Resident signatures supporting the request for parking restrictions.
- 2 Residents declined to sign.
- 1 House - no-one at home (over the period of a week).
- 1 Flat - no-one at home (over the period of a week).

We, the undersigned, believe that there is a daily problem with the parking in Windsor Avenue, and would like Central Bedfordshire Council to undertake an investigation into what can be done to alleviate the issue, and present the residents with the options.



Appendix B

PETITION

From the residents of St John's Street and the surrounding area.

REFERENCE THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT POTTON ROAD,
BIGGLESWADE

The traffic in St Johns Street is at its maximum capacity for the volume of traffic using this road on a daily basis and the addition of between 200 and 300 extra vehicles from the new development site daily is just unthinkable.

It is an extremely dangerous road with a minimum width of only 13 feet directly opposite number 12: Lorries, buses, farm vehicles and ambulances are ALL forced to mount the pavement on both sides of the road in order to pass each other.

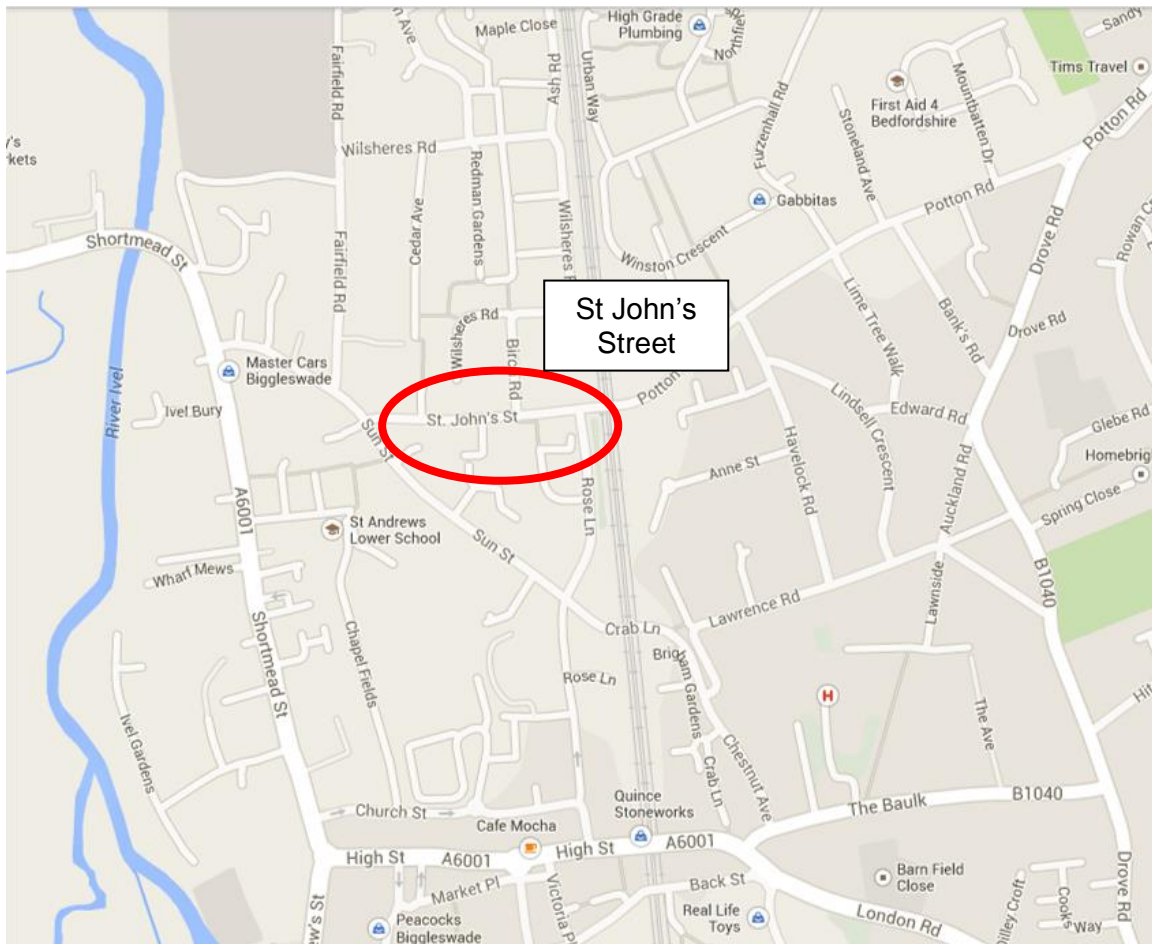
The crossing opposite number 12 is used **daily by school children** and it is only a matter of time **before a child is killed or seriously injured.**

Mounting the pavement is against the law!

