
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 28 February 2017
Subject: Bideford Green, Linslade – Consider objections to the proposal to introduce waiting restrictions in Bideford Green, Linslade
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 in the vicinity of Southcott School at Bideford Green, Linslade.

Contact Officer: Steve Lakin
steve.lakin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Linslade
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal is designed to improve road safety, traffic management and the amenity in Bideford Green within the vicinity of Southcott school and is in accord with Objective C of the authority's Local Transport Plan, *"Increase the number of children traveling to schools by sustainable modes of transport"*.

Financial:

The works are being funded by the Local Transport Plan as part of the Integrated Programme of works for 2017-18.

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 safety for all road users.

Sustainability:

None from this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the proposals to introduce waiting restrictions in Bideford Green, Linslade are implemented as published.

Background and Information

1. The Council has received a number of complaints about school-run parking in the vicinity of Southcott Lower School in Linslade. An example report that documents the current situation is included as Appendix A.
2. Officers conducted several site visits during the autumn term in 2016 to observe the issues first hand. Officers also met with interested members of the Town Council and agreed to bring forward proposals to regulate the available highway space and encourage more responsible parking behaviours.
3. The following restrictions were proposed:
 - Extension of 'No waiting at any time' restrictions to additional sections of Bideford Green.
 - Extension of 'No stopping on School Entrance Markings' to cover the entrance to the Bluebell Nursery.
4. These proposals were formally advertised in September 2016. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Leighton-Linslade Town Council and the CBC Ward Members. Public notices were displayed on street and published on the traffic consultations section of CBC website (<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/public-statutory/notices.aspx>). A copy of the Public Notice is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of Representations

5. Over 20 representations were received. These included a formal response from Leighton Linslade Town and from Bedfordshire Police, who raised no objections to the proposals. Copies of all correspondence received are included in Appendix C. Names and address of correspondents are redacted in line with privacy guidelines.

6. While generally supportive, most respondents expressed concern that the proposed measures:
- i) Do not adequately address road safety issues associated with the school run, in particular the school's poor pedestrian accessibility.
 - ii) Are insufficient to deal with parking pressures and would have the effect of displacing demand to other sections of Bideford Green and on to Soulbury Road.
 - iii) Will worsen road safety by encouraging greater vehicle speeds and increasing pedestrian use of roads with inadequate or missing footways.

The main points raised by correspondents are summarised below in paragraphs 7-9.

7. No Stopping on School Keep Clear restriction

Several correspondents requested that the existing timed restriction covering Monday to Friday between 8am and 4.30 pm be extended cover Saturday mornings between 9am and 12am as parking continues to be a significant problem whenever events, such as football club practices, games and tournaments, are hosted by the school.

One correspondent proposed extending the restriction so that it operated for 24 hours, 7 days a week. Another respondent requested that the timing of the restriction be reduced to say 8 to 9.30am and 3- 4.30pm as this would better coincide with the school run period, allowing adjacent property owners to park outside of these hours.

8. No Waiting at Any Time restriction

Correspondents requested that the proposed double yellow lines be extended in the following locations:

- i) Around the bend, as the proposed parking for 5-6 cars at this point would adversely impact sight lines. Specifically. *“the presence of parked vehicles and those vehicles in the process of entering/leaving a parking space will reduce the width of the carriageway”*.
- ii) To cover the entrance to the pathway between number 448 and the back garden of number 447 Bideford Green. It was noted that the existing H-bar marking covering the entrance is frequently ignored. The result was that children crossing at this point had to walk out into the road from behind parked vehicles in order to check for approaching traffic.
- iii) To cover all of Bideford Green within a 500m radius of the school entrance as this would encourage parents to park and walk.

9. Other requests/ recommendations:

- i) That a surfaced, adjacent to carriageway footway be provided within the green space to allow children to alight from vehicles in safety.
- ii) That, in addition to the above, the road is widened into the green space to facilitate traffic movement.
- iii) That a 2m wide strip of the existing green space is hardened using grasscrete to provide a parking area.

- iv) That the road is narrowed to a single lane between no. 435 and the school entrance to allow for a part of the carriageway to be converted into a footway on the section where no such provision exists.
- v) That traffic calming measures are introduced to reduce speeds and that a 20mph speed limit is considered.
- vi) That the footpath between 427 to 435, which is in a particularly poor condition, is resurfaced.
- vii) That action is taken to address the issue, widespread across Bideford Green, of vehicles parking on the footways / margin strips.
- viii) That authority and the school take action to encourage parents to use modes of transport other than the private car.
- ix) That the school takes action to encourage parents to park away from the school gate and walk the rest of the way (Park and Stride), for example making use of the car park at the Tesco Express at Coniston Road.
- x) That the authority offers "H" bars to householders in the vicinity of the school who experience problems with obstructive parking and that existing H bar markings are refreshed at the same time.
- xi) That the authority takes action to enforce the restrictions.

Central Bedfordshire Highways' response

10. No Stopping on School Keep Clear restriction

Officers note that there were no objections to the extension of the School Keep Clear markings to cover the entrance to the Bluebell Nursery. Officers are of the view that the timing of the restriction, covering the period when the majority of pupils arrive and depart both the lower school and nursery, remains appropriate.

