

To: Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board

By: KCC Highways, Transportation & Waste

Date: 13th September 2022

Subject: Results of the public consultation for parking restrictions in Chipstead High Street, at the entrance of The Old Carriageway.

Classification: For decision

Summary: This report gives details of proposed waiting restrictions at High Street, Chipstead and the results of the public consultation.

Introduction and Background

A petition was submitted to Chevening Parish Council in April 2021 requesting that parking be restricted in High Street, Chipstead either side of the entrance to The Old Carriageway. The request was made on the basis that parking at this location was affecting visibility for residents exiting The Old Carriageway onto High Street. The problem with parking was further exacerbated by patrons of The George and Dragon public house parking their vehicles on the street. The petition for parking restrictions received the support of both county and local councillors, as well as our Operations Team. An initial design for the proposed waiting restrictions was prepared and put out to a formal Traffic Regulation Order consultation. The consultation closed at Midday on Monday 15th November. Feedback from the consultation indicated that there were significant objections to the proposals.

The Proposal

The initial proposal was for double yellow lines to extend from the existing restrictions outside no. 60 High Street eastwards for 35m. A copy of the consultation document can be seen in Appendix A. The consultation received 27 responses of which 7 were in support, 1 was a comment from Kent Police and 19 were objections. Following this feedback Kent County Council Officers held discussions with Chevening Parish Council and agreed to reduce the proposed extents for the waiting restrictions to 16m. A new plan was subsequently drawn up. A copy of the revised plan is included with this report (refer to Appendix B). Since the amended proposals are for a reduction in the length from that originally proposed, there was no statutory requirement for us to go back out to a full public consultation.

However, it was necessary for KCC officers to contact the objectors to the original consultation to see if they would be willing to remove their objection now that the proposals have changed. As such all objectors have been contacted and sent an updated copy of the proposals. The objectors were given a seven-day period in which to remove their objection to the proposed waiting restrictions or it would be assumed that their objection still stood.

Consultation

Objectors were contacted on Thursday 5th May and given until Thursday 12th May to respond. On the expiration of the seven-day period only one of the objectors had responded to say that they would be willing to remove their objection. The remaining objections are therefore still upheld. As such there are currently 18 outstanding objections to the proposals.

The comments we received are summarised in the table below:

