

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Agenda Item: 7

Meeting Date	Monday 24 th June 2019
Report Title	Formal Objection to Traffic Regulation Order – Swale Amendment 1
Cabinet Member	Cllr Tim Valentine
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell
Lead Officer	Mike Knowles (SBC)
Classification	Open

Recommendations	<p>Members are asked to note the formal objections received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that:-</p> <p>(a) the proposed double yellow lines in Bell Road, Sittingbourne, be progressed and that the parking situation outside of Spicer Homes be monitored;</p> <p>(b) the proposed double yellow lines in Ridham Avenue, Sittingbourne, either be progressed or abandoned and the issues reported by residents be referred to the bus operator for comment;</p> <p>(c) the proposed double yellow lines opposite Kestrel Close in Highsted Road, Sittingbourne either be progressed or abandoned;</p> <p>(d) the proposed loading/unloading ban on the junction of The Mall/Nelson Street, Faversham, be progressed but with the installation of a loading bay in The Mall or double yellow lines across the side entrance to the business, in Nelson Street, depending on the preferred option from the nearby business;</p> <p>(e) the proposed double yellow lines on the private land off Orchard Place, Faversham, be progressed and the comments received from residents be passed to the land owners for possible liaison with residents.</p>
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1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of objections received to the recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order, Swale Amendment 1, which covers various amendments to on-street waiting restrictions in the Borough.

2. Background

- 2.1 A Traffic Regulation Order has been drafted for various proposed amendments to on-street waiting restrictions in Swale, and a copy of this Order can be found in Annex A. A Statement of Reasons summarising the contents of the Order can be found in Annex B. A number of formal objections have been received to some of these proposals, and these are discussed below.

3. Issue for Decision

- 3.1 A copy of the formal objections received, and indications of support, can be found in Annex C, and plans of the proposals for each of these areas can be found in Annex D. Each of these objections will be discussed in detail below:-

Bell Road, Sittingbourne – Proposed Double Yellow Lines

- 3.2 A formal objection has been received from a resident of Spicer Homes, in relation to the proposed double yellow lines in Bell Road. The waiting restrictions have been proposed by several Borough and County Members, funded through Kent County Council's Member Highway Fund Scheme, to improve traffic flows during peak and school drop off/collection times, particularly when school buses are present. Swale officers have worked with Kent County Council to produce the most appropriate waiting restrictions to allow vehicles to safely negotiate the existing traffic islands.
- 3.3 There are no off-street parking facilities at Spicer Homes and the objector has stated that four on-street spaces would be required for the residents. They have suggested that these bays should be designated for the exclusive use of Spicer Homes residents, through the issuing of residents' parking permits. Such schemes are usually introduced in larger areas to prevent commuter and town centre visitor parking, with the cost of the permits covering an appropriate level of enforcement. For such a small section of carriageway, it would not be practical to introduce such a scheme.
- 3.4 Other options, such as single yellow lines or limited waiting, would apply to all road users, including the residents of Spicer Homes, and would no doubt be deemed an ineffective solution to this issue. There is an existing disabled persons' parking bay located near Spicer Homes, and consideration could be given to installing an additional one or two bays, but this would only benefit those residents possessing a blue badge.
- 3.5 The proposed double yellow lines do leave approximately 50 metres of carriageway unrestricted in the vicinity of Spicer Homes, which would ensure some on-street

parking remains which would not impede traffic movement. The parking situation could be monitored once the new restrictions are in place to determine whether any further restrictions should be considered, such as installing a short section of single yellow line with a one-hour restriction to prevent all day parking and maximise the opportunity for parking for nearby residents.

- 3.6 County Member Comments: The County Member has stated that *“the purpose of the double yellow lines on either side of the road by the traffic islands is for pedestrian and highway safety. The section of Bell Road outside of Spicer Homes will remain unrestricted and consideration could be given to installing an additional disabled bay. The residents here do need to park, but they must park responsibly depending on the road structure and conditions, so to move them a little way from the traffic islands would be my view.”*

Coldharbour Lane, Sittingbourne – Proposed Double Yellow Lines

- 3.7 A formal objection has been received from a resident of Coldharbour Lane against proposals to install double yellow lines in the short blocked off section of Coldharbour Lane in Kemsley, between Ridham Avenue and Reams Way. When the development was built, this section of road was designed as a “buses only” route to link Ridham Avenue to Reams Way, but due to county-wide issues around the enforcement of such gateways the access was blocked off.

- 3.8 This section of road is now used by buses to turn around at the end of their route, and following a request from the bus operator, proposals were drafted to install double yellow lines around this section of carriageway to prevent vehicles parking here and obstructing the reversing of buses. A number of issues have been raised by the formal objector, including the lack of lighting and anti-social behaviour in the allocated parking at the rear of the properties resulting in residents parking at the front of their properties. Issues have also been raised around the noise of the buses from 6am, vibrations, double deckers affecting privacy of the properties, oil and cigarette ends, and issues with driver behaviour which it is stated have been reported to the Police.

- 3.9 Ward Member Comments: The Ward Member has agreed with officers that the Borough Council is in a difficult situation and would not wish to get involved with disputes between the bus operator and residents. As such, he was unsure what recommendation he would make at this time.

Highsted Road, Sittingbourne – Proposed Double Yellow Lines

- 3.10 A formal objection has been received from a resident of Highsted Road regarding the proposed installation of double yellow lines opposite the junction of Kestrel Close. The proposed restrictions were requested by several Borough and County Members, funded through Kent County Council’s Member Highway Fund Scheme, aimed at improving the movement and visibility of vehicles along Highsted Road.