11. No Waiting at Any Time restriction

Officers are of the view that the proposed extension of the 'No Waiting at Any Time restriction' is a proportionate response to existing school-run parking pressures and will have the effect of improving road safety. The scheme reflects existing parking behaviour whilst seeking to address those areas where parked vehicles are observed to be hazardous for other road users.

12. Other requests

i) – iii) Officers acknowledged that the metalled 'margin' that forms part of the property frontage within Bideford Green is of insufficient width to function as a footway and therefore see merit in the proposal to provide a suitably surfaced footway within the existing area of greenspace. However, this would be a matter for negotiation between the authority and Southcott Management Association, who are the landowner for this area of green space.

iv) The option of creating a new section of footway within the existing carriageway was discounted due to the road topography at this location.

v) Officers are of the view that the proposed measures will not adversely increase vehicle speeds and that any traffic calming measures should be considered as part of a wider Local Transport Plan scheme to create a 20mph zone covering Bideford Green and Knaves Hill.

vi) Officers have recorded the poor condition of various highway footpaths. These will be prioritised for refurbishment in accord with the authority's structural maintenance policy.

vii) Central Bedfordshire Council introduced an authority-wide restriction on verge and pavement parking in 2014 in recognition that the damage caused places an additional strain on limited maintenance budgets and that obstructive parking directly compromises the safety of vulnerable road users.

The authority is committed to taking action where the problem of verge and pavement parking is considered most acute, subject to a request from the local ward member(s).

viii), ix) While the authority remains committed to the objective of increasing the number of children walking and cycling to school the amount of officer time available to progress this is very limited.

x) The provision of new and the re-lining of existing H bars will be instructed as part of the scheme's construction.

xi) The issue of parking outside of schools is an important key focus for the work of the authority's Civil Enforcement Officers, who have visited the area twelve times in the last year.

Conclusion

13. If the proposals are approved, the associated works will be scheduled to take place over the period July to September 2017.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Issues report

Appendix B – Public notice of proposals

Appendix C – Representations

Appendix A: Complainant Report

Parking around Southcott School

The following photos were taken on one recent day (12 May) randomly selected in the afternoon – by no means the worst but an example – showing the main safety issues especially for children. These do not cover other issues such as

- The inconvenience to residents by inconsiderate parking
- The problems for delivery drivers at school times getting past double parked cars
- The damage to the road and extended private drive opposite the school caused by school traffic bearing in mind that this is a cul de sac and every car arriving has to turn round to exit Bideford Green



Cars parked round bend and service strip which provides the only “footpath” especially in wet weather (note the vegetation obstructing this which forces parents/children into the road



Entry/exit from Bluebell Day Care Centre directly on to road (note presently awaiting reregistration/decision by Southcott Lower School to run its facilities in the meantime). Also used by some to and from Southcott School



Double yellow lines by private drive area routinely ignored and not enforced



Chicane parking around the sharp bend where there is limited visibility of oncoming traffic (either direction)



Typical scene up Bideford Green from the bend. In dry weather many will walk up the grass (privately owned amenity land) but less so in wet when the service strip on the other side of the road is more used. Note the three point turn being undertaken emphasising that this road is a cul de sac



Similar scene with use of service strip as pavement



Cars leaving. If work was not being done on left hand side, there would be continuous parking all the way down the right side. Some parents choose to get their children out on to the road because of the concrete posts



Cars parked immediately opposite a road junction where there is limited visibility for cars exiting by the double white line because of vegetation. Often the line of parked cars goes even higher up Bideford Green



Note also the car parked on the grass off the “main” Soulbury Road – there are sometimes more



How safe is it for these children and parents?

PUBLIC NOTICE



**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE
NO WAITING AT ANY TIME AND NO STOPPING ON SCHOOL ENTRANCE MARKINGS
IN BIDEFORD GREEN, LINSLADE**

Reason for proposal: For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic, for facilitating the passage of traffic on the road and for preserving the amenity of the area through which the roads run. The waiting restrictions are intended to address indiscriminate parking in the vicinity of Southcott Lower School and Bluebell Children's Centre to create a safer environment for road users and residents.

Effect of the Order:

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

1. Bideford Green (main section), west and south sides, from a point approximately 5 metres north-east of the boundary of nos.510 and 511 Bideford Green extending in a north-easterly then north-westerly direction to a point approximately 3 metres north-west of the rear wall of no.167 Bideford Green.
2. Bideford Green (second south-west spur), both sides, from its junction with Bideford Green (main section) extending in a south-westerly direction to a point approximately 4 metres north-east of the boundary of nos.168 and 169 Bideford Green.
3. Bideford Green (main section), north-east side, from a point approximately 4 metres north-west of the rear wall of no.167 Bideford Green extending in a south-easterly direction to a point approximately 5 metres south-east of the boundary of nos.427 and 428 Bideford Green.
4. Bideford Green (main section), north-east side, from a point approximately 3 metres north-west of the rear wall of no.431 and 432 Bideford Green extending in a south-easterly direction for approximately 12 metres.
5. Bideford Green (main section), north-east side, from a point approximately 2 metres north-west of the south-east flank wall of no.435 Bideford Green extending in a south-easterly direction for approximately 12 metres.