It is time the council took positive action to resolve this extremely dangerous and ridiculous situation.

PLEASE stop talking and take some action before we attend the funeral of a young child, PLEASE. You have a duty of care to the community.

We the undersigned hereby endorse the statement made on page 1 of this petition and beg the Central Bedfordshire Council to take action, NOW PLEASE.



Appendix C

I am writing regarding a very important issue for our village and the safety of the children attending Sundon Lower School.

I recently moved to the village from London and my 3 year old daughter now attends Sundon Lower School. I have two other children, aged 20 months and 8 months and every day twice a day, with a double buggy and our pet dog, we walk my eldest daughter to school. This is where we encounter a problem. There is no dropped curb outside the school and no 'School' notice outside the school and no pedestrian crossing outside the school. So I have to battle with the parked cars, the curbs and traffic along with all the other families, just to enter the school premises. Coming from the Borough of Harrow and being a secondary school teacher, I was shocked that a borough would allow one of their lower schools to exist in this way.

So since November 2013 I have been asking parents and carers of the children attending the school and local residents of the village, if they agree that the safety of the school crossing need improving. If they agreed, I asked them to sign the enclosed petition. As you can see over 100 signatures have been collected and in fact everyone that I asked, was in full agreement that this issue needs to be addressed and also shocked that nothing had been done to date.

Please will look into this request to make a safer crossing outside the school and get back to me about the results of your findings and the action you are going to take. My home telephone number is 01525875426 and you can also contact me on my mobile 07931511154. I eagerly await your response, as does the whole village. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for tending to the request.

We, the parents of the children in attendance at Sundon Lower School and residents of the local area, petition the Borough to install a zebra crossing and a dropped curb outside the school entrance.

There is no dropped curb outside the school, so parents and carers with babies in buggies are struggling to mount the curb, therefore putting themselves and the babies at risk. There is no zebra crossing outside the entrance to the school, so there is no clearly indicated safe place for children to cross to go to and from school, so they are at risk when arriving and leaving.

We demand that Central Bedfordshire Council address this issue and provide the necessary safe crossing.



Headteacher: Mrs D. Shelvey BA (Hons)

Sundon Lower School, Streatley Road,
Upper Sundon, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 3PQ
Tel: 01525 872367 or e-mail: sundonlower@cbc.beds.sch.uk
A member of the Harlington & Sundon Academy Trust

Central Bedfordshire Council
Highways Department
Watling House,
High Street North,
Dunstable,
Bedfordshire,
LU6 1LF

6th February 2014,

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing this letter in support of the petition raised by Mrs Shaw and the parents of Sundon Lower School regarding the open and dangerous pathway outside of the main school gate.

We are a small rural village and unfortunately encounter heavy traffic from school buses transporting older children between schools. The majority of our parents live outside the village and have no option but to drive their children to the school which adds to the congestion, it can be a volatile area where an accident is just waiting to happen.

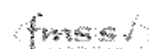
At present the barrier outside of the gate is open and very young children can run straight out onto the road.

