
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders
Date: 25 August 2015
Subject: Holmemead School Keep Clear, London Road, Biggleswade – Consider objection to waiting and stopping restrictions
Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways
Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Community Services for the implementation of no waiting at any time restrictions and no stopping Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30 pm on school entrance markings on London Road, Biggleswade.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Biggleswade South
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:

The total cost of implementing the scheme will be approximately £5,000 and it is being funded by section 106.

Legal:

Central Bedfordshire Council is the highway and traffic authority for the road network in Central Bedfordshire. To be legally enforceable, any proposed waiting restriction or stopping restriction must be implemented under a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

Risk Management:

None from this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report

Community Safety:

The proposal is expected to increase the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle users.

Sustainability:

None from this report.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the proposal to install no waiting at any time and no stopping Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30 pm on school entrance markings along London Road, Biggleswade, be implemented as published.

Background and Information

1. During peak school opening and closing hours the pedestrian access to Holmemead Middle School is heavily used by parents dropping their children to and picking them up from school. The parents tend to stop outside the access and walk with their children down to the school, whilst often leaving their cars blocking the flow of traffic through London Road and blocking the adjacent bus stop. The restrictions are intended to address this indiscriminate parking, particularly at the start and the end of the school day. The proposed restrictions will ensure that the pedestrian access to Holmemead Middle School remains clear of parked vehicles during the school day and the bus stop is unobstructed.
2. The proposal was formally advertised by public notice in June 2015. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Biggleswade Town Council and Biggleswade South Ward Members. Residents living in the immediate area were individually consulted.
3. Six formal objections have been received. A copy of the correspondences are included in Appendix C and the main comments received are summarised below:-
4. The main points of the objections against implementing the no waiting at any time restrictions are:-
 - a) Car transporters require this area along London Road to deliver vehicles to the garage on the north side of London Road and do not have an alternative drop off point.
 - b) The restrictions on the south-western side of London Road will just cause vehicles to park on the north-eastern side of London Road.
 - a) The problem only exists during peak school hours and a permanent restriction is seen as unnecessary.
 - b) This will cause difficulty in taking young children to and picking them up from the school entrance.
 - c) Parents will instead park their vehicles on the opposite side of the road, causing them to cross the busy road with young children, creating a significant safety hazard.

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

The proposed restrictions essentially cover lengths of road either side of existing double yellow lines covering the access to the Council offices, which were introduced some years ago to assist drivers emerging onto London Road.

To the south the proposals are No Stopping on School entrance markings from Monday to Friday 8am-4.30pm which cover a pedestrian access to the school, also and a bus stop clearway marking to ensure that it remains clear of parked vehicles. These two restrictions will result in the loss of approximately 5 parking spaces.

To the north of the Council offices the proposals are for a No Waiting at any time (double yellow lines) between the existing yellow lines the zig-zag marking for the pedestrian crossing. The length of new double yellow line would be 36 metres but over half of that length is the dropped kerb access to the public house car park. Consequently, the restrictions would result in the loss of 3-4 parking spaces.

Car transporters and other delivery vehicles would be able to stop on the double yellow lines for the purposes of loading/unloading. In fact the double yellow lines would ensure that the length of road remained clear for that purpose.

It is acknowledged that the restrictions would probably result in some parents parking on the east side, thereby resulting in greater numbers having to cross the road. However, a pedestrian crossing is located nearby.

On-street parking is fairly chaotic at the start and end of the school day and the restrictions would ensure that the whole of the west side of London Road would be clear of parked cars thereby reducing vehicular conflict and improving visibility for pedestrians. The imposition of the restrictions to the south of the Council offices is the more critical in terms of pedestrian safety, particularly those movements associated with the school.

