
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders
Date: 17 June 2015
Subject: Windsor Avenue, Leighton Buzzard – Consider objections to Proposed Residents Permit Parking Scheme
Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways
Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Community Services for the implementation of a Residents Permit Parking Scheme in Windsor Avenue, Leighton Buzzard.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Leighton Buzzard North
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

This work is being funded from the Council's budget for minor traffic and safety schemes and is expected to cost approximately £9,000.

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):

- 1. That the proposal to introduce a residents' permit parking scheme operational from Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm be implemented as published, but that property nos.19, 21 and 23 Bassett Road be added to the list of residencies eligible to apply for a permit.**
- 2. That the proposal to convert the existing No Waiting from Monday to Saturday 7am to 7pm (single yellow lines) to No Waiting at any time (double yellow lines) at the junction of Windsor Avenue and Bassett Road be implemented as published.**

Background and Information

1. A petition was received from 103 residents, requesting the Council to undertake an investigation into parking problems in their road and present options to residents. The petition was considered at the Delegated Decisions Meeting held on 11 August 2104 when it was decided that a report outlining suitable options be considered.
2. The matter was further considered at the meeting on 18 February 2015 when it was agreed to publish the proposal to introduce a residents' permit parking scheme from Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm in all of Windsor Avenue.
3. The proposal was formally advertised by public notice in March 2015. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Leighton-Linslade Town Council and the Ward Member. All residents living in Windsor Avenue were individually consulted.
4. A total of four representations have been received, three of which are objections. The other was from the Town Council who support the proposal, but have asked for a minor amendment. There were no objections to the proposal to convert the single yellow lines to double yellow lines at the Windsor Avenue/Bassett Road junction. Copies of the correspondence are included in Appendix C and the main comments received are summarised below:-
5. The main points of objection are:-
 - a) A resident of Windsor Avenue agrees with the principle of the scheme, but objects to the 8am start time. They want to be able to park on-road until 9am.
 - b) The other two objections are from non-residents of Windsor Avenue and are based on the fact that parking in the town centre is already limited and the scheme will take away valuable free parking for shop workers.
 - c) There are also concerns that the permit scheme will result in displacement of parking to other residential streets, such as Millstream Way.

- d) Properties in Windsor Avenue have adequate off-street parking, so a permit scheme is not needed.
- e) The only real parking difficulties that occur are at the start and end of the school day.

6. Central Bedfordshire Highways' response to the points above are as follows:-

It would be possible to have reduced hours for the permit scheme, but the days and times were chosen by residents through their own consultation exercise. Out of a total of 60 households only one resident raised this concern. Hence, it is assumed that all other households are satisfied with the operational hours. A 9am start would allow school-related parking to remain in Windsor Avenue, which is presumably an issue that residents wanted to address with the scheme.

It is possible that some of the drivers who currently park in Windsor Avenue will choose other residential streets, but this is common with all such schemes. If residents of roads such as Millstream Way experience difficulties then consideration could be given to tackling non-resident parking in their roads.

On site observations and photographs provided by residents indicate that non-resident parking takes place throughout the working day and not just at school times.

7. Leighton-Linslade Town Council asked for property nos.19, 21 and 23 Bassett Road to be eligible to apply for a permit to park in Windsor Avenue. This seems reasonable as the three houses have single yellow lines at the front and may wish to have the option to park in Windsor Avenue on certain occasions. The three homes have off-road parking, so any impact on Windsor Avenue would be minimal. It could be that none of them take up the offer of being able to apply for a residents' permit. This is deemed to be a minor change to the proposal, so would not require the re-publication of the proposal. We would however write to those residents directly affected.
8. A group of residents undertook their own preliminary consultation, which indicated almost universal support for a residents permit parking scheme. Consequently, the Council can be confident that the published proposal is supported by a large majority of Windsor Avenue residents.

Given the high level of support from residents and relatively few objections it is recommended that the parking scheme be implemented as published with the exception that property nos.19, 21 and 23 Bassett Road be added to the list of eligible residencies.

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Location Plan and Drawing of Proposal
- Appendix B – Public Notices of Proposals
- Appendix C – Objections and Representations

Appendix A



- Proposed Residents Permit Parking (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm)
- Zone boundary (residential premises within area eligible to apply for permits)
- Proposed No Waiting at any time (double yellow lines)

PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A RESIDENTS' PERMIT PARKING ZONE IN WINDSOR AVENUE, LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Reason for proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary for facilitating the passage of traffic on the road and for preserving or improving the amenity of the area. The restrictions are intended to address local concerns about long-term obstructive parking by non-residents in this road. The No Waiting is intended to ensure that the junction of Windsor Avenue and Bassett Road remains clear of parked vehicles.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce Parking for Residents Permit Holders only from Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm on the following length of road in Leighton Buzzard:-

Windsor Avenue, from a point approximately 16 metres north-west of the north-west kerb line of Bassett Road for its full length.

Residences eligible to apply for a permit to park in the Residents Permit Parking Zone identified above:-

All residential premises in Windsor Avenue.

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

Windsor Avenue, both sides from the north-west kerblines of Bassett Road extending in a north-westerly direction for approximately 16 metres.

Further Details may be examined during normal office hours at the address shown below, viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices or tel. 0845 3656116.

