

Topsham Residents Parking Extension – Approval to Implement Scheme

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 results of the consultation be noted; and**
- (b) the extension to the residents parking scheme in Topsham be implemented.**

1. Summary

This report considers the results of the public consultation on the possible extension of the residents parking scheme in Topsham.

2. Introduction

Devon County Council has been working with Topsham community groups for several years to develop proposals designed to increase the availability of on-street parking for residents, encourage turnover of limited waiting areas to support businesses and encourage longer term visitors to use off-street car parks.

An initial exhibition was held in 2016 for a scheme within the core area of the town. Following comments from residents and business owners a revised scheme was proposed and advertised in 2018. The response to this consultation showed residents were generally more receptive to the idea of residents parking in the town centre and eastern areas of Topsham, and in January 2019 this committee resolved to implement a scheme which covered an area east of Station Road. This scheme was implemented in March 2020.

Since the zone was introduced, comments have been received to suggest that residents outside of the implemented zone may now support the introduction of residents parking.

The informal consultation took place from 27 August until 10 September 2021 and households within the proposed extension were sent details of the consultation and invited to respond with their views.

The council received 272 responses. 173 supported the proposal and 99 objected. This showed that there is a high level of support for extending the residents parking zone.

A formal consultation was undertaken from 17 March to 14 April 2022. This report considers the responses submitted and makes a recommendation on the next steps.

3. Consultations

The traffic order was advertised from 17 March until 14 April 2022 and households within the proposed extension were sent details of the consultation and invited to respond with their views.

The council received 256 responses and the results are summarised in the table in Appendix 1.

The submissions received are summarised in the table in Appendix 2.

4. Proposal

After consideration of the responses, shown in Appendix 1, it is recommended that the restrictions are implemented as advertised.

Within the Zone there are a small number of roads where the majority of residents were not in favour. However, the overall requirements of accommodating a Zonal Restriction require a signed cordon to be established and these roads lie within this cordon.

5. Options

An option of not doing anything has been considered and dismissed as this would not resolve the parking issues being experienced by residents of Topsham.

6. Strategic Plan

The introduction of a residents parking scheme would help reduce commuter parking and improve congestion to help Devon respond to the climate emergency and encourage more sustainable methods of transport.

7. Financial Considerations

A total of £100,000 has been set aside from the capital programme to fund Traffic Management Plans on a County-wide basis. It intended to draw upon this funding to progress the traffic regulation order proposed in this report.

8. Legal Considerations

When making a Traffic Regulation Order it is the County Councils 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. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

The introduction of restrictions would remove commuter parking in residential areas. This will encourage sustainable travel and reduce traffic looking for a parking space and improve air quality.

Minor changes to Waiting Restrictions are designed to discourage obstructive parking, reduce congestion and to reduce traffic on street in the Topsham Area.

10. Equality Considerations

No new policies are being recommended in this report, but an Equality Impact and Needs Assessment has been completed for new residents parking schemes.

11. Risk Management Considerations

No risks have been identified.

12. Public Health Impact

The scheme will have a positive public health impact by encouraging sustainable travel for commuters. Including walking and cycling, with associated health benefits. Supporting active travel, such as walking and cycling, is a key component of the Devon Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

13. Reasons for Recommendations

The recommendation to introduce the extension for the Topsham Residents Parking Scheme, by implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order, is based on the results of the informal and formal public consultations which showed that the majority of responses received are in favour of the scheme.

Therefore, it is recommended that the residents' parking scheme is introduced.

The scheme secures the safe and expeditious movement of traffic and around Topsham and to its associated parking facilities and therefore complies with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Meg Booth
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Divisions: Wearside & Topsham

