
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders

Date: 16 November 2015

Subject: School Lane and Ampthill Road, Shefford – Consider objection to waiting 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 Waiting Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.30am and 3.00-4.30pm on School Lane and Ampthill Road, Shefford.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Shefford

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 money.

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 Waiting Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.30am and 3.00pm to 4.30pm on School Lane and Ampthill Road, Shefford be implemented as published.

Background and Information

1. For a number of years, parents have parked in School Lane when dropping off and collecting their children from Shefford Lower School. Due to the width and alignment of the road this creates vehicular conflict and consequential road safety concerns.
2. The proposal is to extend the No Waiting at any time (double yellow lines) further into School Lane from its junction with Ampthill Road and provide additional double yellow lines at the end of School Lane where traffic turns towards the school. It is proposed that the straight length of School Lane in between would have No Waiting Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.30am and 3.00 to 4.30pm (single yellow lines) specifically to target school time parking. Some of this parking spills over into Ampthill Road, so single yellow lines are proposed opposite its junction with School Lane to ensure that it is clear of parked cars at the start and end of the school day.
3. The proposal was formally advertised by public notice in October 2015. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Shefford Town Council and Shefford Ward Members. Residents living in the immediate area were individually consulted.
4. Two formal objections and a further written representation have been received. Copies of the correspondence are included in Appendix C and the comments received are summarised below:-
5. The main points raised by those who responded are:-
 - a) School Lane is not adopted highway, so the Council has no authority over the road and any restrictions would be unenforceable.
 - b) The proposed restrictions will create inconvenience for residents of School Lane and Ampthill Road, particularly those who have little or no off-street parking. It is unreasonable to expect residents to move their cars twice a day to avoid the single yellow lines.
 - c) The restrictions will transfer the parking problems in School Lane to Ampthill Road.

- d) It is unlikely that the restrictions will have any real effect since parents will wait in their cars for their children.
 - e) Concerns about the number of posts being installed on the west side of School Lane.
6. Central Bedfordshire Highways' response to the points above are as follows:-

School Lane is an un-adopted Central Bedfordshire Council asset and the Council's Property and Assets team is agreeable to the waiting restrictions being introduced. The Council can introduce a Traffic Regulation Order on roads that are un-adopted and can enforce them with the agreement of the owner.

The proposed no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) have been constrained to those lengths of road, such as near junctions and turning areas, where parking should not take place at all. The other lengths of road would have single yellow lines that would only restrict parking at the start and end of the school day. Therefore, parking would be permitted on the single yellow lines overnight and at weekends which is when demand for resident parking is likely to be at its highest. Hence, it is felt that the restrictions would not unduly inconvenience residents of School Lane, particularly since most have off-road parking available. There are more homes in Ampthill Road without off-street parking, but the single yellow line proposals will not greatly affect parking at times of highest demand.

The signing requirements have been reviewed and it will be possible to reduce the number of sign posts required and avoid placing any immediately outside the home of the resident who has raised concerns.