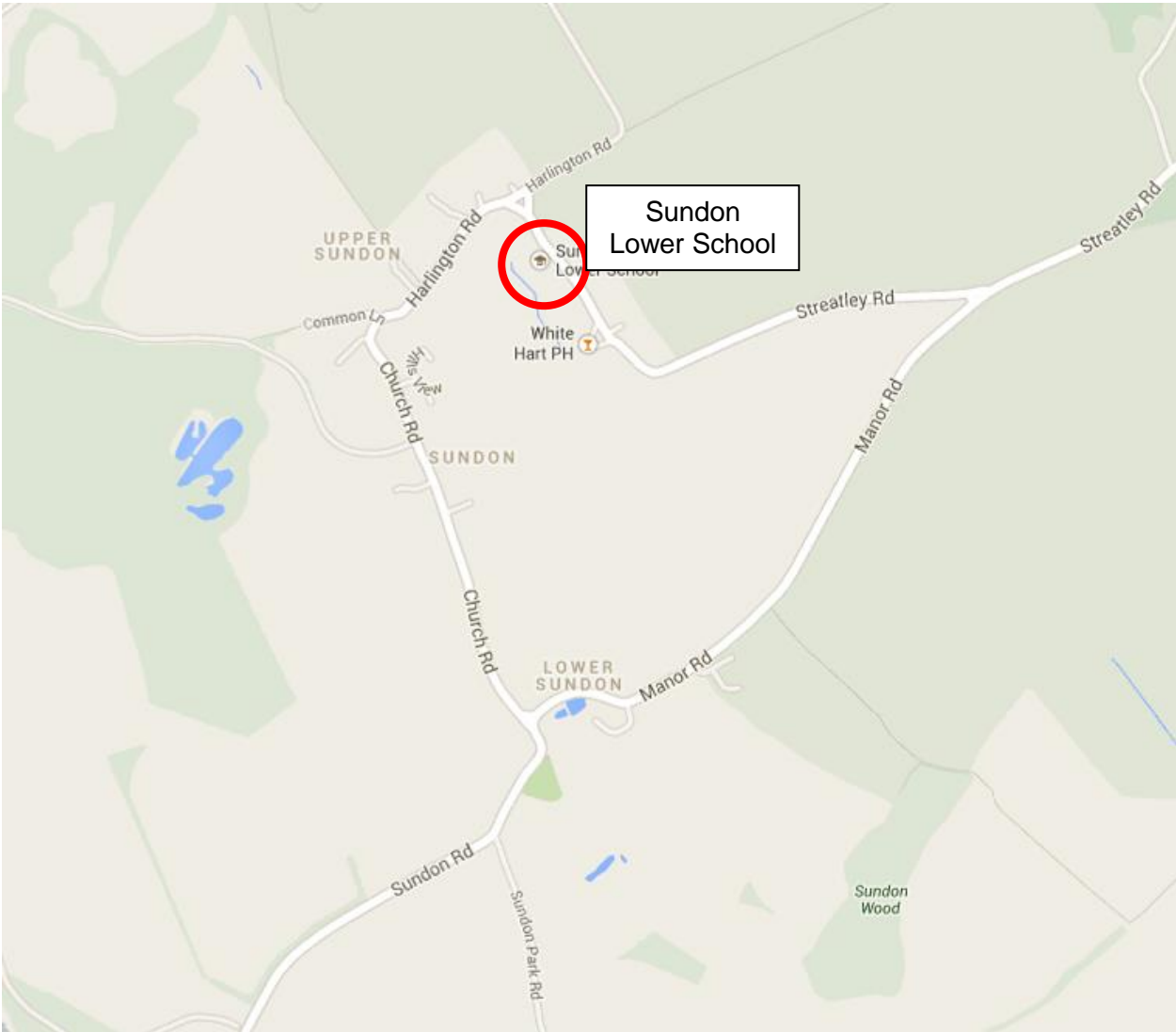
To ensure the safety of all the children we would like to request that the highways department inspect what is currently in place and look into replacing with a safer option.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Shelvey
Headteacher





Sundon
Lower School

UPPER
SUNDON

White
Hart PH

SUNDON

LOWER
SUNDON

Sundon
Wood

Appendix D

ON-STREET PARKING - GLEBE AVENUE FLITWICK

Dear Cllr Spurr

We enclose a copy of a petition signed by all the residents of Glebe Avenue expressing our extreme concern about the indifference shown by the Council to the problems resulting from on-street parking in Glebe Avenue Flitwick.

The problems are exacerbated by the fact that Glebe Avenue is, quite reasonably, used as a dropping off point for children attending Flitwick Lower School.

Many of us have already spoken, or written, to our individual Councillors, but have been met by total inaction.

If Hampden Road, which carries far less traffic, has parking restrictions why do the same criteria not apply to Glebe Avenue?

We can only hope that this will now receive the attention we consider it merits.