- 3.11 The formal objection states that there is already a lack of parking capacity in Highsted Road due to the nearby school and hospital, and that introducing waiting restrictions will increase the bottleneck that exists towards the bottom end of Highsted Road. Other issues include concerns around where family members and

visitors will park, and also that the issues in Highsted Road are not unique and asking whether similar restrictions are proposed throughout all residential roads.

- 3.12 Two indications of support have been received for the proposed restrictions, but both have asked for the length of the proposed double yellow lines to be extended.
- 3.13 County Member Comments: The County Member stated that his view was that people are not entitled to park on the road but to drive on it. He stated that there are other parking spaces along this road and highway/pedestrian safety must come first. As such, the County Member felt that the proposed double yellow lines should be installed as detailed in the Traffic Regulation Order.

Love Lane/Windermere Junction, Faversham – Proposed Double Yellow Lines

- 3.14 An indication of support has been received for the proposed double yellow lines on the junction of Windermere and Love Lane in Faversham.

The Mall/Nelson Street Junction, Faversham – Proposed Loading Ban

- 3.15 A formal objection has been received from one of the businesses in the vicinity of a proposed loading/unloading ban on the junction of The Mall and Nelson Street in Faversham. The proposals, to prohibit loading and unloading near the junction between 8am and 6pm on all days of the week, came about following complaints of vans parking on the footway, obstructing the sightline of the junction of Nelson Street.
- 3.16 The objection states that introducing this loading ban would seriously affect the business, and explained that they undertake loading and unloading as quickly as possible, generally only a couple of times per week, but other vans delivering to nearby properties and businesses park here far more frequently. Further comments included that they did previously use the gate at the side of the property to load and unload but this is constantly obstructed by parked vehicles despite their efforts to advise motorists otherwise, and photographs were also submitted showing the vast majority of vehicles in Nelson Street parked facing away from the junction of The Mall indicating that most vehicles drive into Nelson Street from The Mall, not out of Nelson Street into The Mall, and that any vans parked near the junction on the footway would not obstruct the sightline of these vehicles.
- 3.17 Ward Member Comments: The Ward Member stated that he was aware of the issues of vans and cars parking on the pavement outside of 39A The Mall, and felt that the priority should be the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. He suggested that the side entrance to the premises should be used for loading and unloading, as this was what it was designed for, and to assist the Police in keeping this side entrance clear of parked vehicles consideration could be given to the installation of double yellow lines across the gates into Nelson Street. The Ward Member also suggested the option of the installation of a loading bay in The Mall, possibly outside No.37, to assist the businesses, but felt that the suggestion of making Nelson Street one way was not the answer.
- 3.18 Faversham Town Council Comments: *“The Committee discussed the request from Swale Borough Council to consider the objections to the Road Traffic Regulation*

Order for the junction of The Mall and Nelson Street. The Town Council agreed with the objections to the loading ban on this junction.”

Orchard Place, Faversham – Proposed Double Yellow Lines

- 3.19 Three formal objections have been received from residents of Orchard Place in Faversham on proposals to install double yellow lines in the entrances to St Mary’s School. The proposals were submitted by the school owners, who are funding the works to install double yellow lines on the private land immediately in front of the school gates to prevent vehicles obstructing access into and out of the school. The formal objections state that with parking capacity already limited in Orchard Place, the proposals will displace around ten vehicles from outside the school gates, leaving these residents with nowhere else to park.
- 3.20 Photographs to show the road full of parked vehicles have also been submitted. There are existing School Keep Clear markings outside of the school entrances which are in operation during school drop off and collection times, but the school have asked for double yellow lines to be installed on their land at the school entrances to prevent vehicles parking here and obstructing access.
- 3.21 As the land where the proposed double yellow lines are to be installed does not form part of the Public Highway, ultimately the decision as to whether the double yellow lines should be installed would no doubt come down to the land owner, and the only input from the Borough or County Council would be around the Traffic Regulation Order process.
- 3.22 Faversham Town Council Comments: *“The Committee discussed the request from Swale Borough Council to consider the objections to the Road Traffic Order for Orchard Place. It was agreed that whilst sympathetic to the concerns raised by residents of Orchard Place, the Town Council had concerns about emergency access to the school and considered that yellow lines should be painted in order to keep the entrances clear.”*

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the formal objections received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that:-
- (a) the proposed double yellow lines in Bell Road, Sittingbourne, be progressed and that the parking situation outside of Spicer Homes be monitored;
- (b) the proposed double yellow lines in Ridham Avenue, Sittingbourne, **either** be progressed **or** abandoned and the issues reported by residents be referred to the bus operator for comment;

(c) the proposed double yellow lines opposite Kestrel Close in Highsted Road, Sittingbourne **either** be progressed **or** abandoned;

(d) the proposed loading/unloading ban on the junction of The Mall/Nelson Street, Faversham, be progressed but with the installation of a loading bay in The Mall or double yellow lines across the side entrance to the business, in Nelson Street, depending on the preferred option from the nearby business;

(e) the proposed double yellow lines on the private land off Orchard Place, Faversham, be progressed and the comments received from residents be passed to the land owners for possible liaison with residents.

5. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Cost of Installing Double Yellow Lines.
Legal and Statutory	Formal Sealing of Traffic Regulation Order by Kent County Council.
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Annex A – Copy of Draft Traffic Regulation Order
- Annex B – Copy of Statement of Reasons
- Annex C – Formal Objections and Indications of Support Received
- Annex D – Plans of Proposals Subject to Objections

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None