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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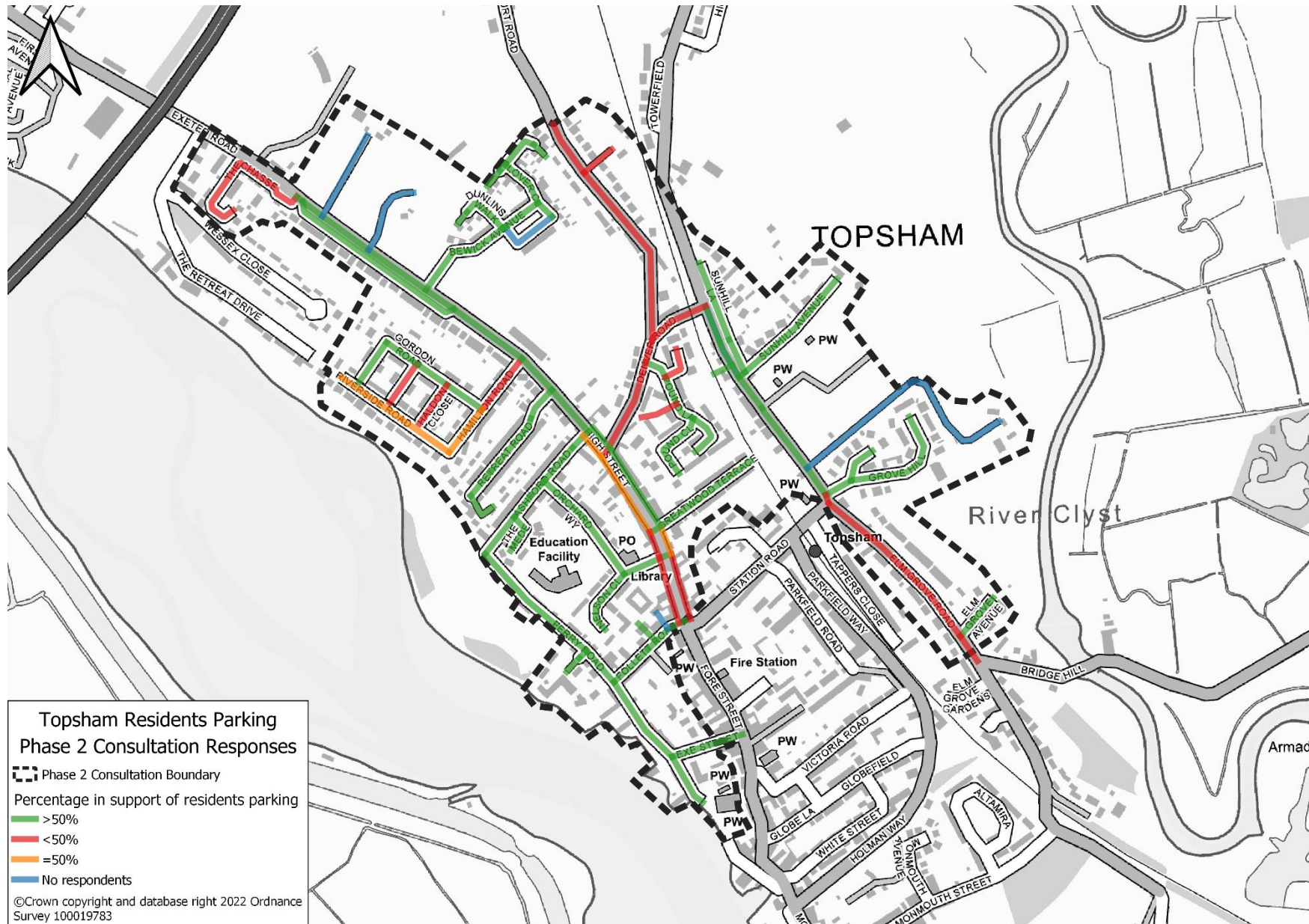
Tel No: 0345 155 1004 Room: M8, Great Moor House

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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None		
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Topsham Residents Parking Extension – Approval to Implement



The map above only includes responses which were clearly described as either support or oppose within the consultation boundary.

ROAD NAME	Support	Oppose	Total	Neither support nor oppose
ASHFORD ROAD	11	1	12	0
BELVEDERE CLOSE	2	0	2	0
BEWICK AVENUE	1	0	1	0
CLARA PLACE	3	0	3	0
DENVER CLOSE	1	2	3	0
DENVER ROAD	0	5	5	1
DUNLINS WALK	2	0	2	0
ELM GROVE AVENUE	1	0	1	0
ELM GROVE ROAD	16	4	20	0
EXE STREET	6	0	6	0
EXETER ROAD	7	3	10	0
FERRY ROAD	9	3	12	0
FOLLETT ROAD	6	2	8	0
GORDON ROAD	6	5	11	0
GREATWOOD TERRACE	5	3	8	0
GROVE HILL	18	3	21	1
HALDON CLOSE	0	1	1	0
HALYARDS	2	1	3	0
HAMILTON ROAD	2	9	11	0
HIGH STREET	7	7	14	0
NELSON CLOSE	4	0	4	2
NEWCOURT ROAD	3	5	8	1
NURSERIES CLOSE	2	4	6	0
ORCHARD WAY	3	0	3	0
PINTAIL LANE	1	0	1	0
PLOVER CLOSE	7	3	10	0
POUND CLOSE	6	2	8	0
POUND LANE	9	7	16	0
POWDERHAM CLOSE	1	2	3	0
RETREAT ROAD	13	9	22	0
RIVERSIDE ROAD	2	2	4	1
SIR ALEX WALK	1	0	1	0
SUNHILL AVENUE	3	2	5	0
SUNHILL LANE	2	0	2	0
THE CHASE	3	8	11	0
THE MEDE	1	0	1	0
THE RETREAT DRIVE	0	1	1	0
NO DETAILS LEFT	3	1	4	0
OUT OF AREA	4	4	8	0
	173	99	272	6

A total of six responses did not leave a clear SUPPORT or OPPOSE response, including two respondents who marked both boxes, two who did not mark either box, and two who provided alternative responses such as 'No idea' and 'Neutral'.

