

APPENDIX E - WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL HIGHWAY WORKS

Planning and Development

New Style Street Name Plates

70 new style street name plates with destination sub-plates have been introduced throughout the town as part of phase 1 of the County Council led Clarendon Road Pedestrian Improvements Programme.

Name plates have also been installed in the Central, Oxhey, Tudor, Park, Vicarage and Woodside wards. The plates provide average walking time to key pedestrian destinations. The scheme aims to combine information on one single sign thereby allowing for de-cluttering by removing old signage and providing a link to the monolith Way Marking signs project.

Way Marking Project

As part of the overall Cultural Strategy for the town centre the Way Marking Project will provide map based key destination legible signage. To ensure that the town is more navigable core features and landmarks have been plotted on maps which will form the central point to the new monolith signs. It is planned to erect a new monolith sign at Watford Junction Station as part of the National Station Improvement Programme and a further sign at the High Street/Clarendon Road junction. Restrictions on works at Watford Junction Station during the Olympics mean that the installation of the new monolith sign at the Junction will be delayed until late 2012.

Parking Service Up-date

New GIS Project

New GIS (geographic information system) maps showing Controlled Parking Zones have been developed in conjunction with the Council's Corporate GIS Team. The maps, which are accessible for staff via the intranet and the public via the Council's website, show the location of each Controlled Parking Zone, as well as the location of pay and display machines and Controlled Parking Zone entry signs, both as separate 'layers' which can be taken on and off the map as required. This allows residents to quickly see which zone they are in, as well as the hours of restriction for each zone. It also allows visitors to locate pay and display machines and use the legend to establish the maximum waiting time at each location and for staff at both the CSC and the Parking Service to supply our customers with accurate information over the telephone or in written correspondence.

In preparation for the inclusion of further roads in the Cassiobury Controlled Parking Zone, the Corporate GIS Team are shortly commencing work to amend the layers to include the new roads. Once this has been completed, this in-house map will then be used in the Parking Service information leaflet, which is being completely revamped, consolidating all the information

(currently in two leaflets) into one easy-to-read document ready for the intended implementation date of the new Cassiobury restrictions. The map has previously been produced by an external company and this meant that it could be costly to make changes if new roads were added to the zones or restrictions were altered and this led the map becoming out of date very quickly. The new GIS map can be amended in-house quickly and accurately and the new versions supplied, if necessary, to the printers when further leaflets are required and re-prints ordered.

In addition, the Corporate GIS Team have also added the location of car parks within the borough to the GIS map and this has been uploaded to both the intranet and the internet so that staff and customers can find the location of each car park and the management details, in conjunction with the tariff information which is already accessible on the website.

Updating of Civil Enforcement Officers Hand Held Computers

We are currently looking at the viability of updating our current hand-held computers and processing systems with a view to increasing efficiency, reducing costs and improving service interaction for our customers.

The update of the Civil Enforcement Officer's hand-held computers will enable GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) facilities, meaning that they can interact with a number of reporting suites and applications, including payments made by mobile, in the event that the Authority should ever seek to take this forward. As significantly, updated hand-helds will be capable of recording electronic pocket-book notes, which are legally required when an Enforcement Officer issues a Penalty Charge Notice, and directly uploading the information to the case on the back-office processing system. This entirely removes the need for scanning, photocopying and storage of pocket-books, which presently accounts for a significant period of time spent by back-office staff.

Further, we are seeking to implement a facility allowing members of the public to submit challenges to the issue of Penalty Charge Notices online. At this point, motorists will also be able to view all photographic evidence and all relevant information relating to the case. Again, the challenge would be uploaded directly to the case removing the need for scanning or storage of any paper letters or documents.

Additionally, updated modules to our permit processing system are being investigated, which will allow for permits and visitors vouchers to be purchased or renewed online, whereby customers upload required documentation. Security concerns will be addressed by ensuring that all authorisations are provided by trained staff prior to any permit or vouchers being physically issued.

Traffic Regulation Orders

Cassiobury Controlled Parking Zone Review

Revised proposals for the detailed design of the parking arrangements for the 8 additional roads proposed for inclusion in the zone have been developed in light of objections received to the statutory process run at the end of 2011. The revised proposals were advertised formally inviting objection at the end of May 2012. The target date for implementation is September 2012. In response to requests from residents in Woodland Drive and Orchard Drive the council has investigated options for revising the bay layouts in these roads. These investigations are on going.

The informal consultation on proposals to manage parking in the vicinity of the shops at the Langley Way/ Cassiobury Drive junction is on-going and a preferred scheme was submitted to Hertfordshire Highways for comment during March. Improvements to the facilities for pedestrians at this junction are being incorporated in to the design with a view to bringing forward a more detailed proposal for wider consultation later in 2012.

Nascot Area

A revised scheme for parking controls in Bellamy Close, Grandfield Ave, Langwood Gardens and Maple Grove has been prepared taking account of comments received through the public consultation held in November 2011.

Formal Statutory Consultation on the revised scheme took place in May/June 2012. Objections are currently being reviewed.

Further consultation on parking and other traffic related issues in The Avenue, Church Road area and Park Road is planned for later in 2012.

