
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 25 July 2017
Subject: Hitchin Road, Stotfold - Consider objections to proposed waiting restrictions in Hitchin Road, Stotfold
Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways
Summary:
Recommendation: Take note of representations and take the proposal no further.

Contact Officer: Paul Salmon
Paul.salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Stotfold and Langford Ward
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal will improve road safety, traffic management and the amenity in the affected roads.

Financial:

N/A due to recommendation

Legal:

None from this report.

Risk Management:

None from this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report.

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report.

Community Safety:

None from this report.

Sustainability:

None from this report.

Budget and Delivery:	
Estimated cost: N/A due to recommendation	Budget: N/A due to recommendation
Expected delivery: N/A due to recommendation	

Background and Information

1. The Council has received a number of complaints about the inconsiderate parking on Beechwood Court in Dunstable. Parking is currently unrestricted and non-Beechwood Court residents
2. The following restrictions were proposed:
 - No waiting at anytime on main roads, extending into side roads to cover junctions
3. A proposal was published to introduce no waiting at any time and was formally advertised by public notice in April 2017. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Biggleswade Town Council and the Ward Members. Residents located in the areas where restrictions are proposed were individually consulted by letter.

Representations and Officer Responses

A total of 6 representations were received in response to the proposals. 3 are opposed to the scheme.

Officer Response

Not to take this proposal any further.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Public notice of proposals

Appendix B – Drawing of proposals

Appendix C – Representations

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2017 14:05
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Proposal to introduce no waiting at any time; Hitchin Road, Stotfold

Dear Sirs

On the face of it your proposal appears to be a simple solution in reducing vehicular conflict in the vicinity of the Brook St mini roundabout.

However, like a lot of these simplistic (and cheap) solutions, in my opinion, they create more problems than they solve. I would be grateful if you would consider the points below.

1. There are a lot of old properties in this area with no or little off road parking. Where do the present parked cars park? Brook St (along by the bowling club) is rapidly filling up already, this will increase to bursting point. The recently built (good but inadequate) parking bays alongside the recreation ground are already full. I just don't see how people in the area with no off road parking are going to park. Have you considered this?
2. There are old, sick, busy people living in the area and an increase in online shopping. How are delivery vehicles able to deliver if there is no waiting at any time?
3. The change to one way traffic in Brook St has increased traffic past my house considerably since completion. Had this been thought through at the time, these traffic conflicts would not be here. Was this considered at the planning stage?
4. Have you considered that parked cars actually have a beneficial effect in slowing traffic and inadvertently acting as traffic calming measures? The 20mph limit although a good idea is ineffective.
5. The MASSIVE ongoing increase in new homes in the area is the real cause of traffic conflicts. Why aren't the infrastructure implications considered properly before more and more houses (with their accompanying cars) are approved?

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Hitchin Road.

From: Cllr Brian Saunders
Sent: 15 May 2017 14:48
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE

I am in agreement with the need for yellow lines but I think they are too long.
I would like to see them run from between 64 and 66 Hitchin road to between 36 and 38.

Regards

Cllr Brian Saunders

For the attention of Gary Baldwin: Principle Traffic Officer

Your Ref: GPB/HRS

Dear Sir

Proposed No Waiting : Hitchin Road Stotfold

As we are residents of Hitchin Road Stotfold we would like to protest most strongly against your proposed new parking restrictions for the following reasons-:

The new mini roundabout that you recently installed, against the wishes of local residents, has not improved traffic conditions at the junction of Brook Street but has in fact created a traffic hazard where none existed before. We have lived on Hitchin Road for over 30 years and there had never been any problems at the junction. Since the roundabout has been installed there has been several crashes on the roundabout and near misses every day, with continual sounding of car horns.

The roundabout has also failed to slow down traffic.

Your proposal to install yellow line parking restrictions on Hitchin Road will cause further problems for the residents without any benefits at all.

Where will the residents who do not have off road parking be expected to park their cars?

When there is a football match /training on the recreation ground where will they be expected to park?

When there is a bowls game at the Brook Street Bowling Green where will the additional influx of cars be expected to park as the Bowling Green car park is too small to accommodate the additional vehicles?

How will the new parking restrictions help those residents of Hitchin Road who have mobility problems?

Your proposal for further restrictions on parking does not take into account the wishes and needs of the residents of Hitchin Road and will only cause them further problems in the same way your unnecessary roundabout has.

This time please listen to the tax payers of Hitchin Road and scrap your proposal for further parking restrictions.