Glebe Avenue Flitwick Parking

We hereby request that Central Bedfordshire Council introduces alternate side parking restrictions in Glebe Avenue Flitwick, to ensure the free passage of pedestrians and vehicles, the safety of children and parents of Flitwick Lower School and to enable residents to have unobstructed access to their driveways, for the reasons set out in the attached note.

Parking in Glebe Avenue Flitwick

We are concerned about the increasing problem of long-term parking in Glebe Avenue Flitwick. This is a road of only 5.5 metres width which is the feeder road for over 200 houses. It is also used, quite acceptably, for short-term parking for people dropping off and collecting children from Flitwick Lower School. However, long term parkers are committing various offences, including parking opposite a dropped kerb, thereby obstructing residents from accessing driveways, parking at night without lights on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic and, parking on footpaths and, not least, obstructing the highway.

The way in which cars are parked all day and, quite commonly, for days on end, means that often passing vehicles have to be driven on the footpaths, thus putting pedestrians at risk and, on numerous occasions, children have been endangered. It is also common for cars to be parked on footpaths, so that wheelchair users and parents with children in prams are forced to use the road.

The management of on-street parking is the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council and, whilst we are aware that the Council has delegated highways management to Amey, this does not absolve the Council from its statutory duty. Furthermore the ultimate responsibility rests with the Council. Otherwise, what is the point of us electing you as our representatives. It may surprise you to know that Amey is not elected by us, but our local councillors are and seem to be oblivious and uncaring.

We would ask Central Bedfordshire Council, via our local Councillors, to give us a reasoned explanation as to why it has introduced alternate side parking restrictions in Hampden Road, but not in Glebe Avenue. The Council has obviously recognised that problems may arise in Hampden Road, but seems to have disregarded the possibility of similar problems arising in Glebe Avenue and ignored the dangers that have arisen.

The Local Area Transport Plan, published in April 2012, states the following:-

“Parking Restrictions

Commuter parking is a well recognised problem in Flitwick due to the high demand associated with access to the station. The only residents' parking zone in place across the Plan area is on Grasmere Close in Flitwick, and this is in place to restrict parking to residents only as a measure to eradicate commuter parking from the street.

However commuter parking is a problem elsewhere in the town “

No action seems to have been taken by the Council in the 22 months since then, despite this problem adversely affecting not just the residents of Glebe Avenue, but also those of Lyall Close and Townfield Road. We suggest that alternate side restricted parking in Glebe Avenue would be a start to solve the problems that we, as local residents, face and it is your duty to consider.

Commuter parking in Glebe Avenue and Lyall Close, Flitwick

I am writing on behalf of the residents living in Lyall Close, Flitwick. We have serious concerns surrounding the current commuter parking situation in Glebe Avenue and the impact of any changes to parking restrictions that must be implemented in Glebe Avenue.

We are aware that the residents of Glebe Avenue have already contacted you and that a process is in place to assess the required action to protect pedestrians and residents in our residential community.

We want to add our support to the request that parking restrictions be considered in Glebe Avenue, and predicting the knock on effect of these changes, we also require the same restrictions be applied in Lyall Close.

Lyall Close has over 60 family homes requiring free access to services like bin collection and street cleaning as well as the Fire and Ambulance services. Our Road is narrow in width, 5.5 m, and we predict any overspill of commuter parking will compromise the safety of our community.

Please confirm you have received our letter, advise us of the current situation, we can then keep our neighbours informed of progress.

