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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting

**Date:** 31 October 2017

**Subject:** Bury Road, Shillington – 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 Bury Road, Shillington

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the proposal to introduce a Disabled Person's Parking Space be implemented as published.**

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Contact Officer: Paul Salmon  
[Paul.Salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Silsoe and Shillington Ward

Function of: Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Council Priorities:**

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

##### **Financial:**

The 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**

1. The Council proposes to install a disabled parking bay in Bury Road, Shillington in response to a letter received from a Community Assessment Officer on behalf of a blue badge holder who consistently experiences difficulties parking close to their home.
2. The proposal was formally advertised by public notice in July 2017. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Shillington Parish Council and the Ward members. Residents located in the areas where restrictions are proposed were individually consulted by letter.

**3. Representations and Officer Responses**

A total of 5 representations were received in response to the proposed Disabled Parking Bay, of which 4 objected or expressed a concern. The main issues raised were:

- a) That at 5m, the size of the bay will result in an unacceptable loss of parking space.
- b) That the bay would be better located at the end of the terrace outside of no.69.
- c) That the impact of introducing the bay would be to add to congestion.
- d) That no action should be taken until a wider review of parking in the areas has been completed.
- e) That the Council should convert amenity land at the entrance of Woodmere Close to parking.
- f) That the waiting restrictions recently introduced in Bury Road should be removed.

5. It is the view of officers that:

- a) The dimensions of all new parking bays provided on the public highway must accord with the council's published design standards.
- b) It is the council's policy to locate disabled bays as close as is reasonably practical to the requester's property, subject to ensuring that road safety and the passage of traffic on the highway is not compromised.
- c) As the area of the bay is already parked, there should be no detrimental impact on congestion.
- d) A wider review of parking on Bury Road may be a reasonable request but should not be a consideration when assessing the justification for a disabled parking bay.
- e) A request to convert amenity land to parking may be reasonable but should not be a consideration when assessing the justification for a disabled parking bay.
- f) The proposals on Bury Road were approved in August 2015 and were intended to improve road safety outside Shillington Lower, in particular to address indiscriminate parking during school times.

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 in response to proposal

## **Appendix A: Public Notice of Proposal**

**The Householder**

Bury Road

Shillington

Your ref:Our ref:

NRK/BRS

Date:

04/07/2017

*Important information about parking in your area*  
**Disabled Parking Bay – Bury Road, Shillington**

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 Bury Road and disabled drivers experience difficulties finding convenient parking.

The reason for our writing to you is to obtain an understanding of your response to these proposals before a statutory consultation is put forward.

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

Bury Road, Shillington, covering an area of approximately 5 metres long and 3 metres wide at the frontage of property no.71 Bury Road.

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](mailto: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 1 August 2017.

Yours Faithfully

Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House  
Chicksands  
Shefford SG17 5TQ

On behalf of Marcel Coiffait  
Director of Community Services

4 July 2017

## **Appendix B – Representations in response to proposal**

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your letter of 4 July regarding the application for a 'blue badge holder' parking bay immediately outside 71 Bury Road.

A simple visit to Bury Road, with a tape measure, will clearly indicate that a 5 metre long disabled parking bay means that TWO car parking bays will be taken away, not one. With the best will and the world's smallest car, you simply cannot fit a car in the space between 71 Bury Road and the end of the terrace block and the start of a private driveway. A parking bay immediately outside 71 Bury Road would not be logical and is not considerate. It would cause less of a problem if the parking bay was located outside No. 69, at the end of the terrace.

It's still a matter of annoyance that Bury Road lost four car parking spaces when no parking lines were put down around Bedford Close. We hear that the solitary space left for us between Bedford Close and Woodmer Close is also going to be taken away - is this true?

If this parking bay goes ahead outside No. 71 I would have to ask for double yellow lines to be put down on the road to indicate the shared driveway between Nos. 79-81 as car parking will be shunted up and down and cars will increasingly park over and obstruct this shared driveway. It is a regular problem now and will only increase in frequency.

Lastly, would this blue badge parking bay be mandatorily enforced, or will it be 'advisory' only.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
Bury Road  
Shillington

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I would raise my concerns whilst having sympathy for the applicant -

1. As you highlighted you are conscious that parking is limited in this area. Recently double yellow lines were put down at the junction along from this location reducing parking for residents.
2. The cottages along this row including my home have no off road parking which the houses opposite have advantage of. These residents also take advantage (if having two cars) any space available on the street, which adds to the lack of limited parking.
3. Visitors are rarely courteous or spatially aware and often take up two parking spaces, this does include residents too on many occasions.