To introduce No Stopping on School Entrance Markings from Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 4.30pm on the following length of road in Linslade:-

1. Bideford Green (main section), south-east side, from a point in line with the boundary of nos.510 and 511 Bideford Green extending in a north-easterly direction for approximately 63 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. 0300 300 5003.

Comments should be sent in writing to the Traffic Management team at the address below or e-mail traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 30 September 2016. 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

6 September 2016

(DISTRICT OF SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT AREA AND SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT AREA) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2008) (VARIATION NO.*) ORDER 201*

The Central Bedfordshire Council (the "Council") in exercise of its powers under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 4 (2) and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("The Act") and all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of schedule 9 to the Act, hereby makes the following Order:

1. This Order shall come into operation on xxth day of (Month) 201* and may be cited as "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**"
2. As from the date upon which this Order comes into operation, the provisions of the "Bedfordshire County Council (District of Mid Bedfordshire) (Civil Enforcement Area and Special Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2008" shall be varied as follows:-

To add No Waiting at any time on the following length of road in Linslade:-

- (i) Bideford Green (main section), west and south sides, from a point approximately 5 metres north-east of the boundary of nos.510 and 511 Bideford Green extending in a north-easterly then north-westerly direction to a point approximately 3 metres north-west of the rear wall of no.167 Bideford Green.
- (ii) Bideford Green (second south-west spur), both sides, from its junction with Bideford Green (main section) extending in a south-westerly direction to a point approximately 4 metres north-east of the boundary of nos.168 and 169 Bideford Green.
- (iii) Bideford Green (main section), north-east side, from a point approximately 4 metres north-west of the rear wall of no.167 Bideford Green extending in a south-easterly direction to a point approximately 5 metres south-east of the boundary of nos.427 and 428 Bideford Green.
- (iv) Bideford Green (main section), north-east side, from a point approximately 3 metres north-west of the rear wall of no.431 and 432 Bideford Green extending in a south-easterly direction for approximately 12 metres.
- (v) Bideford Green (main section), north-east side, from a point approximately 2 metres north-west of the south-east flank wall of no.435 Bideford Green extending in a south-easterly direction for approximately 12 metres.

To add No Stopping on School Entrance Markings from Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 4.30pm on the following length of road in Linslade:-

- (i) Bideford Green (main section), south-east side, from a point in line with the boundary of nos.510 and 511 Bideford Green extending in a north-easterly direction for approximately 63 metres.

GIVEN under the Common Seal of the Central Bedfordshire Council
this xxth day of (Month) 201*

THE COMMON SEAL of THE)
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL)
was hereunto affixed in the presence of:)