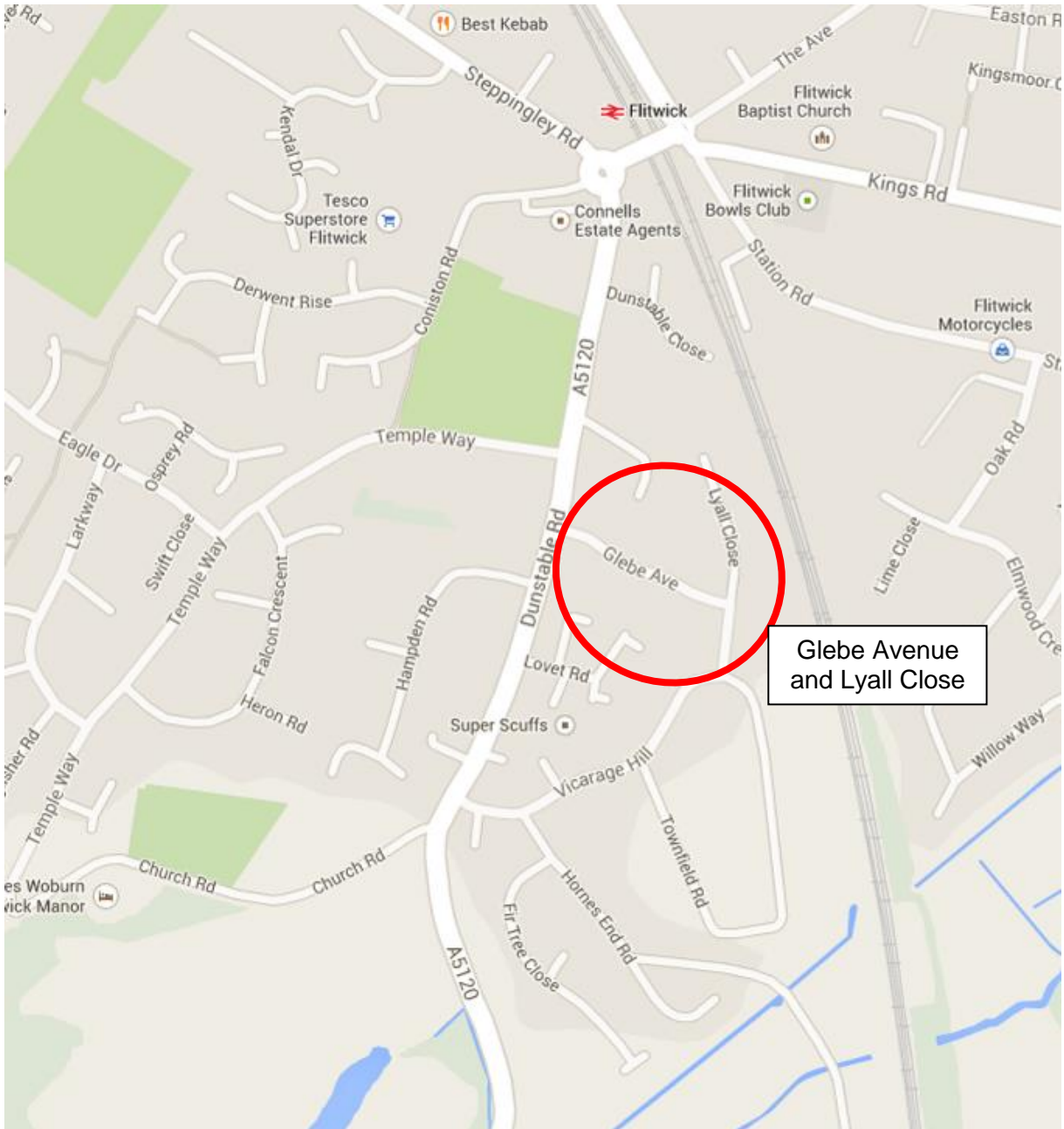
I enclose a petition signed by over 60 residents of Lyall Close who all support the content of this letter and the concern towards safety and services, the primary concern is clearly safety.

We look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Glebe Avenue & Lyall Close Commuter Parking

The residents of Lyall Close hereby support the request of Glebe Avenue residents that Central Bedfordshire Council introduces alternate side parking restrictions in Glebe Avenue, Flitwick, for the reasons set out in the attached note.

We also request that Central Bedfordshire Council considers the same parking restriction for Lyall Close, on the basis that changes in Glebe Avenue will displace the current commuter parking problems to Lyall Close.

