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**Meeting:** Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders  
**Date:** 4 February 2016  
**Subject:** Frenchs Avenue, Dunstable – Consider Representations to Proposed 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 waiting restrictions on Frenchs Avenue, Dunstable

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**Contact Officer:** Nick Chapman  
[nick.chapman@amey.co.uk](mailto: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.

### **Financial:**

The works are being funded via section 278 funding related to an adjacent residential development

### **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 proposal will improve road safety for all road users.

**Sustainability:**

None from this report

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**That the proposal to introduce No Waiting at any time on lengths of Frenchs Avenue, Dunstable be implemented as published.**

**Background and Information**

1. The proposal is related to highway improvements that are required to satisfy the planning consent for a nearby residential development. The required safety audit identified the need for improved pedestrian facilities and a refuge was considered to be the most suitable solution. As there are adjacent residential properties and some on-street parking takes place, it is necessary to install yellow lines to ensure that the pedestrian refuge operates safely. Nearby junctions would also be covered by restrictions to counter any migration of parking.
2. The proposals were formally advertised by public notice in November 2015. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Dunstable Town Council and the Ward Members. Residents living immediately adjacent were individually consulted by letter. Public notices were displayed on street.

**Representations and Responses**

3. Two representations have been received, both from nearby residents opposing the restrictions.
4. Copies of all correspondence are included in Appendix D. The main points of concern raised are summarised below:-
  - a) The traffic island will be of no use and will not reduce the excessive speeding that occurs. Local people were told that traffic calming measures would be put in place.
  - b) The double yellow lines will mean that more people will park outside their home, thereby denying space for them to park.
  - c) There is no enforcement of the existing restrictions, so the proposed ones will be ineffective.

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

There is a footpath that meets Frenchs Avenue at this location. It is felt that the new residential development will increase pedestrian crossing movements and lead to higher traffic flows. Frenchs Avenue is wide for a residential street and the pedestrian refuge will make crossing it safer.

Narrowing the road in a localised area is likely to reduce motorist speed at that point, although, in proximity to a 90 degree bend, they're liable to be low anyway. Road markings on the bend should help to further reduce speed. All of Frenchs Avenue is covered by a 20mph speed limit.

The parking restrictions have been kept to a minimum and as much on-street parking as possible has been retained. The restrictions would cover the bend and junctions where on-street parking should not take place, so they will remove relatively few spaces; probably 6 to 8 in number. There is off-road parking to the rear of the properties that front Frenchs Avenue, but that is unlikely to satisfy residents' needs, so some do make use of on-street parking on Frenchs Avenue.

At the present time there are parking restrictions on the south side that prohibit parking from 7pm to 6am, which were introduced to address an overnight issue that no longer exists. These will be removed thereby creating some extra parking for residents during those times.