Signed



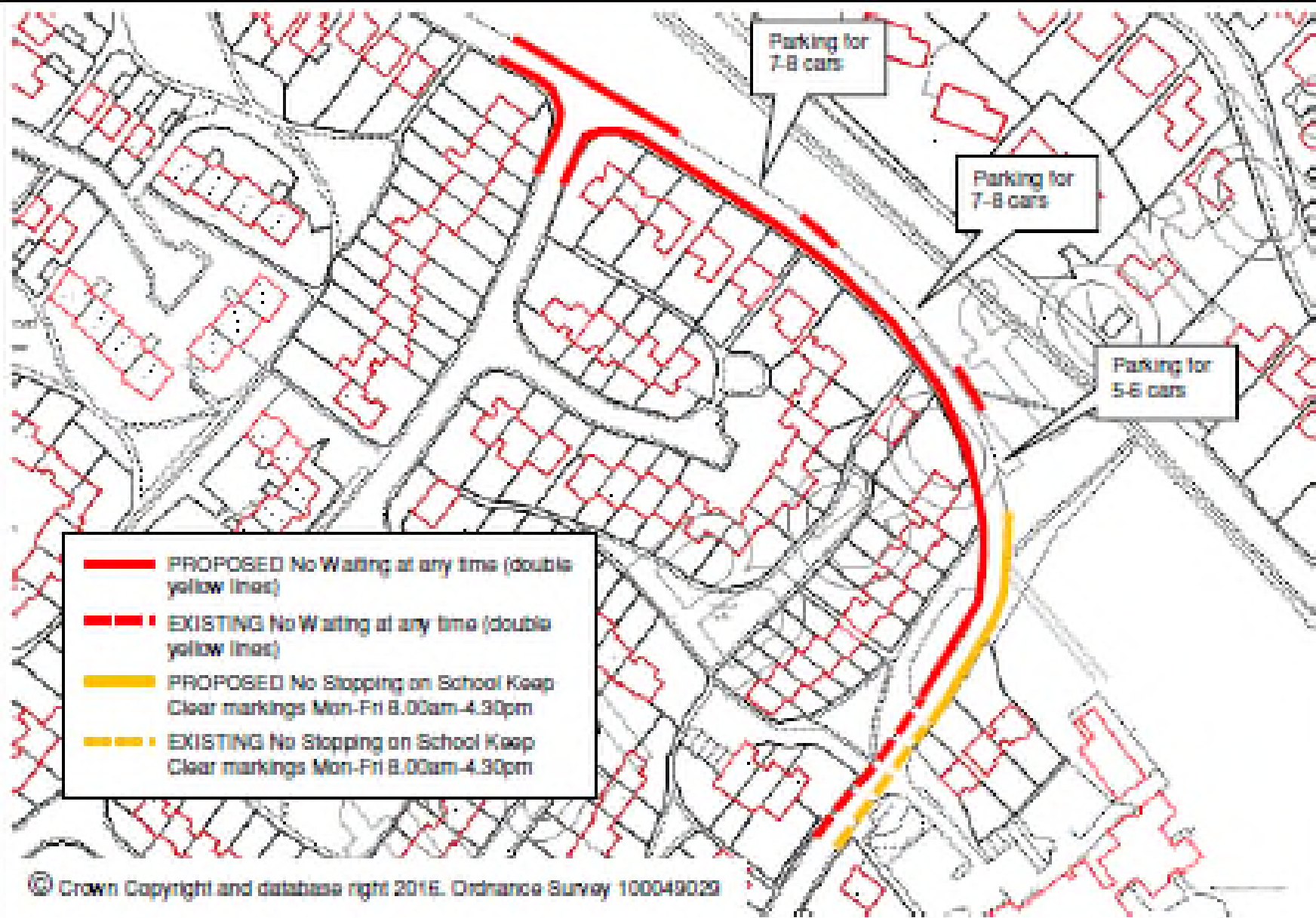
Statement of Reasons

The proposed restrictions are for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic, for facilitating the passage of traffic on the road and for preserving the amenity of the area through which the roads run. The waiting restrictions are intended to address indiscriminate parking in the vicinity of Southcott Lower School and Bluebell Children's Centre to create a safer environment for road users and residents.

The No Waiting at any time (double yellow lines) is intended to keep the inside of the bend and the west side of Bideford Green clear of parked vehicles. The parked vehicles create vehicular conflict and obscure visibility for drivers. The restrictions would also be applied to the junction adjacent to no.167 and 427 Bideford Green and two short lengths of road to create passing places for opposing traffic and improve visibility for pedestrians crossing the road. Parking spaces would be marked between the passing places.

The No Stopping on School Entrance Markings would extend the existing markings north-westwards to cover the new children's centre access and footpath link.

Further details can be found on the attached draft Traffic Regulation Order and Public Notice.



Appendix D

From: The Headteacher

Sent: 26 September 2016 09:15

To: Traffic Consultation

Subject: Bideford Green - parking proposals adjacent to the entrance to Children's Centre

Dear Sirs

Proposal to introduce additional 'no waiting at any time' restrictions on Bideford Green and to extend the 'no stopping on school entrance' markings to cover the entrance to Children's Centre

The current parking restrictions adjacent to Southcott Lower School have caused us concerns about the safety of our children for some years.

We are supportive of these proposals to restrict the areas near to the school in which vehicles can park.

We do have a reservation relating to the break in the proposed double yellow lines labeled 'Parking for 5-6 cars'. The road is a bend at this point with associated reductions in sight lines. The presence of parked vehicles and those vehicles in the process of entering/leaving a parking space will reduce the width of the carriageway. We would prefer this length of road to be included in the provision for double yellow lines. However, we do not want this reservation to detract from our support for the plans.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Headteacher

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk]

Sent: 22 September 2016 14:08

To: Traffic Consultation

Subject: Bideford Green

Dear Sir/Madam,

The proposals for the alterations on this road will not add to the safety of the children or parents. The problem is much wider than just the short section of the road in front of the school.

The major issue is that there is NO pavement on either side of the road between No 435 and the school entrance. Therefore everyone has to walk in the road.

It is obvious that the original road and footpath were not built for the amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic that use the road today. The footpaths are too narrow even for a pram/pushchair with a child walking alongside.

I recently walked the road and a mother had no alternative than to push a pushchair in the road so that the second child could walk on the pavement. In most cases parents do not use the footpaths but walk down the road amongst traffic.

With regard to parking on the road. At the present time because of the narrow road and the concrete posts on the edge of the green area, parents let children out of cars into the middle of the road amongst traffic. On many occasions I have had car doors opened as I approached.

It is made worse by the fact that many of the cars are 4x4s or people carriers. This further restricts the width of the road. Driving against the flow of the line of parked cars means that if a car comes down the hill towards the school on the outside of these cars, there is no way of passing each other except by pulling onto the narrow pavement amongst the children and parents.

A recent count was 25 cars parked on the approach to the school, plus 4 cars parked on the inside of the bend, these are normally parked there all day and 3 cars parked on the double yellow lines. Children are also dropped off within the 'hashed' marking area at the school entrance. It would not be possible for emergency vehicles to get through.

A few cars park on Soulbury Road. If the proposals are implemented more cars will park on the verge of this road and cause traffic issues on this bus route.

The proposals will not overcome any of the present issues, nor address the problem on a Saturday morning when football playing takes place. with the same traffic problems this brings. Full time daily enforcement of the new proposals would be required.

The restrictions proposed will only mean that parents will park further away from the school on the approach side and beyond, where there will be no restriction. All this is doing is moving the congestion elsewhere. Already many of the vehicles travel beyond the school and park, and turn in the cul-de-sac between No's 462 and 472.