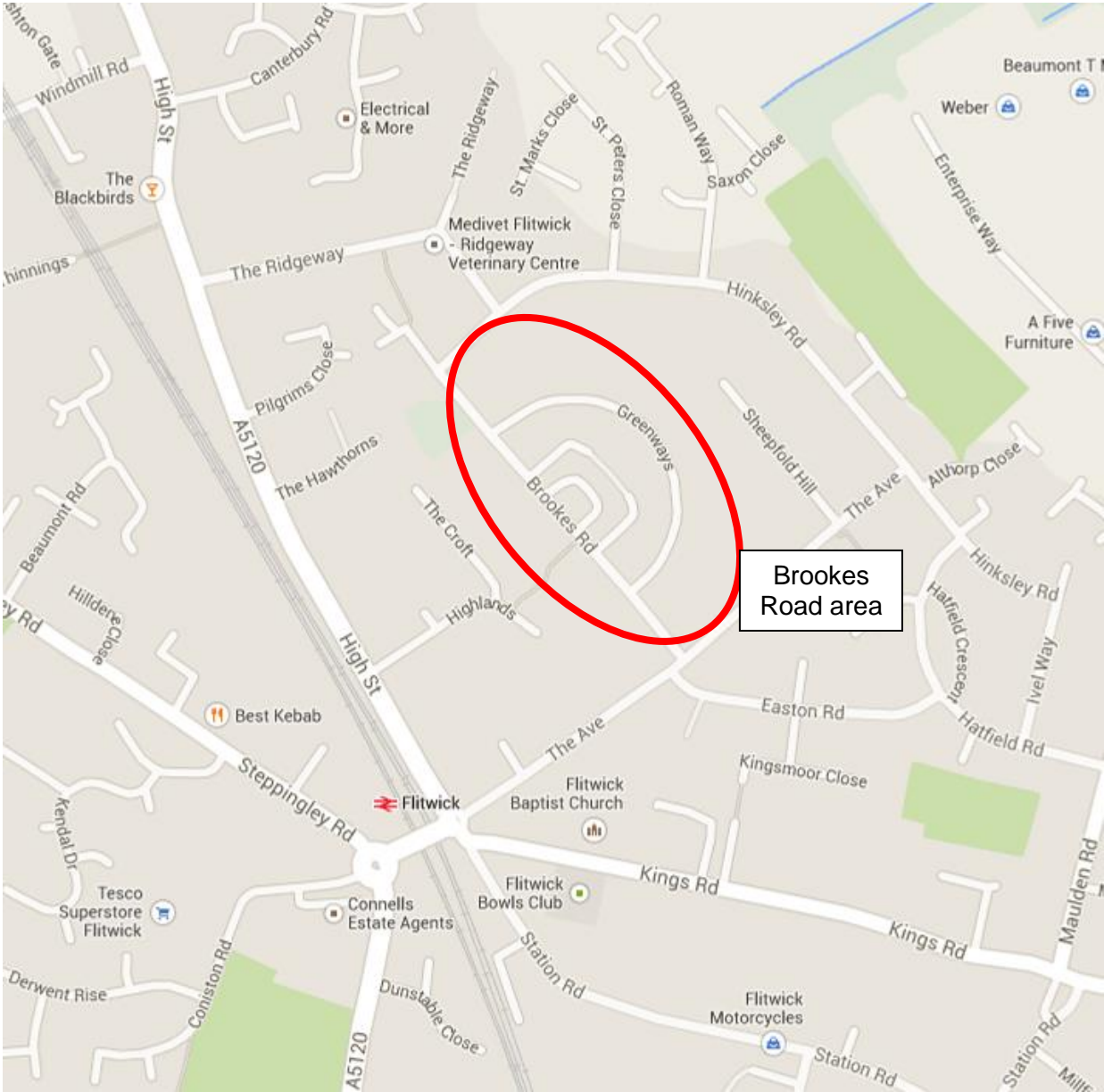


Glebe Avenue
and Lyall Close

Appendix E

Central Bedfordshire
Following a meeting with Mid Beds District Council & Councillor Charles Gomm , We the undersigned
would like to have resident parking bays installed by Mid Beds District Council .
Central Bedfordshire

In order to alleviate to chaos caused by commuter parking in the following Roads;



Appendix F

Subject of Petition:
PARKING IN BROOK CLOSE DUNSTABLE BEDFORDSHIRE LU6 1HD.

We, the undersigned:
REQUEST PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN BROOK CLOSE DUNSTABLE LU6 1HD PARTICULARLY AT THE ENTRANCE AS ACCESS FOR LARGER VEHICLES IS OFTEN IMPOSSIBLE. IT IS A CONCERN TO RESIDENTS THAT EMERGENCY VEHICLES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH IN AN EMERGENCY.

