

Changes to Waiting Restrictions – Sticklepath Hill Area, Barnstaple

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 traffic regulation order is made and sealed as advertised;**
- (b) the location of the bus stop for local services on Old Torrington Road be reviewed on site with the local member.**

1. Summary

Following requests from local residents, an extension to the existing residents parking in Barnstaple is proposed to include residents on Sticklepath Hill. At the same time the opportunity is being made to review the parking for school coaches to move them from Old Torrington Road into Sticklepath Hill.

2. Background

Since the construction of the A361 and Taw Bridge, the use of Sticklepath Hill has changed and it is possible to amend the restrictions to provide additional spaces for residents and improve parking for school coaches.

3. Proposal

It is proposed to amend the parking on the north side of the road to restrict it to residents only and introduce some echelon bays to increase the number of spaces available.

It is also proposed to restrict parking on the south side to school coaches from 8am to 10am and 3pm to 6pm as this will provide a safer walking route to Petroc College than the current route which requires the coaches to park on the footway and the students to cross Old Torrington Road.

It is proposed to upgrade the No Waiting Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm on Old Torrington Road to No Waiting At Any Time to ensure the route is kept clear of parked vehicles at all times.

4. Consultations

The proposals have been advertised in line with the statutory process from 8 February to 1 March 2018 with an advert in the local press and notices erected on the affected streets.

The consultation received 8 responses which are summarised in Appendix I with the county council's response.

Having considered the comments submitted, it is recommended that the restrictions are implemented as proposed and that the order is made and sealed as advertised.

5. Financial Considerations

The costs are being funded by £4,000 from the Investing in Devon fund from Councillor Matthews.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

The introduction of restrictions will remove commuter parking in the residential area. This will encourage sustainable travel and reduce traffic looking for a parking space and improve 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.

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 not progressing the proposals has been considered but this would retain school coaches parking on the footway and would continue to allow commuters to park in the road.

The option of not implementing has been considered but this mean that there would be a high demand for parking with both residents and commuters wishing to use the limited spaces. This would not be a benefit to local residents.

12. Reason for Recommendation

It is recommended that the restrictions are implemented as advertise as they would improve the safety for the school students and provide priority parking for local residents.

Meg Booth
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Division: Barnstaple South

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
1. None		

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sc/cr/Changes to Waiting Restrictions Sticklepath Hill Area Barnstaple
03 200618

Devon County Council (Various Roads, Sticklepath, Barnstaple) (Control of Waiting & Residents Parking) Amendment Order

Comment	Response
First Respondent – Resident, Sticklepath Hill	
Resident is unhappy regarding proposed plans. Resident has lived there for 19 years and has “never noticed a traffic problem”. States it is only busy during afternoon pick-up times. Resident believes proposed restrictions do not reflect typical traffic activity during certain times.	Views noted. However this is not the view of other residents in the street. The restrictions have been proposed to prioritise parking for residents and school coaches.
The bus lane serves no purpose and should be removed to free up parking on the opposite side of the road.	The bus lane is considered necessary to ensure that buses will have access to the link under the A361.
Second Respondent – Resident, Sticklepath Hill	
Resident is in support of the proposed permit parking.	Support noted.
Third Respondent – Resident, Sticklepath Hill	
Resident objects to the proposals, stating it will not benefit the residents along the road. “Restricting the parking will be an inconvenience”, stating buildings with multiple residencies have multiple vehicles. Goes on to say parking isn’t currently a problem and feels the proposed plans will have a detrimental effect, considering the limited time buses will be present.	Views noted. However this is not the view of other residents in the street. The restrictions have been proposed to prioritise parking for residents and school coaches.
Fourth Respondent – Resident, Sticklepath Hill	
Resident is all for the proposals.	Support noted.
Fifth Respondent – Resident, Old Torrington Road	
Resident objects to the proposals. Resident is primarily concerned about the lack of roadside waiting in the evenings and at weekends for houses without sufficient off-road parking. Larkbear development traffic and “bus gate” changes deemed not appropriate to warrant proposals.	The road is not wide enough to allow parking for the current level of traffic that uses it. If this changes because of a new development the restrictions can be reviewed again in due course.
Sixth Respondent – Resident, Old Torrington Road	
Resident objects to the proposals. Resident believes current restrictions are adequate for infrastructure and traffic levels.	The road is not wide enough to allow parking for the current level of traffic that uses it. If this changes because of a new development the restrictions can be reviewed again in due course.
Resident is also concerned about the proposals to move the bus stop, anxious about the distance to walk to the next nearest stop for elderly residents.	The bus stops on the west side of Old Torrington Road are not formally recognised as stops for local services and we cannot allow the continuation of buses stopping on the footway. However, it is recommended that the length of Old Torrington Road is reviewed with the local member to identify if a bus stop can be provided on the carriageway for local services that will continue to use Old Torrington Road.

Comment	Response
Seventh Respondent – Resident, Sticklepath Hill	
Resident objects to the proposals. Resident hasn't had a problem parking and doesn't believe commuters are causing a problem, due to current restrictions.	Views noted. However, this is not the view of other residents in the street. The restrictions have been proposed to prioritise parking for residents and school coaches.
Resident also believes too few parking spaces will exist after proposals are introduced.	The intension of the scheme is to ensure that residents have priority over the parking within their area. A scheme may not be able to create more parking given other competing demands for the highway.
Resident doesn't believe the safety will improve and that other residents will try and "reserve" spaces outside their properties.	The proposals aim to remove parking for commuters which will reduce traffic in Sticklepath Hill. It is also proposed to relocate the school coaches from Old Torrington Road to Sticklepath Hill which will stop these vehicles parking on the footway and remove the need for students to cross Old Torrington Road. It is for these reasons why it is considered that the restrictions will improve safety. Any residents parking bay will be available to any permit holder.
Eighth Respondent – Resident, Westfield Avenue	
Believes that damage to the footways has been caused by student vehicles turning in the driveway.	Any damage to the footways should be reported to the council's customer service centre on 0345 155 1004 or emailing csc.roads@devon.gov.uk . It will then be inspected and if it is a safety defect it will be repaired.
Students currently park in Westfield Avenue.	Noted.
Students park in a dangerous manner on the bend.	No Waiting restrictions can be considered for this area as part of a future annual review.
Students park and restrict access for emergency vehicles, refuse lorries and for residents to reverse out of their driveways.	We have no communication from the emergency services or refuse collection to indicate that access is prevented by the current parking. The highway code states that vehicles should reverse into a driveway and drive forwards when leaving.
Will object to any further development of the college until they provide additional parking.	This is outside the remit of the highway authority.
Will object to future parking restrictions in the Sticklepath Hill area unless they are to the benefit of Westfield Avenue. Therefore, objects to the proposals on the grounds it will further exacerbate the situation in Westfield Avenue.	Objection noted.