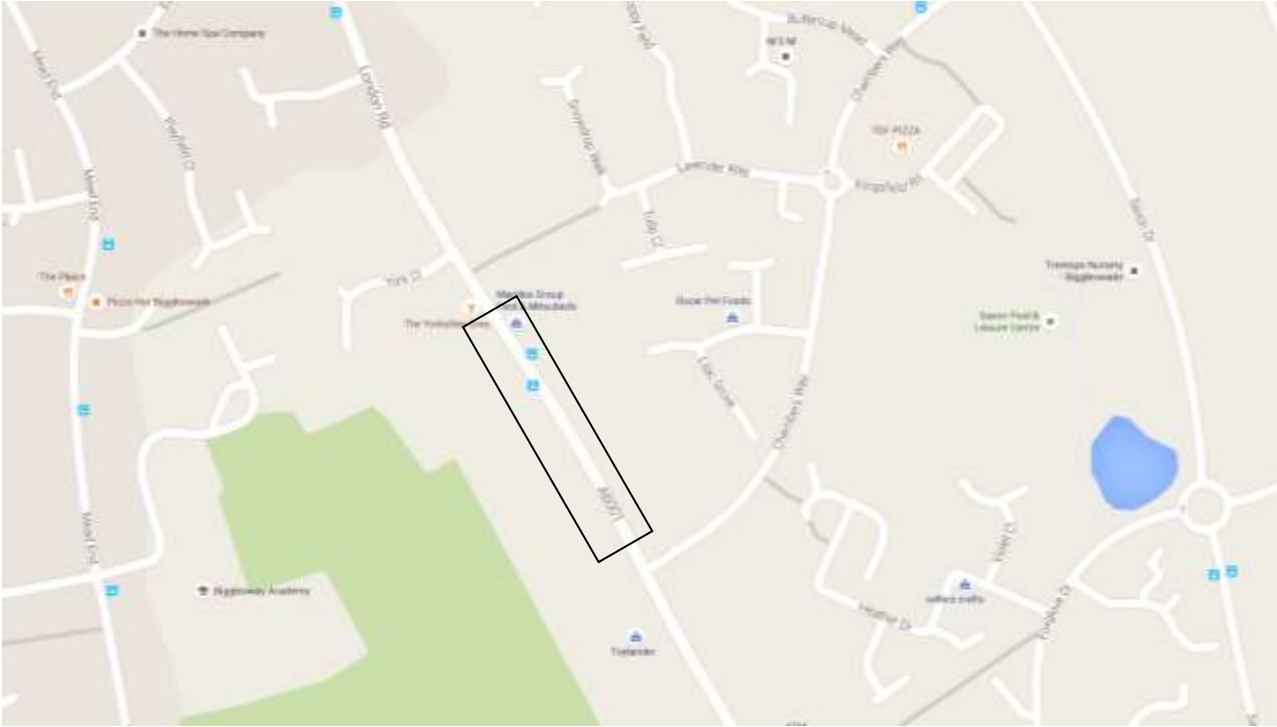
Conclusion

6. It is felt that they are justified on road safety grounds and will result in the loss of a relatively small number of on-street parking spaces. Therefore, it is recommended that the proposals be implemented as published.
7. If the approved the works are expected to take place within the current financial year.

Appendices:

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

Appendix A



DESIGN HAZARDS
 (The following information has been collected from Preconstruction information and the Arney CDM Hazard Management Process.)

- None at this time.

NOTES

- All dimensions in metres unless stated otherwise.
- Do not scale from this drawing.
- Setting out of all works to be agreed on site by Overseeing Organisation Engineer.
- Any proposed safety or traffic signs are to be reported immediately to the Overseeing Organisation Engineer.

KEY

- Existing road markings to remain
- Existing road markings to be removed
- P Existing post and no waiting plate to be removed to lip of site
- BS Existing bus stop flag to be removed and relocated

Rev	Revision details	Checked	Approved	Date
Designer: JW	Date: 12.06.18			
Drawn: JW	Date: 12.06.18			
Checked: AC	Date: 12.06.18			
Approved: AC	Date: 12.06.18			



