

Parking Review Amendment 33

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decisions
Date of Committee:	20 July 2023
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Denise Gaines
Report Author:	Gareth Dowding
Forward Plan Ref:	ID4338

1 Purpose of the Report

To inform the Executive Member for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel of the responses received during the statutory consultation on the review and introduction of waiting restrictions on Station Road Newbury and to seek approval of officer recommendations.

2 Recommendation

That the Executive Member for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel approves the proposals as set out in Section 6 of this report.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	The implementation of the physical works would be funded from existing Capital budgets as part of the Network Management team’s Minor Works Programme for 2023-24.
Human Resource:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	Sealing of the Traffic Regulation Order would be undertaken by the Legal Services team.
Risk Management:	If implemented the project will be managed in accordance with the Environment Department’s approach to risk management.

Property:	None arising from this report.			
Policy:	The consultation was in accordance with the Council's consultation procedure.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		N/A
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		N/A
Environmental Impact:		X		N/A
Health Impact:		X		N/A
ICT Impact:		X		N/A
Digital Services Impact:		X		N/A
Council Strategy Priorities:		X		N/A
Core Business:		X		N/A

Data Impact:		X		N/A
Consultation and Engagement:	Local stakeholders, statutory consultees and road users were consulted on the proposals by way of statutory advertisement, Street Notices and online consultation.			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Executive Member for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel of the responses received during the statutory consultation on the review and introduction of waiting restrictions on Station Road Newbury and to seek approval of officer recommendations.
- 4.2 Objections for the proposals were received. This report summarises the responses and makes recommendations to the Executive Member on what should be implemented as a result of this consultation.

5 Introduction/Background

Introduction

- 5.1 The West Berkshire Clear Streets Strategy is the basis on which parking in the main towns and villages has been formally reviewed. When Decriminalised Parking Enforcement was adopted in April 2009 the principal Consolidation Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was made which identified all on-street parking restrictions across the district. When inconsiderate dangerous or obstructive parking is raised as a concern at individual locations across the district these are now prioritised and investigated within a district-wide parking scheme and amendments made to the principal TRO.
- 5.2 Parking Review Amendment 33 was proposed in support of the Station Road project which is improving the area to the south of Newbury Railway Station and is part of a wider scheme of improvements around Newbury Station. This wider scheme has benefitted from Local Growth Deal funding following a successful bid to the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP developed jointly by the Council and GWR.

Background

- 5.3 West Berkshire Council undertook a highway improvement scheme within Station Road to improve and upgrade the highway. The project commenced in September 2022 and the works included:
 - Complete carriageway reconstruction throughout Station Road.
 - New pedestrian forecourt area outside the station building.
 - Footway resurfacing and new kerbing throughout.
 - Two new pedestrian crossing points to allow users easier access to the station.

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- Entirely new water drainage system
- Replacement of all street lighting with Station Road

- 5.4 As a consequence of these works the previous parking restrictions were no longer enforceable due to the changed layout of kerblines and other reference points and so new parking restrictions were proposed.
- 5.5 The proposals were detailed in Consultation Parking plan AM76. A copy of the advertised TRO and plan are included at Appendix A
- 5.6 The statutory consultation and advertisement of the agreed proposals was undertaken between 02 and 23 March 2023.

Responses to Statutory Consultation

- 5.7 At the end of the statutory consultation period a total of nine responses had been received, including comments from Newbury Town Council and from Thames Valley Police who indicated they had No Objection
- 5.8 Newbury Town Council requested that the parking proposals should be for 30 minutes, that the disabled spaces be retained and they considered that the proposed parking restrictions did not meet the aim of encouraging greater use of public transport.
- 5.9 Six of the responses objected to the lack of a convenient Drop Off/Pick up facility, with other comments from respondents seemingly misinterpreting an article from an online local news website that reported only buses and taxis would be able to access Station Road
- 5.10 Comments also included objections to the introduction of a PaybyPhone only regime in Station Road.

Officer's comments

- 5.11 The on-street parking bays on Station Road are located in a prime position for the convenience of rail commuters wishing to park all day and have historically provided a useful revenue stream. Amending the parking restrictions to allow free parking for 30 minutes will have a financial impact with lost revenue and will very likely result in the bays being significantly under-used during the day, with peak use generally only being the early morning rush and evening return of commuters. This is not best use of a valuable public asset and prime parking spaces. Free parking for up to 2 hours is already available within 100m of the station in Catherine Road and within 150m on Link Road and this should meet the needs of drivers waiting to collect or drop off commuters.
- 5.12 In addition to the 2 hour parking bays on Link and Catherine Roads there will be a new 'DROP-OFF' facility indicated by road marking on the north side of Station Road in the area between the taxi rank and new bus stops. This length of kerb is subject to double yellow line 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions, however the permitted exemptions that apply nationally to yellow lines allow drivers to stop for as long as is necessary to enable passengers to board or alight.

