

Changes to Waiting Restrictions – Lower Park Road, Braunton

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (a) the responses to the Statutory Consultation are noted;
- (b) in view of the responses received to the statutory consultation, the traffic regulation order is not progressed.

1. Summary

The proposal has been advertised to enable adequate visibility to be provided at a potential development site on Lower Park Road, Braunton. It has been proposed that parking should be prevented on Lower Park Road to improve the visibility in both directions from the access to the site. The proposal would lead to the loss of all unrestricted parking in the area, which is approximately 9 car parking spaces.

2. Background

The Developer submitted a planning application (Ref 60671) to North Devon District Council in February 2016, the application was refused and subsequently submitted for appeal to the planning inspectorate during March 2017. The planning decision was upheld by the Inspector on the grounds that the development would cause a clear detrimental impact on the nearby highway network. In particular, visibility splays of 36m in each direction were deemed necessary by the Planning Inspector and these could not be achieved due to current parking patterns.

The Developer has offered to fund all costs associated with the introduction of a scheme which would ensure that the recommended visibility splays are achieved and, following discussion with the Local Member, it was agreed to undertake a statutory consultation to gauge opinion on the proposal.

3. Proposal

The proposal is to extend the No Waiting At Any Time restrictions along the north side of Lower Park Road, Braunton between its junction with Hills View and Longfield Close.

The two sections of No Waiting At Any Time restrictions would be to the east and west sides of the access to properties Green Valley and Broadlands.

4. Consultations

The proposals were advertised in the local press and with Notices On-Street between 19 April and 11 May 2018. A plan of the Proposals can be seen in Appendix II to this report.

24 Responses were received to the consultation which are summarised in Appendix I along with the County Councils comments.

Of the 24 responses received 13 are in favour of the proposals citing the existing on street parking as a road safety issue. 6 of these appear to have been received from non-local addresses.

10 respondents are opposed to the proposal, 9 of which are local residents and 1 expresses the views of a local forum. Objectors point out that removal of the parking would inconvenience local residents, lead to increased speeds and displace parking to less suitable locations.

Braunton Parish Council responded to the consultation requesting that the County takes into consideration the additional traffic movements along Lower Park Road prior to approving the proposed order.

5. Financial Considerations

The costs are being funded from a £3,000 contribution from the developer.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

The proposals would remove parking in a residential area. This might lead to an increase in local residents without parking available looking for a parking space more remotely. This is unlikely to have positive effect on air quality.

7. Equality Considerations

There are not considered to be any equality issues associated with the proposals. The impact will therefore be neutral.

8. Legal Considerations

The lawful implications/consequences of the proposals/recommendations/proposed course of action have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of this report/formulation of the recommendations set out above.

When making a Traffic Regulation Order it is the County Council responsibility to ensure that all relevant legislation is complied with. This includes Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that states that it is the duty of a local authority, so far as practicable, secures the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic and provision of parking facilities.

No order shall be made after the expiration of the period of two years beginning with the date on which a notice of proposals relating to the order is first published.

9. Risk Management Considerations

This proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken to safeguard the Council's position

No risks have been identified.

10. Public Health Impact

There is not considered to be any public health impact.

11. Options

The option of progressing the proposals has been considered but this would remove the current on street parking to the detriment of local residents and potentially lead to increased speeds.

If the option of progressing with the proposals is agreed by the Committee, it will be necessary to include a time restriction as any traffic regulation order must be implemented within 2 years of the advertising date.

12. Reason for Recommendation

It is recommended that the restrictions are not implemented as advertised as they would inconvenience local residents and potentially lead to increased speeds on a road which currently has no record of safety issues.

Meg Booth
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Division: Braunton

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
1. None		

mj150618ndh
sc/cr/Changes to Waiting Restrictions – Lower Park Road, Braunton
03 190618