6. Bedfordshire Police has raised no objections to the proposals.

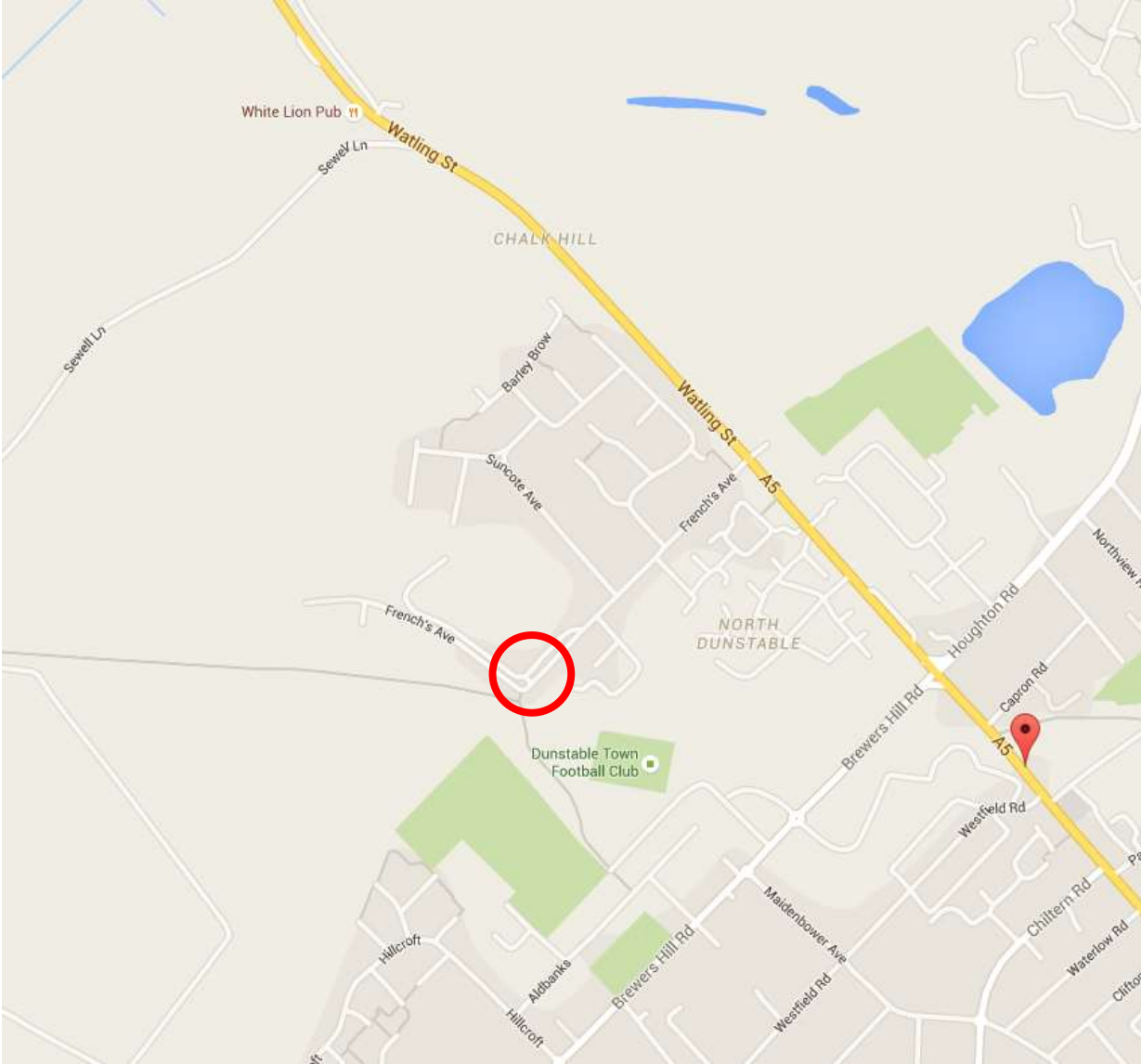
## **Conclusion**

7. The pedestrian refuge is being provided to address concerns that were raised about pedestrian safety at this location and the parking restrictions are needed to ensure that it operates safely. As a result, it is recommended that the restrictions be implemented as published.