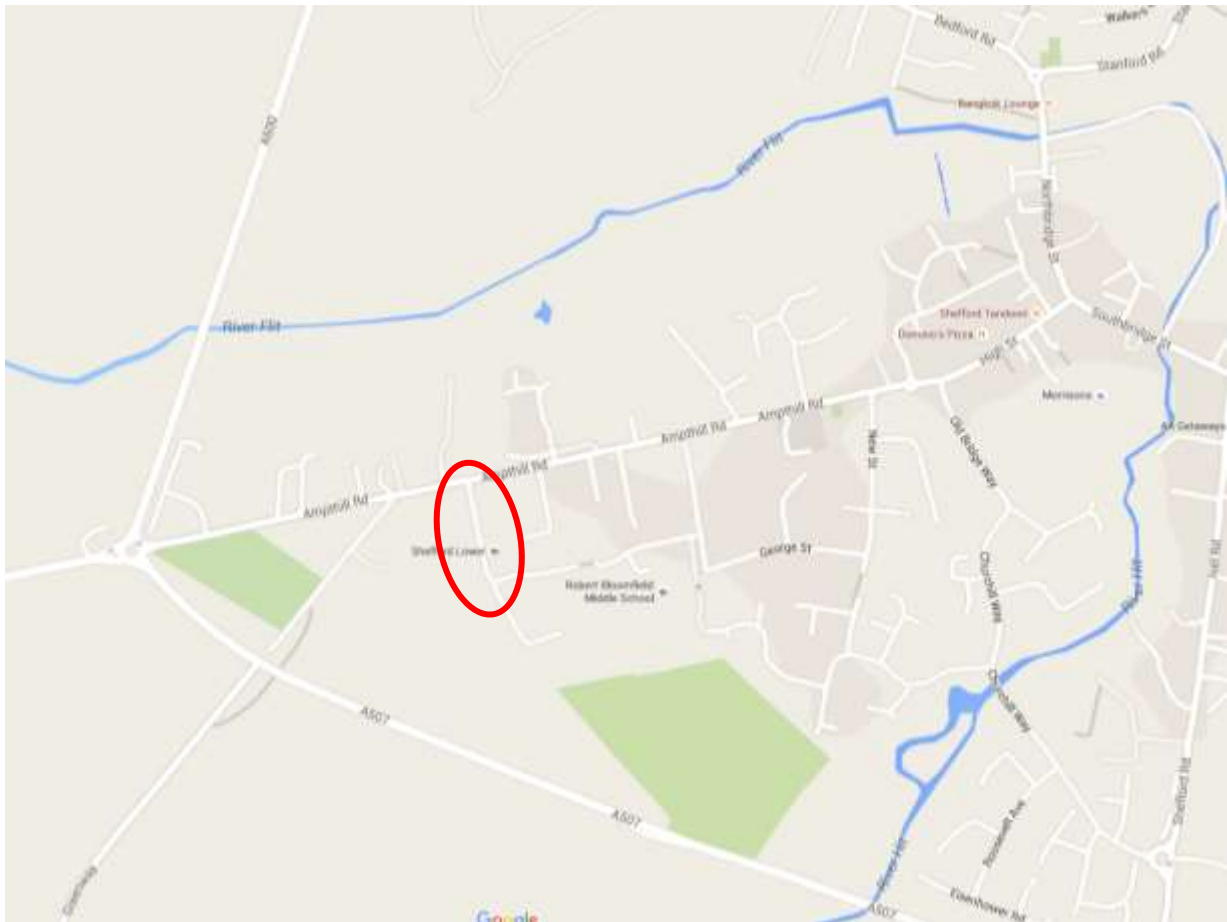
Conclusion

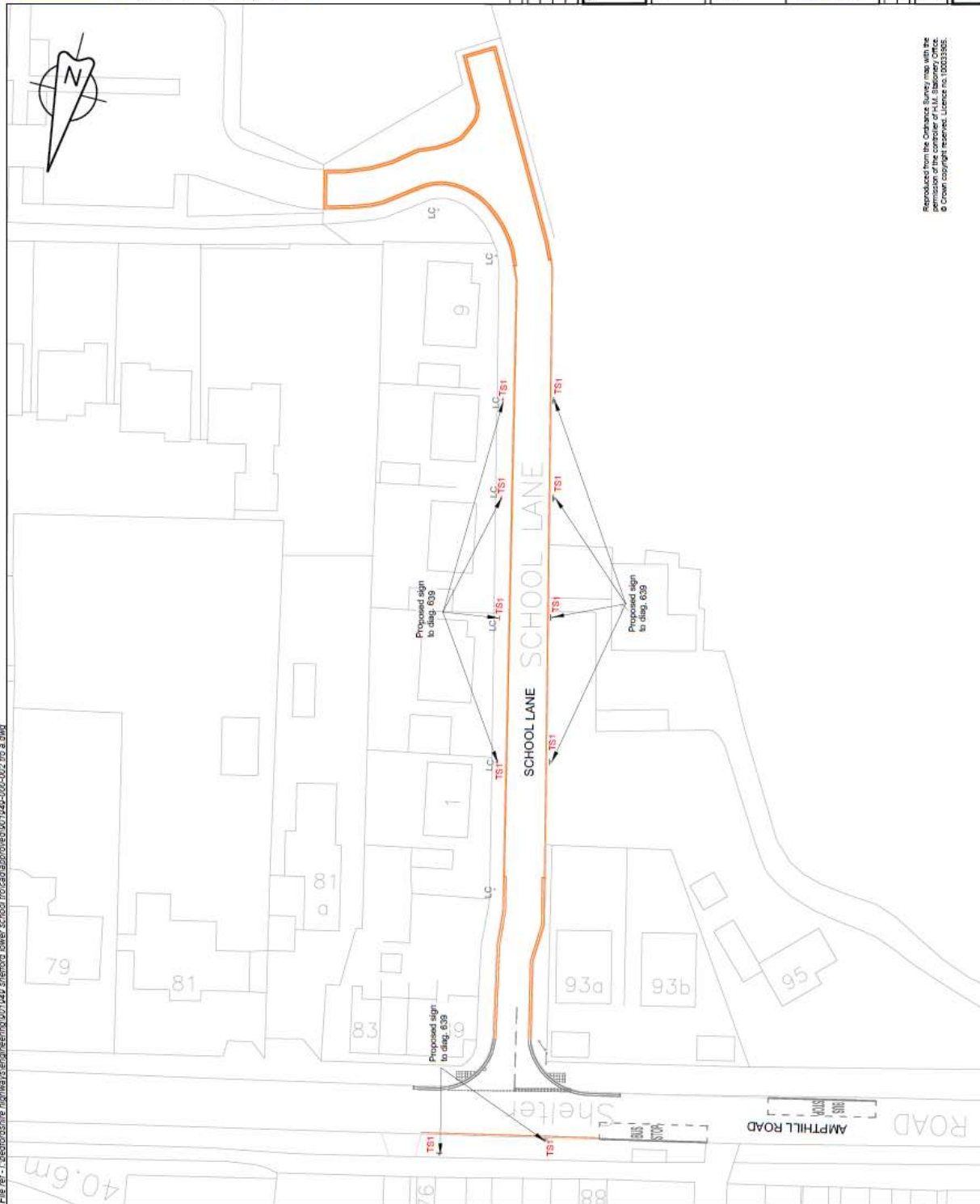
- 7. The proposed waiting restrictions have been tailored to address the school gate parking issue, but create minimal disruption to residents. It is felt that the restrictions are justified on road safety grounds and given the operational days and times they will not create any serious inconvenience.
- 8. 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 Amey CDM Hazard Management Process.)