If parents have further to walk they will either stop and drop off in the restricted area, or walk down the road amongst traffic, causing more safety issues.

As I pointed out above there were 25+3+4 vehicles that on a given day would be affected directly for which 22 spaces are planned by the proposals.

I would suggest that there is a need to widen the road on the approach to the school and this can easily be done by selectively removing the concrete posts, and either making it possible to let passengers out onto a footpath ,or making 'off road' parking spaces. This, and a footpath to the school gates would certainly lead to a safer method of getting children to school.

A further issue would be the introduction of a speed restriction methods.

This is not a criticism of the proposals. It is good that the council is proposing to implement some much needed changes in the area, however I don't believe the proposals go far enough. More consideration needs to be given to how children get safely from their parents' cars into the school grounds, not just where cars can and cannot park. This would take away much of the present congestion.

From: Mark Saccoccio [mailto:Mark.Saccoccio@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 September 2016 14:13
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Bideford Green, Linslade

Dear Sirs,

At its meeting held Thursday 29th September, the Planning and Transport Committee agreed to make the following comments in respects of the proposed parking changes to Bideford Green, Linslade. Whilst in principle the Committee supports the proposal, more should be done to:-

- i) Encourage parents to use other modes of transport other than the private motor vehicle and when this is not possible, to encourage parents to use alternate parking at say Tesco Express at Coniston Road. It is recommended that the school should be encouraging parents to seek legal alternative parking solutions.
- ii) As a consequence of displacing traffic, this will have a knock-on effect on adjoining roads. The Committee were keen to encourage the use of painted "H" bars across drives that would become more prone to school /railway parking issues.
- iii) The Committee were of the opinion that Soulbury Road could become a greater issue and the Principal Authority should be mindful of this.
- iv) The Committee was of the opinion that parking remains a problem on Saturday mornings also.
- v) The introduction of measures to ensure that no waiting/stopping is properly enforced.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Saccoccio

Mark Saccoccio BSC (Hons) MRTPI CiLCA
Town Clerk

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@btopenworld.com]
Sent: 27 September 2016 11:47
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Bideford Green, Linslade

Good morning,

I am writing to comment on the proposal to introduce no waiting at any time and no stopping on school entrance markings in Bideford Green, Linslade.

I live at [REDACTED] Bideford Green, Linslade, and consider that I have an obligation to comment on your proposals.

In other words Southcott Lower School and the residents living on that part of Bideford Green.

I believe that the proposals do not go far enough because all you will be doing is moving the car parking and congestion further up the road, towards my house (457 Bideford Green) and further around the corner to the end of the cul-de-sac.

So we also need to have placed outside our drive-ways the 'White Lines' that were placed out-side some of the houses in that section of the road. Houses with 'White Lines' (**which need to be re-painted** 448,449,450,451,452,453 and 503,504,505,506,507,508 and 509.

Houses that will **require** 'White Lines' are from houses 454 upwards and houses 502 upwards towards the end of the cul-de-sac.

In addition to the school-week – Monday to Friday. You have not taken into consideration the use of the school playing-field on a Saturday by people who are granted use of this field, by the school, to play foot-ball.

It is not just a little knock-about each week but proper foot-ball matches and the number of cars arriving to participate are a very large number and they remain parked all around the school street for most of the morning (9am-12noon). The school car-park is not available for any of the Saturday morning cars (the school place a sign out-side the gates stating this), so we have to take the full volume of cars parking all the way up towards my house (457) and all around the bend, alongside the Bideford grass area (sometimes cars are parked on both sides of the road, making it very difficult to drive past them to either leave or return home).

You will need to place restrictions on Saturdays also, when there are events in the school playing field (I am sure the parking sign can state these requirements).

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Please acknowledge receipt

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@btinternet.com]

Sent: 10 September 2016 12:09

To: Traffic Consultation

Subject: Bideford Green Linslade Proposed Waiting Restrictions

I wish to comment on the above proposals as follows:

1. There is a pathway that many children who walk from other parts of the estate use and then have to cross the road to the main school entrance. The path is between number 448 and the back garden of number 447 Bideford Green. The present yellow lines do not cover this path and vehicles park from the end of the existing yellow lines up to it resulting in children having to walk out into the road behind parked vehicles to see if anything is coming. There is so much vehicle movement at the start and end of the school day with vehicles going past this path end to turn around further up the cul de sac that I feel children that are doing the right thing by walking to school are put in danger. Could the yellow lines be extended to cover this path?

2. On Saturday mornings for a considerably longer period than on a school day there is the same amount of parking around the bend as the local children's football team Southcott Owls uses the school field for their games. The school will not let the cars park in their grounds even though I have explained the problem. If they did there would be sufficient parking. Could the restrictions be extended to include Saturday mornings between 9.00 and 12. The problem is worse on a Saturday morning because there is more resident car movement at these times as it is a weekend.

3. The new measures will result in parents parking further round the cul de sac as was the case before the Bluebell Childcare entrance opened. When they parked on both sides of the road it meant residents found access difficult especially when leaving or entering their drives. Could H bars be put in front of all the drives around the cul de sac and the entrances to the pathways?