Comments Submitted

Comment	Response
Resident supports resident parking.	Comment noted.
Resident believes parking issues are due to poor planning.	A number of parking issues are related to the historical nature of Topsham. Developers are required to consider parking and other means of travel to and from their development. This is agreed with the planning authority.
Business staff cause problems. More off-street parking required.	The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents. Devon County Council encourages the use of alternative methods of transport.
Proposal beneficial. More off-street parking required.	Noted. Devon County Council encourages the use of alternative methods of transport.
More cycle parking required.	Comment noted.
Resident proposes reinforcing of fines for parking on double yellow lines; Resident experience mobility issues due to obstruction of pavements; Resident proposes return of traffic wardens.	Enforcement takes place on a regular basis and will continue to do so.
Residents believes resident parking will only move the parking issues.	Noted. Small residents parking schemes are less effective than larger schemes. This is why the consultation covered a large area.
Resident proposes encouraging people to make their own driveways.	The use of a driveway is a personal matter for individuals. The driveway may not be suitable for the individual.
Parking is not a problem in my area.	Residents have raised concerns regarding parking problems in Topsham.
Resident believes resident parking will have a positive effect; Resident believes resident parking will increase parking accessibility.	Comment noted.
Resident believes parking issues are caused by commuters and Topsham visitors.	The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.
Resident believes resident parking will not resolve parking issues; Resident proposes developers provide free parking spaces.	Developers are required to consider parking and other means of travel to and from their development. This is agreed with the planning authority.
Resident is concerned about impact on people visiting.	Visitor permits will be available and the Limited waiting or Pay & display will be available for use by visitors.

Unwanted extra financial burden.	The cost of the permits cover the implementation and enforcement of the scheme.
As a mobile worker the scheme will make more difficult.	A Care Workers permit is available via Devon County Council's website.
Elm Grove Rd should be kept clear of parked cars. I strongly believe that we should be encouraging people to use the train service into Exeter.	Comments noted.
Supports proposal. Suggests amending the bays to improve the scheme.	Comments noted.
Resident supports resident parking; Resident believes only implementing residential parking in part of the area was a mistake.	Comments noted.
Resident believes the current area proposes would create problems in other areas; Resident proposes to extend resident parking to the whole town.	This is the aim of this proposal.
Resident report parking issues; Resident proposes reinstatement of keep clear area on Ferry Road.	Comments noted.
Would suggest any new parking scheme should be on the basis of protecting the continuation and future prosperity of the shops in Topsham and ease of parking to ensure this.	The Limited Waiting and Pay & Display elements of the scheme provide visitors provision.
Resident experiences issues parking close to property; Resident is discouraged by parking issues to use car.	The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.
Resident believes there is no space for bicycle lockers in the immediate area; Resident believes EV charging points might be accommodated.	Comments noted.
Supports proposal. Displaced Parking from Phase 1 is causing problems.	Comments noted.
Proposal will prevent shoppers parking.	The proposal includes Limited waiting and Pay & Display parking wherever possible. This will provide short term visitors somewhere to park.
Parking is difficult here the whole time.	The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.
We are finding that our road is becoming ever more congested, not just with normal daily road parking, but with increasing on pavement parking.	Comments noted.
There is no space on our street to park in the day and evening.	On-street parking spaces are provided wherever it is safe to do so.

