

<b>SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD</b>	<b>Agenda Item: 6</b>
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<b>Meeting Date</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021
<b>Report Title</b>	Formal Objections to Traffic Regulation Order – Swale Amendment 22 2021
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Richard Palmer, Cabinet Member for Community
<b>Head of Service</b>	Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Mike Knowles (SBC)
<b>Classification</b>	Open

<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>Members are asked to note the formal objections and comments received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that:-</p> <p>(1) the proposed double yellow lines in Hilton Close, Faversham, be progressed and the comments around sightline obstructions by private hedges be forwarded to Kent County Council for consideration;</p> <p>(2) the proposed double yellow lines in Queenborough Road/St Peter’s Close, Minster, be progressed as advertised;</p> <p>(3) the proposed double yellow lines in Lammas Drive and Cortland Close, Sittingbourne, <b>either</b> be progressed <b>or</b> abandoned;</p> <p>(4) the proposed extension to the double yellow lines in Gore Court Road and Whitehall Road, Sittingbourne, <b>either</b> be progressed <b>or</b> abandoned;</p> <p>(5) the proposed double yellow lines in Periwinkle Close <b>either</b> be progressed <b>or</b> abandoned.</p>
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## **1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides details of objections and comments received in relation to the recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order, Swale Amendment 22, which covers various amendments to on-street waiting restrictions in the Swale area.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 A Traffic Regulation Order has been drafted for various proposed amendments to on-street waiting restrictions in Swale, and the formal consultation took place between 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Extracts from this Order where objections and comments have been received can be found in Annex A. A Statement of Reason summarising the relevant contents of the Order can be found in Annex B. A number of formal objections, comments and indications of support, have been received to some of the proposals in the Traffic Order, and these are discussed below.

## **3. Issue for Decision**

- 3.1 A copy of the formal objections, indications of support and comments received can be found in Annex C, and plans for each of these areas can be found in Annex D.

### (1) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Hilton Close, Faversham

- 3.2 A Ward Member for the area previously requested the installation of double yellow lines at various locations along Hilton Close in Faversham to ensure access along the road. Informal consultations took place with residents on the proposals, and the results were reported to the Swale Joint Transportation Board in December 2020. Members considered the responses received and recommended that restrictions at just one of the locations be progressed, near Nos.1 and 12 Hilton Close. The proposals were therefore included in our recent Traffic Regulation Order.
- 3.3 During the formal consultation process, we received two formal objections and two indications of support. One objector stated that the proposed restrictions will displace parked vehicles further up Hilton Close, and also states that the main issue is the sightlines around the corner being obstructed by a large hedge in a private property. The introduction of any new restrictions inevitably moves parked vehicles into other areas, but at the last Joint Transportation Board meeting the feedback from the informal consultations was discussed and it was agreed that double yellow lines should be installed on this corner. With regard to the comments around sightlines being obstructed by the hedge, presumably this would be something for Kent County Council to investigate as the highway authority, and these comments will therefore be forwarded.

3.4 Member and Town Council Comments: The Ward Member had no further comments to add.

3.5 (2) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Queenborough Road/St Peter’s Close, Minster  
Following a request from residents, an informal consultation took place to install double yellow lines near the junction of Queenborough Road and St Peter’s Close in Minster, to provide corner protection from parked vehicles. Various comments were received around extending the proposed restrictions, and at their meeting in December 2020 Members of the Swale Joint Transportation Board recommended that the proposals should progress, with slightly extended lengths of lining.

3.6 The proposals were included in our latest Traffic Regulation Order, and during the formal consultation one comment was received, supporting the proposed restrictions and requesting that they be extended further into St Peter’s Close to prevent residents from Queenborough Road parking in this area. As the proposed restrictions have already been extended from the original proposed lengths, it is felt that they should not be extended further at this time, to minimise impact on the on-street parking capacity for those residents relying on it.

3.7 (3) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Lammas Drive/Cortland Close, Sittingbourne  
Following a request from Ward Members an informal consultation took place with residents to install double yellow lines in Lammas Drive, on the junction with Cortland Close and also across the pedestrian dropped kerb leading to the Recreation Ground, at the end of the road. The results of the consultation on the proposals (3 indications of support and 1 objection), to be funded through the County Members’ Highway Grant, were reported to the Swale Joint Transportation Board at their meeting in December 2020, where Members recommended that the proposals should be progressed.

3.8 The proposed double yellow lines were included in our following Traffic Regulation Order, and during the formal consultation one objection was received. The objector stated that installing double yellow lines on the junction of Cortland Close was a good idea, but added that the reason for vehicles parking here is because there is nowhere else for residents to park. They added that the introduction of these waiting restrictions would displace vehicles into other areas, resulting in an increase in footway parking in Cortland Close creating additional problems for wheelchair users and the elderly.

3.9 The objector stated that consideration should be given to where people will park and suggested that the grassed verge between Lammas Drive and the Recreation Ground be converted into a layby. This work would require a substantial amount of funding to complete. It was also suggested that if the restrictions are progressed, double yellow lines should also be installed on the junction of Cortland Close and Cortland Mews, and Lammas Drive and Beechwood Avenue, although restrictions already exist at the latter. The introduction of any additional waiting restrictions will obviously place further pressure on already limited on-street parking capacity in the area.