As a local resident I am very pleased that something is to be done to prevent the parking around the bend as I am constantly concerned that I will knock a child down because I don't have clear visibility when I am driving into or out of the cul de sac.

[REDACTED]
([REDACTED] Bideford Green)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 September 2016 14:21

To: Traffic Consultation

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Bideford Green, Linslade waiting restrictions


I am pleased that at last the council has recognised the impact of parking at school times, weekend football and evening lettings on the flow of traffic through to residential properties past the school.

A path from the entrance to the school and the footpath that across the green also needs to be considered, also on the opposite side of the road as pedestrians have not footpath on either side of the road along this stretch of road. Instead they are forced to walk along a private road and dodge any vehicles moving. In the evening people are walking from the footpath along the road to the entrance of the school and it is dark. The school is regularly let in the evenings and some of these bookings are children groups.

At present you are just restricting parking from school entrance to the footpath on the green at school hours only, this needs to be extended to 365 days as it is dangerous parking on a bend, especially one with NO FOOTPATH. Unless a footpath will be constructed within the next few months.

Kind regards,


Bideford Green

From: 
Sent: 29 September 2016 17:30
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: NO WAITING AT ANY TIME AND NO STOPPING ON SCHOOL ENTRANCE MARKINGS IN BIDEFORD GREEN, LINSLADE. Proposed order 201.

Dear Highways department,

We would like to comment on the "No waiting at any time and no stopping on school entrance markings in Bideford Green, Linslade"/proposed order 201.

We are generally in favour of this proposal but we would like to make a few suggestions as follows:

- The footpath between 427 to 435 is in a particularly poor condition and needs resurfacing. It is very difficult pushing a pushchair along this section as the wheels get directed towards the road by the broken surface.
- When crossing from the footpath outside 434 Bideford Green to the adjacent footpath across the grass/green leading to Soulbury Road there is extremely poor visibility round the bend. Would it be possible for the path on the Soulbury Road side of Bideford Green to be extended to a safe crossing point with good visibility in both directions. We believe this crossing point would be approximately opposite 431 to 432 Bideford Green. It would also be beneficial if this path could be extended down to the Bluebells Nursery entrance on the Soulbury Road side of Bideford Green.
- Generally across Bideford Green there is an issue with vehicles parking on the footpaths, which are particularly narrow, meaning it is unsafe to walk with a pushchair or holding a young child's hand as sometimes you have to go onto the road to fit around parked vehicles. Is it possible to ban vehicles parking on the footpath, or enforce such regulations if they already exist? We feel this will be more of an issue if waiting restrictions are implemented around the school entrances as the parking will be displaced further up Bideford Green.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Bideford Green

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 September 2016 14:29

To: Traffic Consultation

Subject: No waiting at anytime and no stopping on school markings in Bideford Green, Linslade

In response to your public notice, whilst the proposal is excellent news and long overdue, I have one major reservation, as at present the few traffic restrictions that are in place are consistently ignored. If these proposed measures are implemented, are they going to be regularly policed, as if not, I can see them also being ignored.

[REDACTED]
Bideford Green

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 24 September 2016 14:31

To: Traffic Consultation

Subject: Bideford Green Restrictions

Hi,

I live at [REDACTED] Bideford Green so have to run the Southcott School gauntlet every day. Whilst your new plan looks very nice and neat and tidy I actually don't think you have put much thought into the actual situation on Bideford Green. It is all well and good to sit in the planning department and draw nice lines on a map with felt tip pens but quite another to experience what goes on in the real world. I'm sure parents of children at Southcott are very nice law abiding citizens most of the time however during the school pickup times they seem to turn into reckless, lazy and selfish people who have a total disregard for their surroundings and complete lack of consideration for the residents. As an example please see attached photo which shows someone picking up their little darling with a clear disregard for the current restrictions, after all why would you walk any further than you have to.

So I would urge you to come and take in the sights and sounds of pickup time at Southcott School, which may hopefully enable you to apply some common sense and reconsider your proposals.

I have three specific issues with your proposal:

- The complete lack of respect and responsibility of parents currently suggests to me that your proposals will make no difference what so ever to the ever present threat of injury or worse on that corner.

2. You are proposing to have a Monday to Friday restriction in one area (shaded yellow on your sketch map. The school has regular Saturday football matches and other sports events at weekends and prohibits parking on their premises. The same problem prevails indeed it is worse as the parking can be all day. We would like the yellow areas to be redesignated as red ie full restriction.

3. Considering the areas shaded red are permanent, this could cause issues for the residents in front of these lines. Could you consider restricting the times of no parking?

Thank you for the opportunity to make our comments and hope that they will be given full consideration.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Bideford Green

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 September 2016 21:11
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: No waiting / double yellow lines Bideford Green

Dear sirs,

While i appreciate that the way inconsiderate school parents park is highly dangerous to both pedestrians and drivers and i welcome any measures put in place to reduce the dangers i am not happy at the increase in problems it will cause for us who live a little further up past the school.

I have lived at 450 Bideford Green for nine years now and in that time my sons car which was parked on the road outside my house has been damaged three times by other drivers who did not even stop to admit to the damage.