Resident believes resident parking will not resolve parking issues; Resident proposes dropping charges for lowering kerbs to enable more driveways; Resident reports some properties having a lot of cars; Resident sees resident parking as financially benefitting the council.	The proposal will not solve all the issues residents are experiencing but it aims to resolve some parking issues.
Resident supports resident parking; Resident proposes double yellow lines on junctions.	Comments noted.
Resident experiences parking issues on a Saturdays, during Rugby events.	Noted. However, the scheme's operating times need to remain constant to keep the scheme easy to understand and comply with.
Resident believes localised resident parking would move the issue to roads with no restrictions; Resident does not support EV charging points or lockers, as resident believes residents can sort this. Support for car club vehicle would depend on demand.	The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents across the whole of Topsham.
Resident believes there are no parking issues; Resident does not support resident parking; Resident proposes to lower charges for lowering kerbs to enable more driveways; Resident sees resident parking as financially benefitting the council.	The proposal was put to consultation following requests from the public for a residents parking scheme in Topsham.
People seem to use the road as a car park leaving cars here for days, sometimes weeks on end.	The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.
Not enough parking available.	On-street parking spaces are provided wherever it is safe to do so.
Resident reports visitors to property experience problem parking.	The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.
Resident reports visitors to property experience problem parking; Resident does not support resident parking.	Noted. The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.
Resident believes resident parking will provide further improvements to parking for residents.	Comments noted.
Resident believes parking issues are caused by commuters.	The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.
I feel that workers in our local shops and cafes need somewhere to park.	The scheme includes Limited waiting and Pay & Display parking for short term.
Grove Hill is very congested. The road is mostly single track due to parked cars, and some residents have difficulty in exiting their driveways.	Comments noted.

Difficult to park in street.	On-street parking spaces are provided wherever it is safe to do so.
Resident believes parking issues are caused by commuters and Topsham visitors; Resident proposes parking restrictions on bends.	Noted. The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.
Resident believes parking issues have worsened over last few years; Trade vans parked for long periods of time particularly create issues; Parking issues create problems for service vehicles.	Noted. The aim of this proposal is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.
Resident proposes double yellow lines in certain locations; Residents believes current parking behaviour is impacting negatively on access to properties.	Comments noted.
Resident believes current parking behaviour is impacting negatively on access to properties; Resident believes current parking behaviour is impacting negatively on road safety; Speeding through traffic is impacting negatively on road safety.	Noted. The proposal will not solve all the issues residents are experiencing but it aims to resolve some parking issues.
Enforcement issues of current restrictions.	Enforcement takes place on a regular basis and will continue to do so.
Double yellow lines will prevent tradespeople parking near properties and deliveries to properties.	Deliveries can be carried out on double yellow lines. Tradespeople can apply for waivers or dispensations which allow them to park close to properties when required. These can be applied for via Devon County Council's website.
Problem is lack of parking places.	On-street parking spaces are provided wherever it is safe to do so. Off-street car parking provision is available.
Residents believes there is a lack of disabled parking bays in close vicinity of property.	Resident's disabled parking bays can be applied for via Devon County Council's website.
Resident supports resident parking.	Noted.
Resident requires carers to visit.	An Essential visitor's permit is available.
Resident experiences parking issues; Resident believes that people park their car to transfer to a different mode of transport.	Noted. The aim of this scheme is to reduce parking issues caused by non-residents.

Resident supports resident parking; resident does not experience parking due to off street parking; Resident supports EV charging points; Resident proposes cycle stands instead of lockers; Resident supports no waiting at any time proposal; Resident would have like to see proposal for double yellow lines.	Noted.
Resident does not support any of the alternative transport facilities; Resident does not believe the scheme is sincere; Residents requests insight into number of residents asking for extended resident parking.	The scheme was proposed following comments from residents. The number of residents supporting the scheme shows there is a majority in favour of the scheme.
Resident reports that most of the residents are able to provide alternative transport; Resident would support help for residents who do not have off street parking; resident does not support resident parking; Resident does not experience parking issues	Noted.
Unnecessary cost. Permits should be digital. Resident proposes tiered permit fee system.	The cost of the permits covers the implementation and enforcement of the scheme. A digital permit is being considered.
Resident does not experience parking issues; Resident supports local traders and rugby visitors parking	Noted.
Too many cars owned by residents.	Noted.
Resident believes resident parking will have a negative financial effect on residents. Electric cars are too expensive.	The financial impact on residents is noted. The cost of the permits covers the implementation and enforcement of the scheme.
Supports proposal. Will encourage less polluting alternative modes of transport.	Noted.
Resident believes resident parking will have wider positive impacts.	Noted.
Resident sees resident parking as financially benefitting the council; Resident believes resident parking is not in the interest of Topsham residents or visitors.	The cost of the permits covers the implementation and enforcement of the scheme.
Resident proposes double yellow lines on junctions.	The scheme will introduce some parking restrictions on junctions where necessary.
Opposes Pay & Display. Supports Residents' parking scheme.	The Pay & Display element provides short term parking and enables more efficient enforcement.

Resident supports resident parking; Resident proposes provision for short term parking.	Comments noted.
More traffic calming required.	Request noted but is outside the remit of this scheme.
Objects due to proposal on a new development and not needed. Plus extra unnecessary sign clutter.	The proposal included new developments to understand the level of support for introducing residents parking if the highway was to be adopted by the Highway Authority.