Yours faithfully

Residents of Hitchin Road Stotfold

NO WAITING AT ANYTIME IN HITCHIN ROAD

I am writing in connection with the no waiting restriction which is about to be imposed outside my house [REDACTED] Hitchin Road. I have lived here for 15 years and prior to that 3 years at [REDACTED] Hitchin Road another property affected by the no waiting restriction. There were never any problems prior to the roundabout being inflicted on us when there was a just a road junction it was so much safer. The roundabout was obviously badly designed and as you know has been moved slightly.

I would like to know where everyone is supposed to park when the yellow lines come into operation. The lay byes are nearly always full particularly evenings and weekends. My immediate neighbours all have 2 cars which is a necessity these days for work and I am a pensioner who is still driving and my partner has a works van which when it had to be parked away from our house was broken into at Easter and numerous items stolen.

I thought the recreation ground was meant to be enjoyed by all. Not everyone walks there it is very popular especially after the new play equipment was installed. There are football matches there most weekends from August to May (22 players, officials and supporters) all have to park most of them arrive by car. Young footballers train a couple of nights in the week and there are a couple of fitness groups that train there at weekends. I know this because I live opposite and I presume who has made this decision has possibly had a couple of emails about near misses on the roundabout and is not here 24/7. When football matches are on its already absolute chaos. There is a limited amount of parking in Brook street but there are often bowls matches on which take up all the parking.

If you remove all the parking then the cars will approach the roundabout at even greater speeds as they will have no obstacles in their way. No-one drives at 20 miles an hour I would say the average is 30-35. I know because I live here!! I am not based behind a council desk at Chicksands.

You have made a section just past the bend travelling towards the High Street for cyclists to cross the road with numerous drawings of cycles . I have always thought this is dangerous encouraging cyclists to cross here anyone coming around the bend will not see them to the last moment. If you stop all cars parking – speed increased-more dangerous. There is also more traffic coming down Brook Street since it was made one way more traffic using roundabout. If anyone uses Chemist or Days they have to go the long way round and down Brook Street (more traffic on the roundabout). I know you will go ahead with this watch this space there will be parking on pavements, grass verges and everyone will park in Waters End and towards Fairfield.

I suggest who has come up with this idea spend a day and watch particularly when the football season starts again. We already have had a 20 mile speed limit inflicted on us. Cyclist cycle on the pavements very dangerous when they come up behind you when you are walking along and you don't hear them then they speed past. Now no parking!! I await your comments I am sure I know what they will be.

[REDACTED]
(Very frustrated home of owner of Stotfold)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 June 2017 16:41
To: Traffic Consultation
Subject: Proposed No Waiting - Hitchin Road Stotfold

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am contacting you to put forward my concerns about the proposed No Waiting in Hitchin Road, Stotfold.

In order to accommodate this restriction householders will concrete their front gardens (if they are able), making the area much more grey, and much less diverse environmentally, not to mention much less pretty. Cars should not park within 15 meters of a junction, so restrictions are already in place should the authorities choose to use them. Perhaps instead of spending money on this, the money could be spent on enforcement of this kind? The road has a 20mph limit, cars parking along the road can encourage this. Without any cars parked, drivers will increase their speed.

Many thanks for your consideration.
Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Hitchin Road
Stotfold

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 June 2017 14:39

To: Gary Baldwin

Subject: Stotfold proposed no waiting.

Double yellow lines as proposed seem a good idea except that it will only move the problem elsewhere in the village. I wish I could suggest a solution to this tricky problem. I took the very difficult course of paying the expensive cost of having the kerb in front of my house lowered and then building parking space in my small front garden. Perhaps one way to clear parked vehicles is to encourage residents to create their own parking space however the current cost of lowering kerbs is very high. You missed a very dangerous length of Hitchin Rd from your proposal which is the section about two hundred yards into the village after the bypass. As one enters the village the road has a gentle left hand curve. Too frequently there are vans parked there which obscures the road ahead and enough vehicles parked to make avoiding oncoming traffic difficult. The local council has made a grave error by changing the speed limit to 20mph and expecting all drivers to obey the 20mph signs. Government guidelines advise traffic calming measures, why has the council wasted money by not installing proper speed bumps? (not the useless 6 foot wide excuses for a traffic calming facility.) Finally I encourage you to make and take decisions when health and safety are involved and not waste time and money on the unnecessary niceties of asking the publics opinion. Yours faithfully [REDACTED].