We were forced to pay £3000 to have our single drive converted to a double so as to get both family cars off of the road.

I have witnessed on numerous times parents using my driveway to turn around and i have lost count of the number of times i have been blocked in and was late for work because parents had actually parked across my driveway.

When tackled about it they swear or shout abuse or use the excuse " i will only be a minute"!

My neighbour even had her car hit and damaged by a parent on her own driveway by a parent using it to turn around on. They drove off without owning up.

If you stop parents parking before the school where do you think they are going to park instead? Yes, further up the road and they will then cause more nuisance for myself and everyone who lives further up Bideford Green.

You will just be pushing the problem further up the road not curing the problem.

If my house is on fire i would like to think that a fire engine could get to my house instead of being hindered by inconsiderate foolish drivers who double park and restrict access just because they are too lazy to walk their children to school.

Please let me know your proposals to prevent nuisance and danger further up Bideford Green?

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 September 2016 10:34
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Proposal to introduce school entrance markings in Bideford Green, Linslade

Dear Sir

Re: Consultation for the proposal to introduce No Waiting at any time and No Stopping on School Entrance markings in Bideford Green, Linslade

Further to your recent Public Notice in regard to the above, I would like to register my total support for your proposal.

The proposal addresses a long standing safety issue associated with traffic in that immediate area.

I have two questions in relation to the proposal:

1. Will the existing No Waiting and No Stopping markings that exist closer to Southcott Lower School be 'refreshed'? I feel this will aid the appearance of the 'whole picture'.
2. Through your procedures, are the relevant 'policing authorities' made aware of the additional restrictions in the area?

Thank you

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Bideford Green

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 September 2016 14:51
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Proposed Waiting Restrictions, Bideford Green, Leighton Buzzard.

Dear Sirs,

I refer to the published consultation dated 6th September relating to the proposals to introduce additional waiting restrictions in Bideford Green, Leighton Buzzard; if made, this is the order that would be titled: "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**"

Firstly I would like to say that, as a resident of Bideford Green in the section beyond Southcott School, I welcome the initiative to control parking around the bend beside the school as I frequently have to pass this area going against the flow of parents/guardians arriving to drop off or collect children, and I have often had to drive onto the path adjacent to the houses to allow a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction to pass. This is dangerous for pedestrians, and I believe we should be encouraging more parents & guardians to walk their children to school, so your efforts to alleviate this problem by restricting parking and introducing passing zones is welcome.

I have two concerns about the suggestion, however.

1) There is a similar problem with indiscriminate parking associated with various events held within the school, most notably the regular Saturday football club, but also various fundraising events held by the school PTA including summer and Christmas Fayres. The proposal to extend the “no stopping on school entrance markings” during the school day from the area outside nos. 510/511 Bideford Green for a distance of about 83 metres (the solid yellow line on the plan associated with the notice) will not prevent parking in this section outside of school hours. In my experience, it is impossible to tell when approaching in a north-easterly direction whether there are cars coming round the bend from the section adjacent to nos 427-432, and if there are cars parked adjacent to the grassy areas that this restriction covers, it is only possible to avoid oncoming cars by driving onto the pavement and the private parking land. Given the introduction of the restriction on the section of the road opposite the school entrance, an area which normally has residents’ cars parked in it, I can foresee the possibility that residents will park overnight and at weekends on the school entrance section, thereby increasing the incidence of this hazard. I would ask you to give serious consideration to amending the proposal to make this also “No waiting at any time”, i.e. to change the solid yellow section on the plan to solid red. (I am not suggesting changing the existing school entrance section, only suggesting changing the proposed section).

2) It is likely that the introduction of these restrictions will cause people to look for other places to park. There are already one or two drivers who choose to park their vehicles on Soulbury Road adjacent to the path in front of the school grounds (the area of Soulbury Road that is underneath the box saying “Parking for 5-6 cars” in the plan associated with the notice). These drivers, aware that this presents an obstruction of the busier Soulbury Road, often park with their wheels on the grass verge, causing damage to the verge. I fear that the introduction of these restrictions will increase the number of drivers who park on Soulbury Road. I would ask you to give consideration to also introducing restrictions on the south-west side of Soulbury Road in the vicinity of Southcott School.

Regards

 Bideford Green

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 September 2016 19:48

To: Traffic Consultation

Subject: Ref: Proposed waiting restrictions - Bideford Green Linslade

We are residents of Bideford Green and have these comments to make on the proposed waiting restrictions:

1. The proposed double yellow lines extending from 434 to 167 Bideford Green are unnecessary - the traffic and parking issues only occur during a limited period of time in the morning (8.30 - 9.30 am) and afternoon (3 - 4 pm) and so full restrictions for 24 hours a day are not needed. In fact we rarely have any problems with access during these times anyway or are aware of any danger to pedestrians immediately outside our property. The proposed restrictions would in fact disrupt our activities as visitors and deliveries to our property would not be able to park. This is not acceptable.
2. The provision of specified parking areas on the other side of the road is also not desirable as this will encourage commuter parking as drivers will see these as recognised parking spaces, whereas currently we have no issues with commuter parking.
3. The implementation of these restrictions will only have the effect of pushing parking further back up the hill towards Derwent Road and so extending potential parking issues and lengthening congestion more widely on Bideford Green.
4. The impact will also be to have traffic stopping on Soulbury Road if they cannot park on Bideford Green, causing further congestion and blocking on a major traffic route.