- 5.13 With regard to the lack of a disabled parking bay, the scheme was designed as part of a wider development on both sides of the station. Within that wider scheme there are 17 spaces allocated for Blue Badge Holders between Monday and Friday and 24 spaces at weekends. This is far more than previously available in the area. In addition Great Western Railway will also be providing a number of disabled parking bays within their car parks. It is however acknowledged that the advertised parking scheme did not include disabled parking bays on the south side of the station. Within the framework of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996 [LATOR] it is permitted to revise the design of a TRO following consultation provided that any amendment made based on objections does not extend the restrictions of an original proposal. This provision would allow a disabled facility to be introduced in place of an advertised parking bays without need to re-consult. .
- 5.14 Regarding the objections to the perceived introduction of PaybyPhone only for the on-street parking bays in Station Road, this system has been in place on Station Road for over ten years. In 2018 the ticket machines were removed as a cost saving measure as the majority of commuters at that time only used the mobile phone App and very little cash was needing to be collected from the machines. At that stage 80-90% of all transactions for the parking bays fronting the station and within Station Road were made via the mobile phone app (PaybyPhone). For those commuters reluctant to move to payment using an app there are ticket machines accepting cash within a short walk in Catherine Road and Link Road.

6 Proposals

- 6.1 Given the comments about the lack of disabled parking facility within the Station Road scheme it is proposed, under the terms of LATOR, to amend the advertised parking restriction for the first two bays located on the south side of Station Road just east of the footway link to Catherine Road to a parking restriction for Blue Badge Holders Only
- 6.2 That the remainder of the scheme be introduced as advertised
- 6.3 That the respondents to the statutory consultation be informed accordingly.
- 6.4 That the parking scheme be monitored so that any parking displacement can be addressed as part of a future scheme.

7 Other options considered

- 7.1 None

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 Due to the nature of parking schemes it can sometimes be difficult to accurately anticipate the consequences of change, such as where displaced parking may occur. Therefore the parking restrictions will need to be monitored to determine their effectiveness and should any further amendment be required these can be introduced as part of the review process, subject to the standard consultation procedure.

9 Appendices

9.1 Appendix A

- Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – WBDC (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading, Parking Places and Residents’ Parking (Consolidation) Order 209 (Amendment 33) Order 202[] Consultation parking plan – AM76

Background Papers:

Consultation Parking Plan AM76

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council’s position
- Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees or Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected: Newbury Central

Officer details:

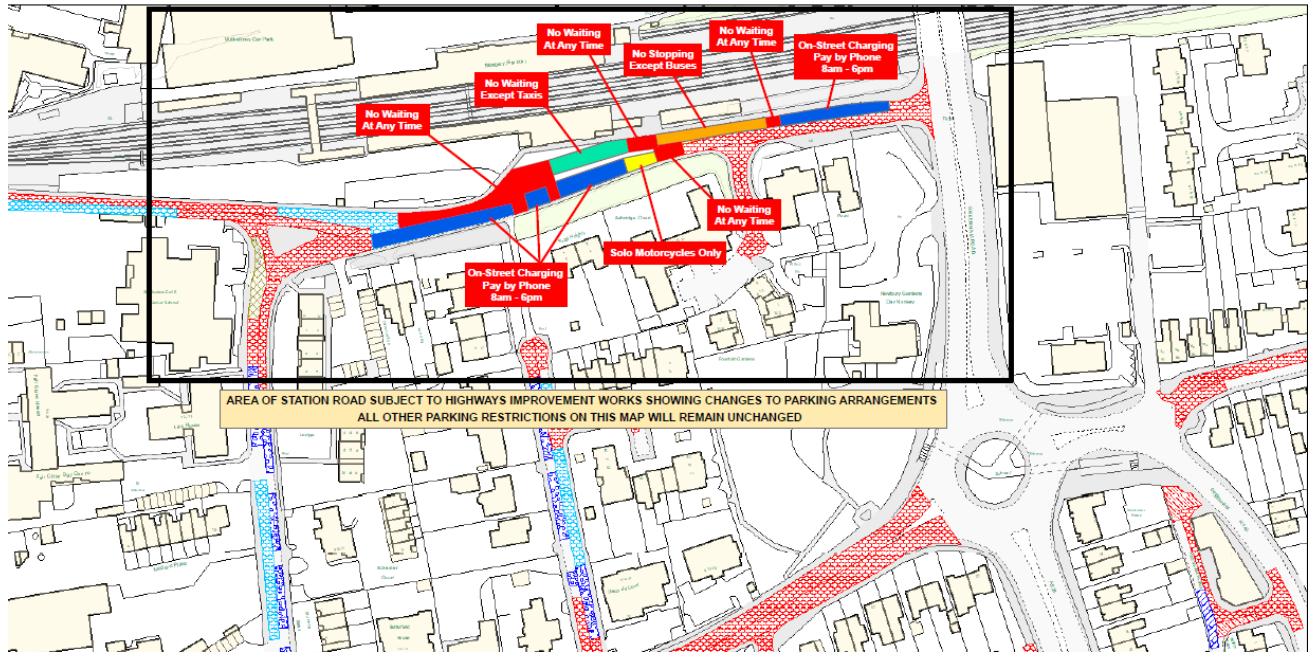
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Consultation parking plan – AM76

SHEET REVISION NUMBER - 9

AREA CODE: AM 76

CONSULTATION PLAN



PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS
PARKING SCHEME AMENDMENT 33

STATION ROAD, NEWBURY



All areas over which the provisions of the orders apply are defined by the shaded areas as shown on the following plans plus a contiguous area not indicated on the plans of verge and/or footway between the carriageway edge and the highway boundary.
This file may be subject to temporary traffic regulation orders which are not shown



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