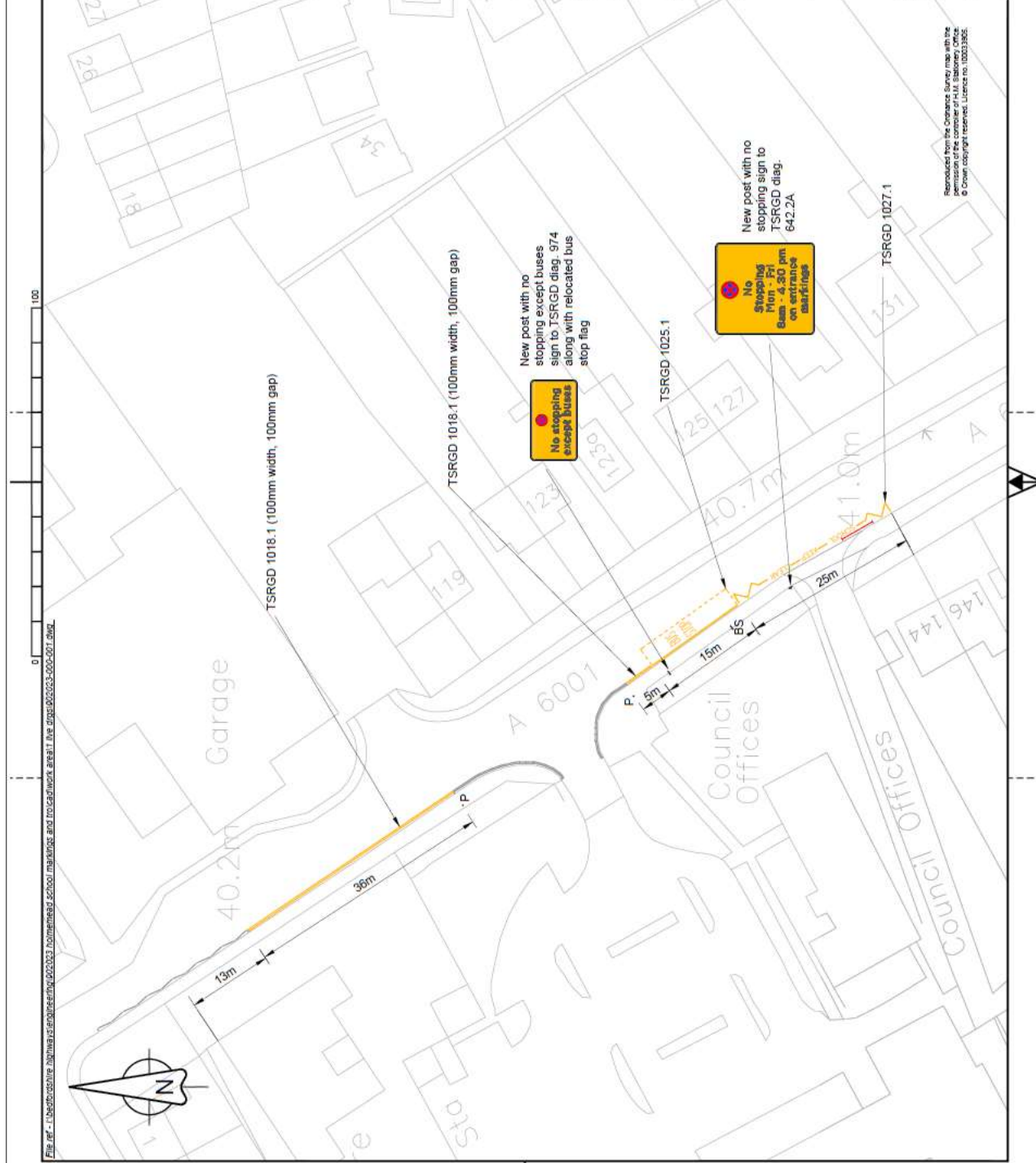
Project Name
 Holmead School markings and TRO

Drawing Title
 Holmead School Keep Clear and Bus stop markings

CONTRACT
 Dimensions: m
 Scale: 1:500

Drawing Status
 SHARED
 Suitability
 S2

Drawing No
 902023-000-001
Revision
 P01.1



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PUBLIC NOTICE



**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE
NO WAITING AND NO STOPPING ON SCHOOL ENTRANCE MARKINGS
ON LONDON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