Our recommendation would be as follows:

1. To introduce limited no waiting time zones (single yellow lines) that only apply for 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon instead of the double yellow lines proposed; parking within the immediate vicinity of the junction at 427 Bideford Green is already illegal, so double yellow lines are not required.
2. To introduce no waiting at any time markings from 434 Bideford Green around the bend to 510 Bideford Green, as this is the area most impacted by the school traffic and
3. To introduce the proposed no stopping extension outside the school.

Beyond these measures nothing further is necessary in our view. The current proposals are far too drastic.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Bideford Green, Linslade

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 September 2016 10:25
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Waiting Restrictions - BIDEFORD GREEN

To Traffic Management Team

I refer to the above proposed "No Waiting Restrictions" covering the road area around Southcott Lower School.

I found your MAP most interesting and helpful to gauge the actual length of road involved in the " DOUBLE YELLOW LINES" scheme.

Having looked closely at the MAP of the proposed NO WAITING restrictions near the foot path and the school playing fields, as a

local resident and regular motorist I should like to make one major observation which I feel needs to be addressed to avoid the risk of

another BLIND SPOT and subsequent accident.

The proposed plan to allow 5-6 cars on the bend of the road seems rather excessive and could easily cause a BLIND SPOT for those drivers

coming down from the top of the estate.

No more than 2-3 cars should be allowed, but better still no cars whatsoever in this section of the road under your proposal.

[REDACTED]
Bideford Green

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 September 2016 18:03
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: waiting-restrictions-bideford-green_tcm3-18744

This is not an objection to the proposal, merely an observation.

The proposal is to add "no waiting at any time" areas and extend the "No Stopping on School Entrance Markings" area.

At the moment there is a small area of double yellow lines (virtually opposite the school) and any time I have been past the school at drop off/pick up times there is always one or two cars parked on these double yellow lines.

If the new and extended areas are not 'policed' their restriction will almost certainly be ignored by those who feel "the restriction does not apply to me".

Regards,

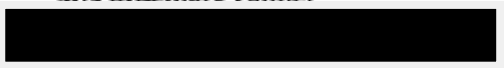


Bideford Green.



12 September 2016

Mrs Rosemary Palmer



Leighton Buzzard
Beds

Dear Mrs Palmer

Re - Parking ; Southcott School

I refer to your letter regarding the parking problems emanating from the siting of the school. We did, incidentally, meet years ago when watching our sons play rugby for Cedars School !

Having examined the map one would assume that the proposed measures will alleviate the problem though a more satisfactory proposal would be to provide 'pick up/drop off' points rather than parking spaces. Numerous cars park anything up to 30 minutes before school opening and closing times. I still have grave doubts about access for large emergency vehicles e.g. ambulances or fire engines, at these busy times.

The timing of your letter comes on a day after my wife and I were stuck in our car at the junction with *427 Bideford Green* on our way home. Traffic could neither move up or down the road nor into or out of this junction at no. *427* and a lot of abuse was being exchanged by inconsiderate drivers. It took us at least 10 minutes to get to our own drive just 20 yards away. It is common to see vehicles moving up the road three abreast and using the footpath, with others using private driveways to turn around in.

Many years ago the school advised residents whenever weekend or exceptional functions were held - i.e. sports days etc. Such advice has not been forthcoming for a long time.

If either yourself or Clive wish to speak to me please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks for the work you have both done on behalf of residents.

Yours sincerely



Clive Boote



[REDACTED]
Linslade
Leighton Buzzard
Beds
LU7 2TZ

Traffic Management Team
Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford
SG17 5TQ

16 September 2016

Dear Sir

Re: Proposal on no-waiting and no-stopping restrictions at Southcott Lower School

Thank you for your letter on the proposed scheme which I fully endorse and which has been long overdue. However, I do have some concerns on the scheme.

1. On exiting the private access road to houses 435 to 443 (see drawing). I believe cars coming down on the wrong side of the road cannot be seen until we drive into the main road, therefore could the parking designated for 5 - 6 cars be reduced to 3 or 4 cars?
2. What proposals if any are there in place to prevent our private access road and driveway to the garages (hatched area) becoming a school carpark?
3. Enforcement: Unless this scheme is regularly enforced, it will be a waste of time. The existing double yellow lines are completely ignored and are parked on on a regular basis and since the lines were installed in 2009 I have only been aware that on one occasion was there any attempt at preventing parking.
4. Has any consideration been given to reducing the speed limit to 20 miles per hour as in existing schools in the Leighton Buzzard area.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 September 2016 14:29

To: Traffic Consultation

Subject: No waiting at anytime and no stopping on school markings in Bideford Green, Linslade

In response to your public notice, whilst the proposal is excellent news and long overdue, I have one major reservation, as at present the few traffic restrictions that are in place are consistently ignored. If these proposed measures are implemented, are they going to be regularly policed, as if not, I can see them also being ignored.

[REDACTED]
Bideford Green
Linslade
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 2UA