- 3.10 Member Comments: One Ward Member stated that whilst they appreciate the concerns at the loss of parking spaces, the areas for the proposed lines are to prevent loss of life. Another Ward Member stated that they were happy for the proposed restrictions to proceed. The County Member has confirmed that he is happy with the comments received by Ward Members who have local knowledge of the area.

(4) Proposed Extension to Double Yellow Lines – Gore Court Road/Whitehall Road, Sittingbourne

- 3.11 Back in 2019, a request was received for double yellow lines to be installed on the junction of Gore Court Road and Whitehall Road to provide corner protection from parked vehicles. During the formal consultation for the Traffic Regulation Order, one objection was received, and this was considered by the Swale Joint Transportation Board at their meeting in September 2019 where Members recommended that the restrictions should be installed but at a reduced length.
- 3.12 At the Swale Joint Transportation Board Meeting in September 2020, a Member raised the issue again and stated that the restrictions were too short and should be installed as per the original Traffic Regulation Order, and Members recommended that this should be actioned.
- 3.13 Following legal advice, the Traffic Regulation Order was amended to match the existing shorter restrictions and then a further Traffic Regulation Order was drafted to extend them as recommended by the Swale JTB. During the formal consultation process for this Order, one objection was received to the proposed extension of the double yellow lines. The objector states that they had previously objected to the original Traffic Regulation Order to install double yellow lines on this junction and that Members of the Swale Joint Transportation Board had agreed that 10 metres was sufficient length for the double yellow lines in Gore Court Road and Whitehall Road, and has asked for justification for changing this ruling.
- 3.14 Member Comments: The County Member stated that as this is a highway safety issue they would be guided by the officer as to the necessity or not of the proposals. The Ward Member states *“I am in full support of extending the double yellow line at the junction of Gore Court Road and Whitehall Road. Whitehall Road is a relatively narrow road and when cars are parked close to the junction this narrows the road even more, especially when vehicles are exiting, as it prevents vehicles turning into Whitehall Road. Also it will improve safety on Gore Court Road as vehicles travelling south would need to move into the oncoming lane when cars are parked close to the junction, at a point where vehicles travelling north are negotiating a bend in the road.”*

(5) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Periwinkle Close, Sittingbourne

- 3.15 Following requests from residents, an informal consultation took place on proposals to install double yellow lines on the junction of the spine road and spur road of Periwinkle Close in Sittingbourne. The results of the informal consultation (3 indications of support), were considered by the Swale Joint Transportation Board at their meeting in December 2020 where Members recommended that the proposals should be progressed.

- 3.16 The proposed double yellow lines were therefore included in the following Traffic Regulation Order, and during the formal consultation a total of 3 objections were received and one comment. The comment supported the new restrictions but asked that they be extended to cover the carriageway opposite their vehicle access to allow them to reverse onto their driveway.
- 3.17 Objections to the proposals included statements that they would reduce the already limited on-street parking capacity by a further 6-8 parking spaces and that there is already pressure on parking availability due to commuter and town centre parking. Further comments stated that the existing parking arrangements do not cause any issues with access around the junction and that vehicles are parked responsibly. It has been witnessed that the road is heavily parked due to limited on-street parking capacity for the number of properties, and one objector has stated that whilst parking on the corner is not ideal, sometimes there is just nowhere else to park and every single parking space in the close is very much needed.
- 3.18 Member Comments: The Ward Member has stated that Periwinkle Close has been a problem area as regards parking for many years, and added the following comments in priority order: - *Provide access for emergency vehicles, ensure buggies have sufficient room on pavements (I would not suggest that cars should be forced to keep clear of pedestrian pavements – be pragmatic), within the above constraints any reduction in parking spaces should be kept to a minimum.* The County Member has stated he is happy for the Traffic Regulation Order to proceed as proposed. Biffa were also invited to comment on the parking around the junction, but no response was received at the time of writing this report.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the formal objections and comments received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that:-

(1) the proposed double yellow lines in Hilton Close, Faversham, be progressed and the comments around sightline obstructions by private hedges be forwarded to Kent County Council for consideration;

(2) the proposed double yellow lines in Queenborough Road/St Peter's Close, Minster, be progressed as advertised;

(3) the proposed double yellow lines in Lammas Drive and Cortland Close, Sittingbourne, **either** be progressed **or** abandoned;

(4) the proposed extension to the double yellow lines in Gore Court Road and Whitehall Road, Sittingbourne, **either** be progressed **or** abandoned;

(5) the proposed double yellow lines in Periwinkle Close **either** be progressed **or** abandoned.

## 5. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Cost of Advertising Made Order, Cost of Installing Lines and Signs on site.
Legal and Statutory	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.
Health Implications	<p>The introduction of double yellow lines on and around junctions to improve sightlines and vehicle movements could have a positive impact on the mental health of drivers by reducing stress levels and potential incidents of road rage.</p> <p>However, where on street parking capacity is limited there may be some negative mental health effects on residents who may be forced to park further away from their properties, potentially increasing the distance to walk at night.</p>

## 6. Appendices

- 6.1 Annex A – Extract from Traffic Regulation Order Swale Amendment 22 2021
- Annex B – Extract of Statement of Reason
- Annex C – Copy of Formal Objections, Indications of Support & Comments
- Annex D – Plans of Proposals Receiving Objections and Support

## 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None