4. Placing a disabled parking space will take up at least two spaces. In addition residents/visitors do not park up to the drop kerbs leaving lack of space. (Between 79 and 81) and between the shop and 83a.
5. I have been aware of this resident and whilst I have sympathy I have seen them walk unaided (without a stick) to walk to their car a short distance away. The majority of times their car is outside their home or within a few parking spaces of their home.
6. The shop two doors up from me (Bury Road stores) encourages shoppers stopping and using space daily and in the evening adding to the frustration of returning home throughout the day/evening and finding no space available to park.

I hope you will consider whether this is absolutely necessary as I fear it will only add to the parking frustration already existing along this stretch of Bury Road.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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Dear Sir/Madam

Further to your notification regarding the proposal to put a disabled bay in Bury Road I am writing to object to the proposal.

As your letter states we already have considerable congestion in this area of terraces making it difficult for all residents to find parking near to their own house. This has been made considerably worse by the councils insistence on putting large amounts of yellow lines to just protect a small close (Bedford Close) and a bus stop that is rarely used. The impact of these yellow lines doesn't seem to have been considered and not only is this pushing parking further up the road so that instead of Bedford Close residents having restricted views you have created an even worse restriction for all those residents further up the road that are trying to come out of their drives with much more limited views than Bedford close and Woodmer Close ever had. As well as increasing the amount of parking further up the road that now limits the number of passing places.

There are considerably more dangerous places in the village that seem to be ignored for yellow lines and I would understand this insistence on them for safety reasons if there had been a large number of incidences, but this hasn't been the case.

The further impact then of this is that if the council then puts a disabled bay outside of number 71 as suggested the size of the bay would mean that it would overlap onto 69 and 73 thus reducing what is currently 5 spaces in front of this block of terraces down to only 3 (one of which will be a disabled bay, thus only leaving 2 other clear spaces for the other 5 residents). I then consider where exactly does the council expect these other residents to park, especially as the houses opposite use this parking as well?

I do not object to the placing of a disabled bay along this road, however I do object to the proposed location. A more suitable location would be the other side of the "by way" by that runs up the end at number 67. At the end of the parking area here it could be placed so that the bay is not in front of anyone else's house and yet would still be near enough not to impact on the resident of 71's needs. Any consideration of placing it here though would necessitate the extending of the parking area here by the removal of the end of the yellow lines to ensure that the space can still allow for the current 3 cars size otherwise this will be reducing parking again for all other residents.

I suggest the council also considers carefully their approach to the use of yellow lines in this area as it has only become a problem for the resident of number 71 since the installation and increase of these yellow lines, prior to the installation of these the resident of number 71 never had to park so far away, so the issue is of your making. It seems a large price to pay for a small close of 8 houses that everyone else further up the street has to suffer.

Best regards,

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Resident at number █████ Bury Road, SG53NZ

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For the attention of Mike Amphlett

Further to my previous message, I am sorry to say I have to object to the proposed disabled parking bay.

Due to the nature of the properties, there is very little in the way of off road parking in Bury Road, with not only the residents of Bury Road attempting to park, but also Bedford Close and the shop customers too. This situation has been worsened by the double yellow lines.

There are only 3 parking spaces outside 83 to 81, 5 outside 79 to 67 and 3 the other side of the footpath. That is a total of 11 spaces and only if the vehicles are parked with consideration for others. Some of the properties in that area are currently empty, so when they are again in use, there will be additional cars to the equation. Simple maths says there is not enough parking for the types of property in that area.

I'm afraid a disabled bay outside number 71 would reduce the parking still further.

Can changing the double yellow lines to time restrictions only, not constant no parking be given some thought and markings provided to encourage residents to park to maximise the parking available.

I wonder if the small amount of land at the entrance of Woodmere Close (by the garages) could be used for parking, as was done in Hillfoot Road a few years ago.

Those unlucky enough not to be at home all day often have to park either the other side of Woodmere Close or further up Bury Road, which causing friction with the residents in those areas, but we have to park somewhere.

I have sympathy for the situation at number 71, but my concern is that a disabled bay will only add to the parking issues and cause bad feeling.

I ask you to look at this situation in more detail and suggest a more suitable location should be found for a disabled bay, that does not encroach on the already delicate parking situation.

Kindest regards

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