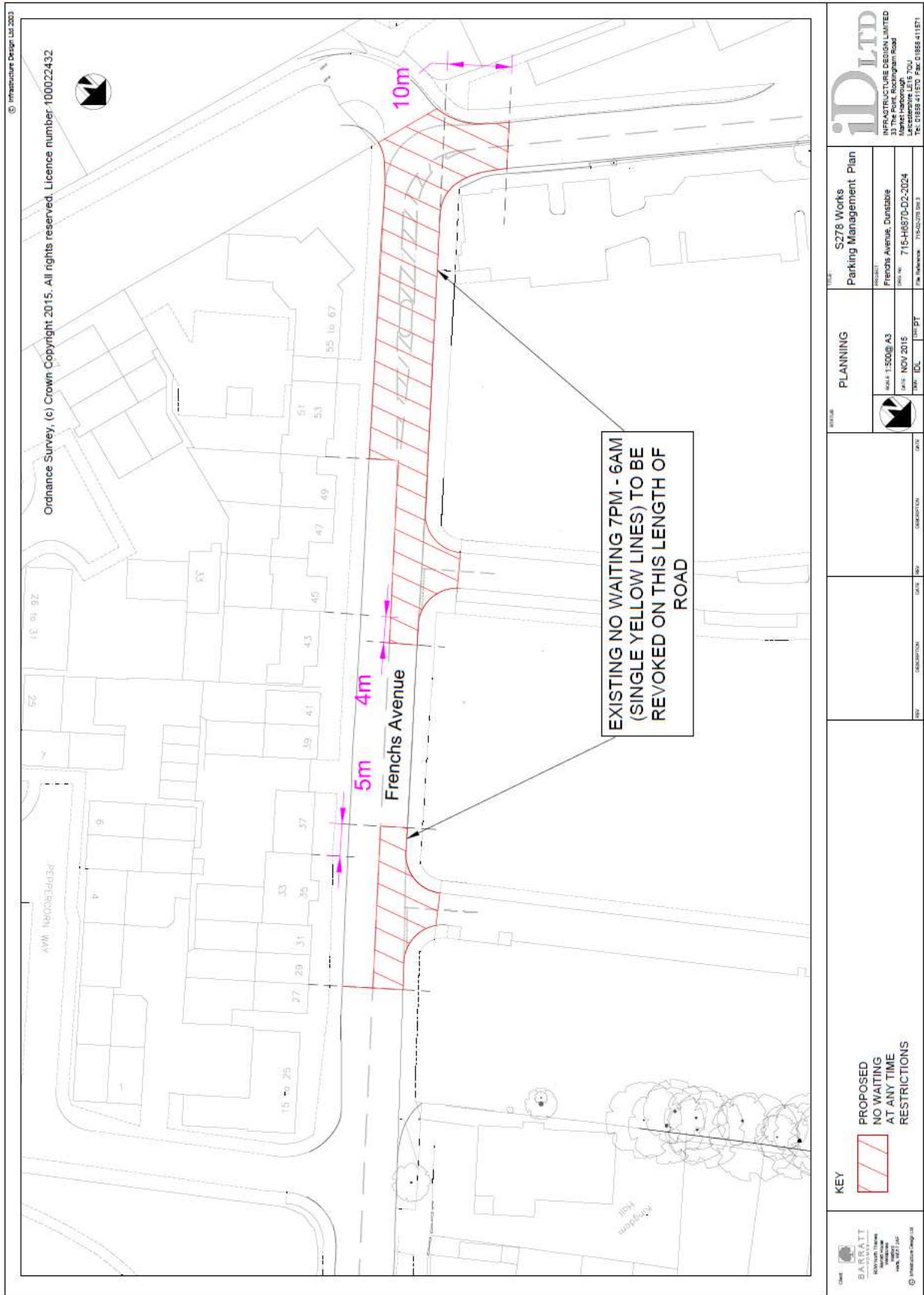
## **Appendices:**

- Appendix A – Location plan
- Appendix B – Drawings of Proposals
- Appendix C – Public Notice of Proposals
- Appendix D – Representations

Appendix A



# Appendix B





# PUBLIC NOTICE

## **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE NO WAITING AT ANY TIME AND REMOVE NO WAITING 7PM TO 6AM IN FRENCH'S AVENUE, DUNSTABLE**

Reason for proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary for facilitating the passage of traffic on the road. The restrictions are intended prevent the road being obstructed adjacent to a traffic island that is planned at this location. The restrictions would cover two adjacent junctions to avoid displaced parked vehicles from parking close to them. The traffic island is being installed as part of a residential development. It is proposed to revoke the existing overnight restrictions as these are no longer required.

Effect of the Order:

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

1. French's Avenue, south-east and south-west sides, from a point in line with the boundary of nos.49 and 51/53 French's Avenue extending in an easterly then southerly direction to a point approximately 10 metres south of the south kerb line of French's Avenue.
2. French's Avenue, north-west side, from a point in line with the boundary of nos.27 and 29 French's Avenue extending in an easterly direction to a point approximately 5 metres east of the boundary of nos.33/35 and 37 French's Avenue.
3. French's Avenue, north-west and north-east sides, from a point approximately 4 metres west of the boundary of nos.43 and 45 French's Avenue extending in an easterly then southerly direction to a point approximately 10 metres south of the south kerb line of French's Avenue.

### **To REMOVE the existing No Waiting 7pm to 6am on the following length of road in Dunstable:-**

1. French's Avenue, north-west side, from a point approximately 9 metres north-east of the south-west flank wall of no.37 French's Avenue in a south-westerly direction to a point approximately 9 metres south-west of the north-east flank wall of nos.55 to 67 French's Avenue.

Further Details may be examined during normal office hours at the address shown below, viewed online at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices](http://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](mailto:centralbedsconsultation@amey.co.uk) by 4 December 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

12 November 2015

## Appendix D

Hello we received your letter regarding the new proposed waiting restrictions on Frenchs Avenue. We have a couple of issues with this as we are residents of xx Frenchs avenue.

1 - we feel the traffic island at the end of the road is going to be no use, we were told when these new houses were developed there would be traffic calming put into force. An island at the end of the road will not stop the motorbikes and cars racing up and down the road as they slow down for the end anyway. Our cat was killed two years ago due to people not sticking to the speed limit. There needs to be something in the road to slow people down further along the straight.

2 - having the yellow lines from our house xx. Up to the end of the road is going to become a big issue for us especially if the people in the flats can't park on the road, they will park outside our house. We have a very young baby and not being able to park our car outside the front of the house is going to prove difficult and where also are our guests suppose to park should any come and visit?

Please could someone respond to this email as I'd like to know the outcome.

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Frankly I cannot understand the need for a traffic island and associated yellow lines in the location shown, where do you think the displaced cars will park in future? Presumably like most yellow lines in this area they will not be enforced regularly, so just another waste of tax payers money. A more sensible place to put yellow lines (and enforce them) would be the at junction of Suncote Avenue where cars and, in particular vans park very close to the junction which is obviously busier due to regular buses which often cannot pass.