
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 31 December 2017
Subject: Victoria Road, Leighton Buzzard – Consider Objections to Disabled Parking Bay
Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways
Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member of Community Services for the introduction of a Disabled Person's Parking Space in Victoria Road, Linslade.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the proposal to introduce a Disabled Person's Parking Space in Victoria Road, Linslade be implemented as published.

Contact Officer: Paul Salmon
Paul.Salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Linslade Ward
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal will improve parking facilities and improve mobility for disabled people

Financial:

Associated works will be funded from the council's Traffic Management budget

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: £300	Budget: Traffic Management
Expected delivery: Spring 2018	

Background and Information

Background and Information

1. The Council proposes to install a disabled parking bay in Victoria Road, Leighton Buzzard in response to a request from a blue badge holder who consistently experiences difficulties parking close to their property.
2. The proposals were formally advertised by public notice in July 2017. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Leighton Linlade Council and the Ward members. Residents located in the areas where restrictions are proposed were individually consulted by letter.

Representations and Officer Responses

3. A total of 5 representations were received in response to the proposed disabled parking bay, of which 4 objected to the proposal or expressed a concern. The main issues raised were:
 - a) That no action should be taken until after a wider review is undertaken of parking arrangements within Victoria Road and its adjacent streets.
 - b) That the impact would reduce available parking for other residents.
 - c) That by displaying their badge, disabled badge holders can park on sections of the road covered by existing waiting restrictions, making the marking of a separate bay unnecessary.
 - d) That additional enforcement is needed to deter vehicles from using residents' permit parking spaces.

5. It is the view of officers that:
 - a) A wider review is unlikely to result in the release of additional kerb space for parking, so the issue would remain.
 - b) The provision of a disabled parking bay would reduce the space available for other residents.
 - c) Disabled badge holders should not be reliant on the ability to park on areas of the highway that are covered by waiting restrictions as these are installed for safety reasons.
 - d) This area of Central Linslade is regularly visited by members of the parking enforcement team.

6. Officers are of the view that the request for a Disabled Person's Parking Space is reasonable and should be accommodated with the proviso that the continuing need for its provision is kept under review.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Public notice of proposals
Appendix B – Representations

Appendix A

The Householder

Victoria Road
Leighton Buzzard

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date:

NRK/001/DPB

13/07/2017

Important information about parking in your road

Proposed Disabled Parking Bay – Victoria Road, Leighton Buzzard

Dear Sir or Madam

Reason for proposal: The disabled parking space would provide a dedicated place for blue badge holders to park. On-street parking is heavy in this part of Victoria Road and disabled drivers experience difficulties finding convenient parking.

To introduce Parking for Disabled badge holders only on the following area:-

Victoria Road, Leighton Buzzard covering an area of approximately 5 metres long and 3 metres wide between no.16 Victoria Road and the entrance to Woburn Court.

I would be grateful if you could let me have your views, preferably in writing, either by e-mail to traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or by letter to the address below.

It would be appreciated if you could let me have your views by 10 August 2017.

Yours faithfully

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

On behalf of Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

Appendix B

I am in receipt of the above proposal.

Having realised this will be a new space, and that we have a blue badge holder resident here, I think this proposal is a good idea.

I am in a position where I have my own parking, but because of the situation here I am constantly being asked if neighbours can park on my drive, due to congestion. It's difficult when residents have permits, but there is also 4 hour parking here, which makes things difficult for those residents.

Whilst I am happy to help where I can, I do have my own friends and family and I have had to restrict this help to three neighbours. I cannot be expected to accommodate everyone here, especially the person who I realise now has four cars!

Hopefully, the addition of this proposed disabled space would accommodate the resident who needs it, thereby freeing up an additional space for everyone else to use.

Personally, I think the parking in Victoria road should be restricted to residents only, and not for the general public to use. That situation is one that the council should look at urgently, and I would respectfully request that they will do so whilst implementing this additional space.

Kind regards


Victoria Road

Your Ref: NRK/001/DPB

Proposed Disabled Parking Bay -Victoria Road, Leighton Buzzard

Dear Sir,

I wish to object to introduction of a dedicated space for Disabled badge holders.

Victoria Road already suffers from inadequate parking for residents. Reserving a dedicated space for disabled badge holders only, would create additional parking problems for the majority.

We already have a neighbour that is a Disabled badge holder. They are able to park safely in otherwise restricted areas (e.g. single and double yellow lines) by displaying their badge. I believe any other potential badge holders could easily do the same.

Thank you

Regards



Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you with regard to the proposed disabled parking bay in Victoria Road, Linslade.

Parking is extremely limited, and the provision of a disabled parking bay would reduce the number of general spaces even further. This is exacerbated by the size of the proposed disabled bay which is much longer than a normal parking space. Victoria Road has residents parking and it does not provide enough parking as there is. It is unfair to charge for on street parking and then remove available spaces. due to the restrictions in and around Victoria road,

some evenings it is impossible to park the car! We live on the side of the road without parking bays and always have cars and vans parked in front of our house on the pavement blocking access. I understand this is also a problem for disabled drivers but it is also an issue for young families.

Kind regards,

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Dear Central Bedfordshire Council,

I wish to object to the proposed disabled parking bay for Victoria Road.

As you rightly identified, the road suffers from a large number of cars requiring a small number of spaces. Although I sympathise with the request for a dedicated parking bay, to solely keep a bay for one person/car seems a disproportionate use of a valuable space. This effectively makes it unusable for everyone else on the road even when it is not required by the blue badge holder.

I would also like to highlight that there is ample single and double yellow lined parking which is also open to blue badge holders.

Both ourselves and our next door neighbours have young children. The impact of not being able to park near to our house (none of us expect the guarantee of parking outside) is significant.

The parking issue on Victoria Road could also be assisted by conducting permit checks on cars within the resident bays. Currently, wardens only seem to enforce the yellow lines.

Thank you for the opportunity to consult on this.

Regards

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Victoria Road, LU7 2NT

Good morning

Me and my wife have discussed the proposal for a dedicated space. Victoria road is already hard enough to park especially where the proposed space is. As you know a disabled badge holder can park on single and double yellows for up to 3 hours. On the opposite side of the road from the proposed space there are single yellows which could be used by badge holders. The parking is 8-5 with no return for 3 hours which stops anyone from the station using the spaces. Past 5pm we can park on the single yellow lines until 8 am the following morning which means the blue badge holder would have from 2pm till 11am the following day to park their car on a single yellow and move their car to the spaces when they become available. In the day it's easy to park outside it can be harder in the evening but that's due to the amount of cars per household. There's one house on Victoria road that doesn't have any other allocated parking and they own 4 cars which 3 of them are fiat 500s. Two of those cars could fit into a 5 meter space. We have two cars in our household and an allocated space around the back of the house. That still leaves one car on the street. So after our discussion unfortunately we feel there are other methods of parking that can be utilised if planned and we are against the disabled space.

Kind regards

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