- Process.) The site location is close proximity to Street Lighting Column, residential estate, school and junction

NOTES

- NOTES**
1. Do not scale from this drawing. If in doubt contact engineer on site.
 2. The design & proposals shown are indicative, therefore they are subject to alteration.
 3. All road markings are to Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002. Existing road markings coloured grey to remain.

KEY

TS1 Proposed Waiting Restriction Sign
(Mon-Fri 8.00-9.30 and 15.00-16.30)
erect on existing lamp column.



Proposed Double Yellow Road Marking.

Rev	Revision details	Chgd	Appd	Date
	Designed: ARH			Date: 18/09/2015
	Drawn: ARH			Date: 18/09/2015
	Checked: DK			Date: 18/09/2015
	Approved: DK			Date: 18/09/2015



Client:

Project Name
Shefford Lower School

Drawing Title

Original Dwg Size : A3	Scale : 1:500
Dimensions : m	
Drawing Status SHARED	Suitability S2
Drawing No 901949-000-001	Revision P2 1

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE WAITING RESTRICTIONS IN SCHOOL LANE AND AMPHILL ROAD, SHEFFORD

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 indiscriminate parking, particularly at the start and end of the school day.

Effect of the Order:

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

1. School Lane, both sides, from a point approximately 3 metres south of the front wall of no.89 Ampthill Road extending in a southerly direction to a point approximately 3 metres south of the boundary of no.89 Ampthill Road and no.1 School Lane.
2. School Lane, east side, from a point approximately 3 metres north of the southern property boundary of no.9 School Lane extending in a southerly direction to the end of the road including both sides of the eastern spur road to the school.
3. School Lane, west side, from a point in approximately 3 metres north of the southern property boundary of no.9 School Lane extending in a southerly direction to the end of the road.

To introduce No Waiting Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 9.30am and 3.00pm to 4.30pm on the following length of road in Shefford:-

1. School Lane, both sides, from a point approximately 3 metres south of the boundary of no.89 Ampthill Road and no.1 School Lane extending in a southerly direction to a point approximately 3 metres north of the southern property boundary of no.9 School Lane.
2. Ampthill Road, north side, from a point approximately 3 metres east of the boundary of nos.76 and 78 Ampthill Road extending in a westerly direction to a point approximately 3 metres west of the boundary of nos.86 and 88 Ampthill Road.