**Devon County Council (Lower Park Road, Braunton) (No Waiting At Any Time)
Amendment Order**

Comments	Response
<i>Frist respondent – Local resident, Higher Park Road, Braunton</i>	
Supports the proposal. Parking along Lower Park Road is dangerous to vehicles exiting onto Lower Park Road. Vehicles passing the parked vehicles often have to increase speeds to pass in the available gap.	Support noted. No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.
<i>Second respondent – Non local resident, Wellesbourne</i>	
Supports the proposal. Parked cars on Lower Park Road cause a safety issue due to poor visibility.	Support noted. No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.
<i>Third respondent – Local resident, Ash Road, Braunton</i>	
Supports the proposal. Parked cars obscure visibility and cars speed up to get past parked cars.	Support noted. No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.
<i>Fourth respondent – Non local resident, Leamington Spa</i>	
Supports the proposal. Parking on Lower Park Road causes a danger and respondent has observed drivers having difficulty getting passed.	Support noted. No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.
<i>Fifth respondent – Non local resident, Wellesbourne</i>	
Supports the proposal. Parking on Lower Park Road causes a danger to road users pulling out of properties due to poor visibility passed parked vehicles.	Support noted. No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.

Comments	Response
<i>Sixth respondent – Non local resident, Wakefield</i>	
Supports the proposal. There is an accident waiting to happen on Lower Park Road due to the parked cars. This will be made worse with the heavy goods traffic needed for the development.	Support noted. No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.
<i>Seventh respondent – Non local resident, Bourton on the Water</i>	
Supports the proposal. Parking of cars on this road should not be permitted.	Support noted. No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.
<i>Eighth respondent – Local resident, Higher Park Road, Braunton</i>	
Supports the proposal The proposal is a proactive move to rectify a dangerous situation.	Support noted. No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.
<i>Ninth respondent – Local resident, Lower Park Road, Braunton</i>	
Objects to the proposal, stating parking in this location does not currently cause a problem. “We currently use the affected access point and have no issues with cars parked on the road.”	Views noted.
“The parking of cars on this section of road is well known and therefore helps to keep speeds down along this section.” The resident goes on to mention that if the parking were to be removed then this would cause an inconvenience for local residents. “If the parking is removed, then when the development at the far end of Lower Park Road goes ahead the number of vehicles using this road will increase. This would make the situation more dangerous.”	
“Alternative parking locations would be very inconvenient for elderly residents.” “Braunton has little enough parking at present and it seems absurd to us to remove parking.”	
“There are no major blockages or hold-ups in the traffic, just a slowing down which is welcome.”	

Comments	Response
Tenth respondent – Local resident, The Brittons, Braunton	
<p>Objects to the proposal, stating that there is no alternative parking available.</p> <p>“Most of the vehicles that are parked in Lower Park Road belong either to people who live in Heanton Street or who work in the village.”</p> <p>“The proposal ends at Longfield Close so cars are free to park in Lower Park Road beyond this point, despite the road being much narrower than where cars are currently parked and with less visibility.”</p> <p>“There is no alternative parking that satisfies this demand.”</p>	Views noted.
Eleventh respondent – Local resident, The Brittons, Braunton	
<p>Objects to the proposal, stating that there is no alternative parking available.</p> <p>“Most of the vehicles that are parked in Lower Park Road belong either to people who live in Heanton Street or who work in the village.”</p> <p>“The proposal ends at Longfield Close so cars are free to park in Lower Park Road beyond this point, despite the road being much narrower than where cars are currently parked and with less visibility.”</p> <p>“There is no alternative parking that satisfies this demand.”</p>	Views noted.
Twelfth respondent – Local resident, Franklyn Avenue, Braunton	
<p>Objects to the proposal, stating that there is no viable alternative parking available.</p> <p>“The parking available on this section of Lower Park Road provides useful additional parking for visitors to our narrow road.”</p> <p>“Removing this parking capacity will simply push the parking pressure elsewhere.”</p> <p>“The effect of parked cars in this part of Lower Park Road also ensures that traffic is slowed down.”</p>	Views noted.
Thirteenth respondent – Local forum, Love Braunton	
<p>Objects to the proposal with conditions, stating that the road is used as a rat run and the parking provides necessary traffic calming.</p>	Views noted.
<p>“Lower Park Road is a residential road often used as a ‘rat run’ to and from Barnstaple to avoid the congestion along the A361.”</p>	
<p>“These parked cars provide a necessary speed restriction to what is a ‘blind’/low visibility corner.”</p> <p>“The traffic usage will increase in the near future due to the approval of additional applications in the area.”</p>	