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 through which the road runs. The restrictions are intended to address indiscriminate parking, particularly at the start and end of the school day. The proposed restrictions will ensure that the pedestrian access to Holmemead Middle School remains clear of parked vehicles during the school day and the bus stop is unobstructed.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce No Waiting at any time on the following length of road in Biggleswade:-

1. London Road, south-west side, from a point approximately 13 metres south-east of the north-west flank wall of The Yorkshire Grey public house extending in a south-easterly direction for approximately 36 metres.
2. London Road, south-west side, from a point approximately 25 metres north-west of the boundary of nos.144 and 146 London Road extending in a north-westerly direction for approximately 20 metres.

To introduce No Stopping Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 4.30pm on School Entrance Markings on the following lengths of road in Biggleswade:-

1. London Road, south-west side, from a point in line with the boundary of nos.144 and 146 London Road extending in a north-westerly direction for approximately 25 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 14 July 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 Mid 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

19 June 2015

Appendix C

Dear Mr Chapman

PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE MARKINGS ON LONDON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE – DRAWING NO: 902023-000-001

We refer to the Public Notice recently published outlining details of the proposed order to introduce new road markings on London Road, Biggleswade.

As long established motor dealers situated at 115 London Road, we will be affected by this proposal and, therefore, we wish to comment on and object to parts of the proposal.

It is recognised that the primary purpose behind this proposal is to address indiscriminate parking in the area of the pedestrian access to Holmemead School and to ensure that the existing bus stop is unobstructed. We have no objection to the proposal to the south of the entrance to the Council's Offices. These appear to be sensible and will improve the situation, especially at the start of the school day.

However, we object strongly to the proposal to introduce 'No Waiting at any Time' on the 36 metre stretch of London Road outside the Yorkshire Grey pub, directly opposite our garage premises. As you will be aware we have constant deliveries of new cars on large car transporters. At present these vehicles draw up either on one side or the other of London Road directly outside our premises. Sometimes the transporter will park directly on the 36 metre stretch of road on which you propose to place a 'No Stopping' restriction.

As car transporters have become ever larger over the years it is simply not possible to get them to enter our premises and unload without blocking London Road and causing major disruption to other road users. Having been in the business on this site for 95 years, we are restricted by the confines of the site and the proximity of neighbours' dwellings. We try hard to minimise disruption to our neighbours by only utilising the roadway in front of our premises. This section of London Road is just wide enough to allow the traffic to continue to flow whilst a transporter delivery is taking place.

We are most concerned that our business may be adversely affected by this proposal. We employ 50 people on this site whose livelihood depends on our ability to trade. If a yellow line was applied and somehow, only transporters were allowed to stop there, it would not be a problem. However, we suspect that this is not possible!

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with a representative of Central Bedfordshire Highways Department

Yours sincerely

From: XXXX
Sent: 21 June 2015 16:04
To: Central Beds Consultation
Subject: No waiting or stopping on London Road Proposal

Dear Sir/Madam

I write with regards to the Public notice regarding the proposed no waiting and no stopping on London Road in Biggleswade.

As a parent of children that attend the Pre School at Biggleswade Academy I do park in this area taking care not to block any residents drives or the bus stop. I have no choice but to drive

to the academy due to the location of where we live. These proposed changes will mean I will have difficulty in dropping my children into the pre school in the morning and at afternoon pick up.

I am concerned by these changes and would like to know what alternative parking arrangements there will be to enable me to drop my children off safely?

Kind regards

From: XXXX
Sent: 09 July 2015 21:55
To: Central Beds Consultation
Subject: Proposed waiting restrictions London Road, Biggleswade

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to comment on the proposed waiting restrictions on London Road, Biggleswade. This will make it a lot more difficult to drop off and collect my daughter from the pre-school nearby and I have a son at another school which I need to drive to in order to be there in time to collect him, I would almost certainly be late if this restriction is put into place.

I hope this is not approved.