The Holyrood School parking management scheme to address safety issues around school times is progressing. The draft traffic orders have been completed and are presently subject of technical consultations prior to commencement of the statutory procedures. Subject to the satisfactory resolution of any objections received we are looking to deliver the scheme by September 2012.

Oxhey Ward parking Consultation

A Ward wide consultation with residents and businesses in relation to parking issues took place during July and August 2011 indicated that residents did not support area wide parking controls to address parking issues. Measures to adjust existing yellow line restrictions at junctions within the Ward, including the introduction of some short stay parking to support local shops and some new parking controls on junctions where obstructive parking has been a problem have been developed in conjunction with Ward Members and OVEG. Informal consultation with the Police, Herts Highways and the Council's Waste Services Team has been carried out and the principle of the scheme has

been accepted. We are looking to draft the traffic order with implementation towards the end of 2012.

Further representations have been received from the residents of Cedar Road, Kingfield Road and The Larches requesting CPZ controls. The Council has given a commitment to take these locations to consultation.

The Council and Hertfordshire Highways are also supporting OVEG in the development of a community led Considerate Parking Scheme aimed at encouraging responsible parking attitudes within the Ward.

Queens Road/ The Broadway

Proposals to introduce a small number of free limited waiting spaces in Queens Road to support shopping habits are to be taken to Statutory Consultation during June/July 2012 along with a number of other small amendments to current parking controls in the existing CPZs. Changes to parking controls in Queens Road to extend the length of time motorcycles can be parked free of charge in the designated motorcycle bay from 1 hour to 2 hours are included in the proposed changes. Subject to the satisfactory resolution of any objections received it is expected that the changes will be implemented during the late summer months.

Shaftesbury Road – Waterfields Recreation Ground car park

Proposals to manage the car park at the end of Shaftesbury Road to protect parking opportunity for residents permit holders and short term visitors to Waterfields Recreation Ground are also due to go to Statutory Consultation as part of the same process referred to above.

'Various Roads' Traffic Orders

The following sites have been included in the next 'various roads' TRO (Order 742): Cow Lane/Herons Lea, York Way/Harvest End, Lamb Close off Sheepcot Lane, Orbital Crescent j/w Evans Avenue, Tudor Drive j/w Bushey Mill Lane and Link Road j/w Radlett Road. The Order is set to be advertised in July. Subject to objections the planned delivery date is November 2012.

The planned investigations of the next 'various roads' Order will include the following sites to be considered : Woodside Leisure Centre, Cart Path, Leavesden High Road around Leavesden JMI School , 71-79 Longspring, Reeds Crescent, Holland Gardens/Spring Gardens j/w St Albans Road, Tunnel Wood Road, Douglas Avenue/Woodmere Avenue, Pheasant Court off Holtsmere Close, Derwent Close/Ennerdale Drive, Lower High Street adjacent to Bridge Place, Kytes Drive, Wentworth Close, Newhouse Crescent, Oxhey Drive opposite Bromet School.

Due to the number of locations each of the sites will be assessed using the following guidance: accident history, including the number of collisions over the last 3 years, highway alignment, sight lines, carriageway classification,

traffic speeds/volumes, impact on highway including vulnerable road users (child, OAP, disabled) and existing traffic management features. The aim of the assessment will be to produce a list of between 6 and 8 sites to take forward as the next 'various roads' Order.

Officer investigations will take place between November 2012 and January 2013. Initial proposals will be discussed with the Portfolio Holder/Ward/Divisional Councillors for their comments. The likely delivery of the next 'various roads' Order will be towards the end of the summer 2013.

HIGHWAY WORKS

A) Highway related

Under s115 of the Highways Act

The Borough Council can undertake works on the highway where they are providing an amenity.

1) Town Centre Cultural Study – Rickmansworth Rd to Albert Rd Sth

The Council has appointed Building Design Partnership to provide consultancy services for the feasibility, design and supervision of the public realm works. A consultation exercise is currently underway with works planned to commence in spring 2013. This project will be the subject of separate reports as the project progresses.

B) Transport related projects on Council owned land

1) Oxhey Park Cycle Route

Direction signs have now been erected and works are complete.

2) Whippendell Woods Bridleway conversion

The land forming the path has now been dedicated as a Public Bridleway. HCC will be arranging rights of way signage from Grove Mill Lane to Rousebarn Lane and WBC will be installing signage on the permissive cycle path on Lime Walk to Iron Bridge lock.

3) Woodside Leisure centre cycle and pedestrian works

Works to upgrade and construct a network of paths for pedestrians and cyclists are now complete. Direction signage across the site has now been installed. The final phase of the signage project, the upgrading of driver signs, is due to be completed by Sept 2012.

C) RIGHTS OF WAY WORKS BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

The Council is required to carry out footpath diversions under the s.257 Town and County Planning Act 1990 to enable developments to take place.

1) Watford Springs site FP50 and 52

An Order was made on the 5th May and the consultation period has now expired. Two objections were received but have subsequently been withdrawn following discussion with the objectors. It is anticipated that the Order will be confirmed by the Secretary of State in August

2) Oxhey Park Bridge FP56

The siting of the bridge necessitates the permanent diversion of 60m of definitive footpath on the east bank of the river. Informal consultation has taken place with The Ramblers Association and draft legal orders are expected to be published in Sept 2012 (subject to HCC rights of way approval).