Comments	Response
<p>The conditions for approval where stated as;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "A 'chicane' be introduced to force a reduction in speeds" 2. "The speed limit along Lower Park Road be reduced to 20mph" 3. "Eight replacement parking spaces are made available to mitigate the reduction." 	
<i>Fourteenth respondent – Local resident, Lower Park Road, Braunton</i>	
<p>Makes comment.</p> <p>"The proposal will cause greater hazard from leaving our property as the vehicles will only park in a different place."</p> <p>"Vehicles currently park either side of our property greatly reducing visibility."</p> <p>"This road is getting increasingly busier with the amount of cars, plus they drive far too fast."</p>	Views noted.
<i>Fifteenth respondent – Local resident, Lower Park Road, Braunton</i>	
<p>Objects to the proposal, stating that existing parking will be displaced and that the parking provides necessary traffic calming.</p> <p>"This will mean that the cars who currently park on this stretch, nearer the village, will attempt to park outside my house, this is already a busy area."</p> <p>"The fact that vehicles need to slow down because of other vehicles parked along here is a good thing."</p> <p>"The proposal could lead to vehicles driving much faster and therefore more dangerously in such a residential area."</p>	Views Noted
<i>Sixteenth respondent – Local resident, Lower Park Road, Braunton</i>	
<p>Objects to the proposal, stating that the parking provides necessary traffic calming.</p>	Views Noted.
<p>"The current layout has the effect of being a significant traffic calming measure."</p> <p>"The proposal could have the effect of increasing vehicle speeds considerably."</p> <p>"The risks of increased speeds are a significant concern to residents."</p> <p>"The residents parking amenity that is provided in this location would be lost if the proposal went ahead."</p>	
<i>Seventeenth respondent – Local resident, Lower Park Road, Braunton</i>	
<p>Objects to the proposal, stating that the current parking restrictions are sufficient.</p> <p>"The current parking restrictions at junctions in the area are sufficient."</p>	Views Noted.

Comments	Response
<p>"The current unrestricted parking does slow traffic and allow enough space for cars to pass."</p> <p>"The only reason for this proposal is to create a clear traffic route for further development within this area."</p>	
<i>Eighteenth respondent – Local resident, Pottery Court, Braunton</i>	
<p>Supports the proposal.</p> <p>"Remove the parked cars for safety and road use purposes."</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.</p>
<i>Nineteenth respondent – Local resident, Old Braunton Road, Braunton</i>	
<p>Supports the proposal.</p> <p>"I have first-hand experience of nearly being hit and nearly hitting cyclists on this section of road due to the current arrangements."</p> <p>"The people who park along this section of road are only doing so to avoid parking in the public car park."</p> <p>"The approved planning application in this area will only intensify the already insane situation."</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.</p>
<i>Twentieth respondent – Local resident, Chestnut Close, Braunton</i>	
<p>Supports the proposal</p> <p>"On driving to work passing the parked cars I have had near misses with oncoming cars as I was unable to see."</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.</p>
<i>Twenty-first respondent – Non local resident, Barnstaple</i>	
<p>Supports the proposal.</p> <p>"At present it is extremely dangerous when driving along the road in both directions."</p> <p>"Same cars drive too fast and do not give way when there is not sufficient space."</p> <p>"The parking on Lower Park Road considerably obscures visibility."</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.</p>
<i>Twenty-second respondent – Local resident, Colley Park Road, Braunton</i>	
<p>Supports the proposal.</p> <p>"The parked cars are a hazard to other road users, cyclists and pedestrians."</p> <p>"Removal of parking in this area would be a benefit to the local community."</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>No collisions reported on Lower Park Road, Braunton in the last 5 year period. Removal of parked vehicles would be likely to lead to higher speeds and displaced parking on unrestricted sections of road.</p>

Comments	Response
<i>Twenty-third respondent – Local resident, Heanton Street, Braunton</i>	
<p>Objects to the proposal, stating that the parking is used by commuters and wider Braunton residents.</p> <p>“The introduction of parking charges in the main car park has seen an increase in parking within residential streets.”</p> <p>“The proposal will only displace the existing parking.”</p> <p>“The introduction of a residents parking scheme would alleviate the problems.”</p> <p>“Heanton Street could be made one way with residents only parking restrictions.”</p>	Views noted.
<i>Twenty-fourth respondent – Braunton Parish Council</i>	
<p>Makes comment.</p> <p>The council requests that the County takes into consideration the additional traffic movements along Lower Park Road prior to approving the proposed order.</p>	Views noted.

Appendix II To HIW/18/39