Yours Sincerely

From: XXXX
Sent: 14 July 2015 12:18
To: Central Beds Consultation
Subject: Proposed waiting restrictions on London Road

Dear Sir,

I am writing regarding your proposal for restricting waiting on London Road. In general, I think it's a good idea, but your proposal is likely to encourage traffic to park on the other side of London Road. Having people crossing the road at peak times is not going to improve safety, and will do nothing to improve overall traffic flow.

You may succeed in removing parked cars from near the entrance to your office, but they will just park on our side of the road instead.

Perhaps you should restrict waiting during school hours on both sides of the road, but there is no need to completely ban parking as there is no problem in the evening or at weekends. Alternatively, it would be better if you could make some space for people to park for a short time without blocking traffic – for example, convert the grass verge outside your office to a waiting area.

Yours faithfully,

Dear Mr Chapman

Re: Proposed No Waiting at any time and No Stopping on School Entrance Markings London Road, Biggleswade.

Whilst we, the Governing Body of Biggleswade Academy, fully support the need to improve traffic issues along London Road itself, there are a number of concerns that arise in light of the initial proposal. It is our belief that minor adjustments to the proposed scheme could benefit the community as a whole through the application of a limited time parking restriction instead.

Our concerns are associated with Biggleswade Academy Pre-school which serves a large number of parents and children from Biggleswade and the surrounding villages, whose primary access route is via a walkway from London Road. As the children at the Pre-school range from two to four years of age it is naturally imperative that safety consideration for them are thoroughly considered as it is not something that children automatically consider for themselves at this age.

We believe that the restrictions within the current proposal may cause:

- Greater danger to parents and very young children, due to the increased risks associated with parking further from the Pre-school itself. Parents would need to travel alongside London Road with pushchairs and young children on foot, thereby creating an increased accident risk - surely a serious consideration that Central Bedfordshire Council should be striving to avoid.
- An increased degree of road crossing by parents and young children, on foot, which would cause issues with the flow of traffic during peak times. This is compounded by the fact that there is a lack of nearby safe pedestrian crossing places at the current time.
- Issues for working parents, who need to drive to work, denied access to suitable and safe parking places.
- Delays for working parents, who need access to our wrap-around care on their way to or from work.

Therefore, in relation to your recent Public Notice, we would like consideration of the following points to be addressed within the proposed traffic scheme for the benefit of the community as a whole:

- Restricted time parking, rather than no parking, during times of Pre-school 'Drop Off' ie Between the times of: 8.50am and 9.20am; 11.45am and 12.30pm; 3.00pm and 3.30pm
- Additional safe pedestrian crossings along London Road

Or:

- A designated 'Drop Off' zone specifically for parents of pupils attending the Pre-school

As we are sure is evident, our concerns are for the safety of the young children in our care and their parents, during what is an essential part of their educational journey.

Many thanks for your careful consideration of our concerns

Yours sincerely

Dear Mr Chapman,

Re: Your Ref NC/59947/902023/3.12, dated 22nd June 2015

We write with respect to your proposed scheme at the Holmemead Middle School Entrance, London Road, Biggleswade; although we also wish to advise you that Holmemead School no longer exists as it, and it's associated Pre-School are now part of Biggleswade Academy.

We agree that parking can sometimes be an issue in the vicinity for a few minutes at the start and end of the school and pre-school day; however we are very concerned that the proposed scheme will actually make the situation worse from a safety perspective. If the proposed scheme was to come into effect it will push all of the parking to the North-West side of London Road exposing occupants, many of them(although accompanied by parents/carers) under the age of 4 attending the Pre-School, to cross the busy road to access the public footpath toward the Pre-School and Academy gates.

Additionally, we feel the scheme is also likely to push parked vehicles further South East on London Road toward, and past, the Chambers Way junction. Parked vehicles already occasionally park to the South East of our property posing a safety issue to all road users, especially those exiting Chambers Way towards the town centre.

An element of the 'indiscriminate parking' as you refer in your Public Notice is caused by people leaving vehicles on the side of the road in the proposed area for the whole of the working day, therefore reducing space for parents/carers to drop children. As such we feel a limited waiting scheme would improve the current situation, not introduce the additional safety issues outlines above and provide a more amicable solution