Respondent	Support/Object	Comments
Kent Police	Neither	<p>Kent Police have no specific observations to make regarding the waiting restriction proposals, however in general terms we would expect the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application meets the necessary criteria • The introduction or removal of Parking restrictions complies in all respect with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 • The introduction of such measures will not leave the Police with the task of carrying out constant enforcement issues • The safety of other road users is not compromised by the introduction of these measures <p>Civil Parking Enforcement will require Local Authority to ensure resources are available to enforce these proposals.</p>
Local resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepts the need for the extension of the double yellow lines in Chipstead High Street as proposed. • However feels it will create even worse problems for the neighbouring residents. • Feels there is a need for the yellow lines to be extended to the road calming to the east on Chipstead Lane and for safe parking spaces to be provided on the north side of the road
Local Resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not agree that there is a need for double yellow lines along the route proposed • Feels that there is no line of sight issue on the left hand side when exiting the Old Carriageway. • Believes that adding double yellow lines will make the road more dangerous • Feels it will force other residents in the village to park vehicles even further away than they do now from their properties. • Believes that the residents of The Old Carriageway did not want nor ask for double yellow lines themselves.
Member of the Public	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel that the proposals will make access impossible. • Feel that the reasons for the proposals are unsubstantiated and given by people who live on a different road
Member of the Public	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that the proposals have been made without taking all relevant factors into consideration. • Feels that it is possible that double yellow lines would make the road more dangerous as vehicles will have no reason to approach the village with caution
Local Resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that this proposal is misguided, will not solve the problem and will merely push the problem elsewhere • Feels that it benefits a small number of private road residents by causing increased problems for other residents • Accepts that the parking situation needs improving but feels that this proposal won't solve the problem. • Feels that there should be priority permit parking for local residents.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that extending the double yellow lines will effectively widen the road and encourage cars to speed through the High Street
Local Resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not agree that there is a need for double yellow lines along the route proposed. • Believes that there is no line of sight issue on the left hand side when exiting the Old Carriageway. • Believes adding double yellow lines will actually make the road more dangerous because vehicles will have no reason to slow down when approaching through the village at this point. • Feels that other residents in the village will be forced to park vehicles even further away than they do now from their properties. • Believes that the residents of The Old Carriageway did not want nor ask for double yellow lines themselves.
Local Resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels that double yellow lines need to be extended right along past 63 Chipstead Lane to the driveway beside the give way sign. • Feels that to end the yellow lines halfway along the south west side would be a disaster
Local Resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels it would affect their ability to park
Member of the Public	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels that the proposals would be an inconvenience
Local Resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already finds it difficult to park especially when customers for the pub are parking on the road
Member of the Public	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes the restrictions will make it hard to park for work, and will affect their working environment
Member of the Public	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels the proposals would restrict necessary parking availability to local businesses.
Local Resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels that parking in the area should be for permit holders. • Believes that double yellow lines will likely cause further congestion • Feels it will push the problem further down the High Street
Member of the Public	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels it will adversely affect local businesses and increase traffic in residential areas
Member of the Public	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels that it would restrict the limited parking already available on the lane and have a significant impact on the local business
Local Resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not agree that there is a need for double yellow lines along the road as proposed. • Feels that there is no line of sight issue on the left hand side when exiting the Old Carriageway • Believes that the Double Yellow Lines will make the road more dangerous because vehicles will speed

		<p>through the village more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels it will force residents to park vehicles even further away from their properties
Member of the Public	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that the current proposal will not solve the issues
Local Resident	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels that the proposal is discriminatory and will cause more issues with safety on the High Street. • Feels that this proposal is based more on alleviating the inconvenience of some residents than on safety
Local Resident	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels that the yellow lines should also be on both sides of the road at this point as local residents often park on the Northern side which has no restrictions.
Member of the Public	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels that parking is causing dangerous conditions on the roads for driving, leading to blind corners with fast paced traffic.
Member of the Public	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the proposals as it will keep the roads clear of excessive parking
Member of the Public	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that the implementation of the yellow lines would help alleviate the problems being experienced. • Feels that creating this break in the parking would be a suitable answer to this problem.
Member of the Public	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels that it will reduced pavement parking on the unrestricted side of the road. • Believes that the proposals should mean that vehicles travelling in opposite directions will be able to pass each other without risk of collision, as well as without risk of meeting pedestrians, wheelchairs, prams etc.
Member of the Public	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels it would be a good idea to extend these lines to ease the problems of congestion and make the road safer.
Local Resident	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes it will help residents to exit their driveways

The main concerns are that the introduction of double yellow lines will merely make the parking situation worse and will be a severe inconvenience to local residents and business owners. A number of respondents believed that the introduction of waiting restrictions would make the road more dangerous and increase traffic speeds along the High Street. Some of the respondents were in favour of taking the restrictions even further and it was also suggested that a resident permit parking scheme be introduced in place of waiting restrictions.

Recommendation

Our recommendation is for the board to agree to overturn the objections and progress the Traffic Regulation Order to install the proposed waiting restrictions based on the updated plans. The introduction of this Order is recommended on the grounds of improving safety for residents of The Old carriageway, and drivers travelling along the High Street. This TRO proposal is intended to improve visibility at this junction by reducing the extents of parked cars that are causing obstructions to visibility.

Conclusion

This report is for Decision.

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The contact officers providing the update can be contacted on **03000 418181**

Table of Appendices

Appendix A	Consultation Deposit Documents
Appendix B	Revised plan of proposals