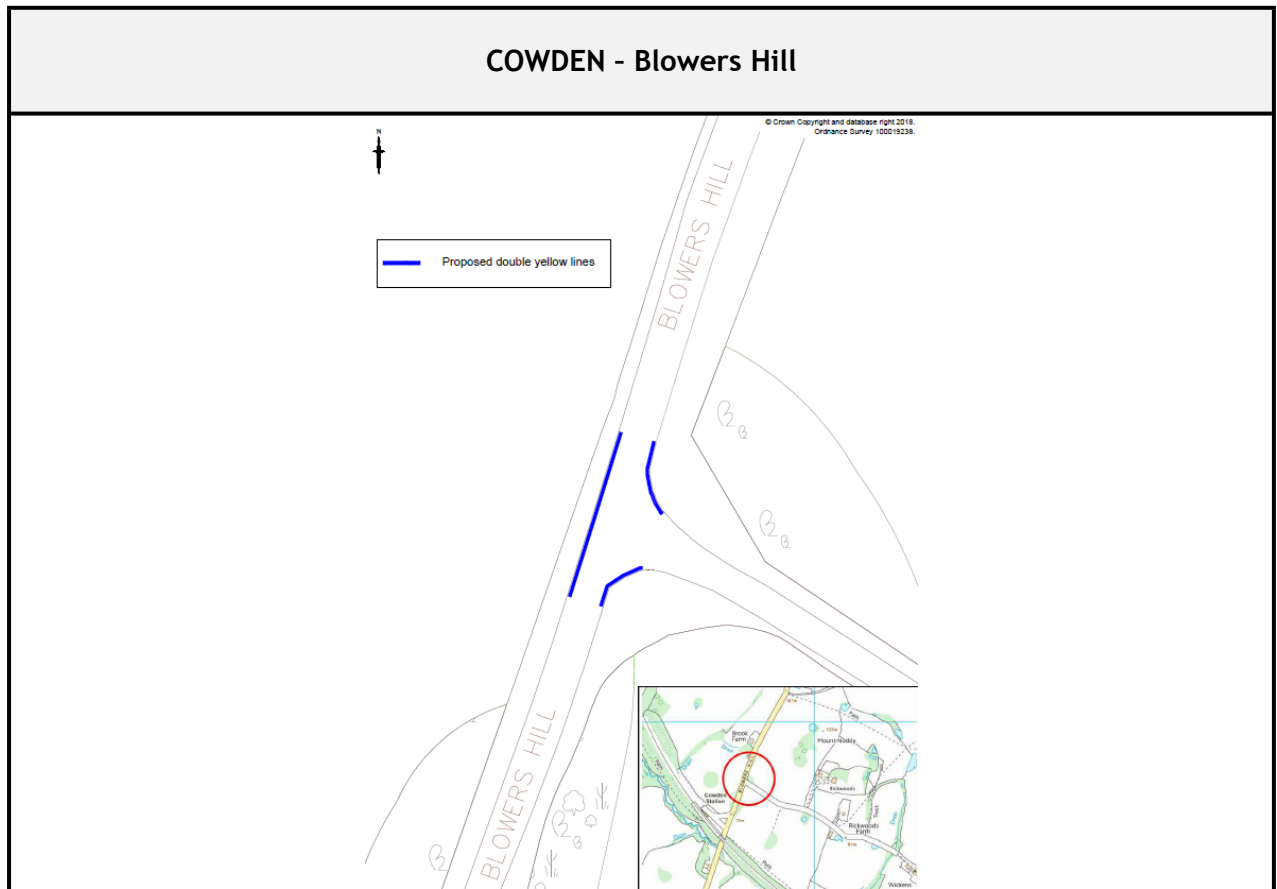


APPENDIX 1 - FOR DECISION **COWDEN - BLOWERS HILL - PARKING PROPOSAL**

Description and plan of parking proposals, objections and other comments received
and Officers' comments/recommendation



Description	Proposed Changes
Both sides, at its junction with the unnamed access road leading to Rickwoods Farm	New double yellow line restrictions (no waiting at any time)

DETAILS OF OBJECTIONS RECEIVED	
1	The double yellow lines should extend down both sides of Blowers Hills far as the railway bridge. Double yellow lines on the proposed stretch of Blowers Hill, will not prevent the very dangerous parking which extends all the way down to the station and beyond to the railway bridge. It will not be long before this causes a serious accident, as site lines are obscured and dangerous blockages occur. I support the proposed double lines, but cannot understand why the safety of drivers using Blowers Hill has not been taken into consideration, by extending them to the station and railway bridge.
2	I object to the new parking restrictions being proposed near Cowden station. Commuters need to have parking available at Cowden station, there is a tiny car park which is always full. The train service has just been upgraded and people's working patterns are changing which means many more people commute and this should be taken into consideration. Alternative arrangements need to be made to accommodate

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	<p>commuter parking needs before taking parking away which has not been considered. Many options are possible which include widening the road, adding passing points, changing the station car park to maximize the space it has and open unused space. These options need to be explored and changed before removing any parking options as the station is a vital financial lifeline for the village. There are much higher safety hazards elsewhere than people parking on the road this is a long way down the local Cowden highways hazards. I suggest that you go to the station after the school holiday and see the parking needs, these are important and must be met as all of these people pay their taxes towards Sevenoaks Council and have a right to be able to get to work which means parking.</p>
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OTHER COMMENTS RECEIVED	
1	Cowden Parish Council supports the proposals which it is hoped will improve road safety at this particular location.
2	<p>As a local resident, I am very pleased that steps are proposed to lessen the danger caused by parked cars on Blowers Hill. However, would not double white lines in the centre of the road not have the same deterrent effect, and be far less intrusive than the yellow lines proposed?</p> <p>White lines might not have the same legal force as double yellow lines, but they would serve as a clear indication that parking within their scope was dangerous.</p>
3	Extremely dangerous parking taking place here. I would go as far as to recommend that the double yellow lines extend as far as Brook Cottage due to parking on a blind bend on a hill forcing traffic onto the wrong side of the road.
4	The current situation is dangerous, with cars parking up Blowers Hill, making manoeuvres to and from Wickens Lane very precarious.

OFFICERS' COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION
<p>COMMENTS:</p> <p>Commuter parking takes place along the whole of one side of Blowers Hill near Cowden Station during most weekdays, thereby making the road too narrow for two-way traffic and causing difficulties to large vehicles turning into and from the junction with the unnamed access road. The parking proposals, which are in line with the Highway Code and current legislation, will provide better management of the public highway and improve the safety and movement of traffic by creating a passing place within the line of parked vehicles and assist turning traffic using the junction.</p>

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Increasing the extent of or changing the current proposals would require the approval of KCC as highway authority and if agreed, would form a new proposal and would necessitate another re-advertisement, for which there is currently no budget at present.

Apart from the short sections of parking restrictions proposed, the remainder of this section of Blowers Hill will remain unrestricted.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the objections be set aside, and the proposal be implemented, as drawn.