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 26 October 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 2015"

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

1 October 2015

Appendix C

Thank you for the consultation letter dated 29 September 2015. I would like to make a few comments:

1. **First and foremost, you have no authority over School Lane as it is not an adopted highway.** Therefore, any restrictions which may be added would be unenforceable. You should be aware that all the residents in School Lane are responsible for contributing to maintenance and the cost of street lighting. For this reason, the lights have not been used for many years.
2. Whilst we have off-road parking, there is a severe lack parking for residents in the area. There are many cottages with no off-street parking and the spaces in School Lane are highly valuable. The proposed additional double yellow lining to both sides of the lower section would mean that three spaces would be permanently lost. The single line to both sides of the middle section will mean that a number of spaces will be unavailable for parts of the day which will inevitably result cars being relocated un-necessarily. The loss of parking in School Lane would cause issues in Ampthill Road. The general parking needs of the residents should be balanced with the issues around the busyness in School Lane as school drop-off and pick-up times. There has been a reasonable balance since the double yellow lines were added on the corner a few years ago.
3. It is considered unlikely that any amount of yellow lines will have a significant effect on the busyness of School Lane at peak times. Whilst parents may stop parking, they will wait in their cars for their children and while others collect / drop off their children.

Your careful consideration of these points would be much appreciated.

I wish to register my objection to the proposed Waiting Restrictions in School Lane, Shefford for the following reasons:

- 1) School Lane is not adopted highway meaning Central Bedfordshire Council as Highway Authority have no right to create the proposed waiting restrictions. Even if the Council does proceed with the proposals, they would be no more than paint on the carriageway and physical signs. Restrictions would be unenforceable and generate bad press for the Council in terms of costs incurred for a worthless process. *In connection with this point is that the residents of School Lane are responsible for the road's maintenance costs and funding the street lighting – the street lamps have not been in use for many years due to this.*
- 2) The proposals are unacceptable in principle as no allowance is made for residents who require parking in the carriageway. Having to move their vehicles twice per day on weekdays is a unreasonable expectation when there is no other suitable alternative provision. Parking levels on Ampthill Road are already high and encouraging this to increase further still will generate further congestion issues at peak times as well as potential safety hazards due to indiscriminate parking.

- 3) The proposals will not contribute towards creating a safer access road to the school. In all likelihood, many parents will still continue to park in School Lane (but wait in their cars for their children in the event of enforcement action taking place *although not legally possible as stated in point 1*). In any event, traffic volumes travelling up and down the road are unlikely to decrease as instead of parking, many parents will take to dropping off their children at the school gates.

A revised proposal that makes provision for local residents to continue to use the parking provision of School Lane would provide a welcome balance between school safety and local residential welfare.

Dear Mr Chapman,

I am writing in connection with your letter of the above reference, dated 29 September and concerning Proposed Waiting Restrictions – School Lane and Amphil Road, Shefford.

I am sympathetic to the principal aim of the proposal and supportive of the plans in general. However, I object wholeheartedly to the siting of TS1 signs in four locations along the boundary of my property at the above address.

It could be that the signage indicated on your map is based upon the assumption that lamp columns exist along the western edge of School Lane. This is not the case. By inference, it would therefore appear that dedicated poles or columns for such signs are intended. In my opinion, this would be totally impractical, dangerous and unacceptable.

Further to any aesthetic considerations, not least a pole a few mm's from my front path, there are a number of practical issues associated with erecting poles along the boundary of my property, and these are as follows:

If I understand the scale of the map correctly, the siting of some of the intended poles may well fall within the envelope of the beech hedge that fronts my property.

It would not be possible to site the poles far enough away from the kerb in order to avoid these becoming a traffic hazard in their own right. Large vans and Lorries frequently access the school site, and these have protruding door mirrors that may well clash with the poles or signs. It is also not unknown for vehicles to mount the kerb on the western edge of the road so as to allow vehicles to pass each other.

The presence of four poles close to the kerb, is asking for a door-opening collision involving drivers who may park along that side of School Lane whilst visiting households during de-restricted hours. (In case you are unaware, School Lane is not lit apart from during very restricted school hours in the winter months).

Apart from maintaining the beech hedge mentioned earlier, I also cut the grass that acts as the verge for the western kerb of School Lane. I'm not confident that I would be able to do this were the poles to become an additional obstacle.

By my estimation, your plans involve placing four TS1 signs within a distance of less than 60 metres on the lamp columns that exist, whereas the legal requirement only needs signs to be repeated every 60 metres. Even allowing for this overkill and assuming there may be a legal obligation to repeat the signage on both the east and west side of School Lane, I believe that there are certain concessions available to local authorities intended to reduce sign clutter.

I urge you to reconsider the arrangements and to relocate or minimise the number of signs that are planned in line with the TSRGD amendments and concessions. Specifically, I would ask you to explore alternative arrangements regarding the TS1 signs in front of my house.