

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Safety Outside Schools		
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Keith Chopping	on:	20 June 2005
Forward Plan Ref:	ID0937		

- Purpose of Report:** To inform the Portfolio Member for Planning and Highways of the comments and objections received during the statutory advertisement of a proposed traffic regulation order to prohibit stopping on school entrance markings.
- Recommended Action:** That the Executive Member resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 4 of this report.
- Reason for decision to be taken:** To prohibit parking on school entrance markings in the interests of road safety.
- List of other options considered:** Not to proceed with the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order at the schools where comments and objections have been received.
- Key background documentation:**
- Summary of responses received during statutory consultation.
 - Location plans relevant to responses.

Portfolio Member:	Councillor Keith Chopping
Tel. No.:	0118 983 4625
E-mail Address:	kchopping@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Neil Stacey
Job Title:	Project Engineer (Traffic Management)
Tel. No.:	01635 503207
E-mail Address:	nstacey@westberks.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2001, a traffic regulation order was introduced at most schools in West Berkshire to legally prohibit vehicles from stopping on school entrance (zig zag) markings during the school term between the hours of 0800 and 1700, Monday to Friday. Since 2001, further requests have been received for new zig zag markings and amendments to existing markings. Following these requests, officers identified the locations where it is proposed to introduce new zig zag markings and alter existing markings.
- 1.2 In February 2005, a Traffic Regulation Order containing these proposals was advertised as part of the Safety Outside Schools programme. At the close of the statutory consultation and advertisement period 9 comments and objections had been received, which consisted of:
- One response from Thames Valley Police confirming that they do not object to the proposed order;
 - 5 responses were received to the proposals at Bucklebury C of E Primary School;
 - One response was received to the proposals at Compton C of E Primary School;
 - 2 responses were received to the proposals at St Finian's Catholic Primary School (Cold Ash).

2. Comments received during the statutory consultation

Bucklebury Church of England Primary School, Blacklands Road, Upper Bucklebury

- 2.1 Four responses were received from residents of Blacklands Road objecting to the proposals, as on street parking adjacent to their properties would be reduced. Residents also commented that parking problems at the junction of Blacklands Road and Berrys Road would not be addressed by the proposals. A response from Bucklebury Parish Council supported the local residents' comments.
- 2.2 A site meeting was held between a representative of West Berkshire Council's traffic management team, local residents, the school and Bucklebury Parish Council. Whilst the residents agreed that parking associated with the school should be better regulated, many expressed concern that they would not be able to park in front of their properties during the day, and delivery vehicles would not be permitted to unload. It was agreed at the meeting that a restriction which applied only at the beginning and end of the school day, rather than between 0800 and 1700, would be more acceptable to residents whilst still addressing vehicular congestion outside the school.

Compton Church of England Primary School, School Road, Compton

- 2.3 The response from a local resident was seeking further clarification about the proposals in conjunction with a proposed safety scheme for the school. The amendment to the existing zig zag markings is part of a scheme to introduce a road narrowing with priority working and to formalise an uncontrolled crossing point on School Road. The narrowing was approved following consultations with the School, Parish Council and Downlands Area Forum.
- 2.4 The resident has been informed that the proposed narrowing does not need to be formally advertised with the amendments to the zig zag markings and has since confirmed that they have no formal objection to the proposed restriction.

St Finian's Catholic Primary School, The Ridge, Cold Ash

- 2.5 The proposal to extend the existing zig zag markings was as a result of local residents concerns about the parking on a nearby bend on The Ridge. No objections were received during the statutory consultation process but comments were made that the restriction will not be adequately enforced and that more extensive measures are required.

3. Conclusion

Bucklebury Church of England Primary School, Blacklands Road, Upper Bucklebury

- 3.1 Reducing the hours of the restriction to 0830-0930 and 1500-1600 would address school-related congestion and allow residents to park adjacent to their properties during the day. The parking problems at the junction of Blacklands Road and Berrys Road can be investigated separately and any parking restrictions identified would need to be approved by Individual Decision.

Compton Church of England Primary School, School Road, Compton

- 3.2 The local resident's comments were taken into consideration when designing the final scheme. No further measures are necessary given that the resident has since confirmed that they have no formal objection to the proposed restriction.

St Finian's Catholic Primary School, The Ridge, Cold Ash

- 3.3 The proposals will prevent parking on the bend in The Ridge during the school day. However further traffic and parking issues will be addressed as part of the 2005/06 Safe Routes to School programme, which includes St Finian's School.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 In view of the above, it is recommended that:

- The proposed amendments to the school entrance markings and accompanying Traffic Regulation Order be implemented as advertised except on Blacklands Road, adjacent to Bucklebury Church of England Primary School, where the restriction should be amended so that it applies between the hours 0830 to 0930 and 1500 to 1600.
- The respondents be informed accordingly

Appendices

N/A

Implications

Policy: The proposals are in accordance with West Berkshire Council's policies to improve road safety outside schools.

Financial: The proposals are to be funded from the Safety Outside Schools budget as part of the annual Capital Programme.

Personnel:	N/A
Legal:	The Traffic Regulation Order will require sealing by Legal and Electoral Services.
Environmental:	N/A
Equalities:	N/A
Partnering:	N/A

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Councillor Graham Jones – supports recommendations on the basis that local members are in favour

Select Committee Chairmen: Councillor Quentin Webb – supports the recommendations

P&L Committee Chairman
(where appropriate): N/A

Ward Members:

Bucklebury:

Councillor Graham Pask – supports the recommendations

Councillor Quentin Webb – supports the recommendations

Cold Ash:

Councillor Geoff Findlay – supports the recommendations

Compton:

Councillor Barbara Alexander – supports the recommendations

Opposition Spokesperson: Councillor Owen Jeffery – supports recommendations on the basis that local members are in favour

Advisory Members: N/A

Local Stakeholders: Consulted as part of the Statutory Advertisement. Responses summarised in main report.

Officers Consulted: Andrew Garratt, Mark Edwards.

Trade Union: N/A