Comments should be sent in writing to the Transportation Manager, Central Bedfordshire Highways, Woodlands Annexe, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7NU or e-mail centralbedsconsultation@amey.co.uk by 3 April 2015. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made.

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 SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

10 March 2015

Appendix C

As a resident of Windsor Avenue, I would like to comment on the details of the proposed scheme.

Whilst fully in agreement that a residents' permit parking scheme is the only way to tackle the problems of poor parking by non-residents of the area during the day, I stated during the neighbourhood preliminary consultation that I would only be in favour if restricted times started at 9.00 a.m. (not 8.00 a.m.)

I appreciate that all residents' parking requirements differ, but we are currently in the position where we have 5 adults living at our address, each with a vehicle. Three of those are still parked between 8.00 and 9.00 in the morning, Monday - Friday. We shuffle cars around using the garage and the driveway as much as possible now, but this still leaves two cars on the street until approx. 9.00 a.m.

I further appreciate that, whatever the time restrictions, we will need to purchase one permit for one of the cars, but if we have to purchase more than one, it becomes quite expensive. If the restrictions were to start an hour later, at 9.00 a.m., we could probably shuffle the cars sufficiently to only require one permit.

I assume that the suggested 8.00 a.m. start is to stop parents dropping-off children who attend the Mary Bassett School. Again, inconsiderate parking at this time can cause problems, (and they do park directly outside our house) but they are only there for 10 - 15 minutes. It's the all-day inconsiderate parking which has become the problem.

I would also comment that residents parking permits in areas of Milton Keynes are free of charge. The first 50 visitor day permits are also free of charge.

I am concerned that the proposed scheme could result in it becoming quite expensive to park outside our own home, (especially should we forget to shuffle the cars at 8.01 a.m. one morning and subsequently receive a fine!).

I therefore formally object to the start time being 8.00 a.m. on the grounds that residents who are in employment, Monday-Friday, will normally require on-street parking between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 9.00 a.m.

I would like to put forward my views in regards to the proposed permit parking in Windsor Avenue Leighton Buzzard.

1. Is this permit parking proposed for the full length of Windsor Avenue, right to the bottom, or for just 16m from its entrance? Is there a link showing the proposed area?
2. If it is the full length of the road, with free and paid parking in and around the town centre of Leighton Buzzard being limited is this necessary and fair to workers and visitors to the town to take more parking away?
- I myself as a worker in the town have parked at the very bottom of Windsor Avenue for 15 years, and have NEVER blocked or parked inconsiderately to the residents.
3. Most, if not all of the houses in Windsor Avenue have parking for at least 2 cars on their driveways and a garage too.

4. The only time the entrance to the road is crowded and driveways made difficult to access is at school drop off and pickup times. This is mainly a problem caused by inconsiderate parents parking

badly, often half way across the foot paths too. If the road is visited out of those times the street is virtually empty of cars on the road.

5. If the proposal is for the full length of Windsor Avenue, I would like my Objection put forward on the grounds of:

- A. Free and paid parking in around the town centre is already limited.
- B. We need to help the already struggling town live and thrive, reducing the free parking for workers and visitors is not helping that.
- C. This road has more than adequate parking for the residents.
- D. This will just push back all the cars into other roads such as Millstream Way etc (which incidentally already gets crowded by visitors to Basset road surgery, since its extension)

I would like a reply and a link to the proposal or to find out where this can be inspected.

I would like to put forward my views in regards to the proposal by Central Bedfordshire Council to introduce a residents' permit parking zone in Windsor Avenue, Leighton Buzzard.

1. The majority of houses within Windsor Avenue are detached houses, as such they often come with a garage or off road parking for 2 cars on a driveway.
2. Given the nature of the houses I would anticipate that few Resident's Permits would be purchased, which in light of the increasing squeeze on Council finances seems to be adding to cost for little gain.
3. As a resident of a nearby street (Millstream Way), I feel I will be directly impacted. Millstream Way is often very busy with parked cars throughout the day due to the recently changed Doctors Surgery car park entrance and the use of the street by Splosh Car Wash to park cars. A permit controlled zone in Windsor avenue is going to add to the pressures already experienced in neighbouring streets - I am not campaigning for a controlled parking zone in my street either.
4. The town is limited to its number of parking spaces, in order to alleviate that pressure I understand that people need to use the public roads to park. Making this a controlled zone will add to the pressures of an already struggling high street.
5. I suspect that the busy periods are school drop off & pick up times. I understand that this might cause an issue for a short period in the mornings and evenings but to create a controlled zone for an entire working day based on this seems overzealous.
6. The proposal states that it "is considered necessary for facilitating the passage of traffic on the road...." Given that this road is a dead end there is little or no traffic other than that of residents and those that choose to legally park, there is no weight to the proposal based on the above statement.
7. I suggest that the parking situation be monitored by Council officials for a period of 1 week. This would give a more rounded picture of the parking situation and would not be skewed by observations at peak periods.

I would appreciate any feedback that you may have.

I am writing to you following the Town Council's planning and transport meeting held last night at which the proposals to introduce a residents' parking permit zone in Windsor Ave, Leighton Buzzard was considered.

Whilst Members accepted the proposal they requested that numbers 19, 21, and 23 Bassett Road also be included within the scheme.