

APPENDIX E - WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL HIGHWAY WORKS

Traffic Regulation Order -- Update

Cassiobury Controlled Parking Zone Review

The outcome of the consultation with residents has indicated strong support for extension of the zone on 3 roads. Results from the remainder of roads on the estate currently outside the zone were inconclusive however. All residents are to be written to explaining the outcome and informing them of the Council's intention to expand the zone to those roads where there is clear support. A detailed scheme will be developed for consultation later in the year.

Nascot Area

The introduction of new controls in Kildonan Close, Oaklands Court and Kenilworth Court to tackle non-resident parking were advertised inviting objection on 17 June 2011. The objection period closes on 11 July 2011.

A small consultation with residents of the Langwood Gardens/ Pinewood Close, Maple Grove area of Nascot commenced on 13 June 2011. The consultation seeks views on the introduction of controls to remove commuter parking and the closing date for receipt of responses is 1 July 2011. Depending on responses, a detailed scheme for these roads will be developed for further consultation.

Following the area wide consultation in Nascot in January a draft scheme for 'commuter ban' style parking controls in the Grandfield Avenue/ Bellamy Close area has been developed. At the time of writing of this report the scheme was out to Ward Councillors for comment. Consultation with residents on this scheme in advance of the formal traffic order process is anticipated to take place during July.

Oxhey Ward parking Consultation

Consultation with residents across the entire ward in relation to parking issues is programmed to take place in July. Depending on the outcome of this consultation, scheme/s to address problems/ concerns will be developed.

Queens Road/ The Broadway

Traffic surveys have taken place in Queens Road/ The Broadway to determine the level of parking demand and the duration of stay. Face to face interviews with drivers are also planned during July to build a picture of where people are visiting, how long they are staying and whether they believe the current parking arrangements in Queens Road are satisfactory. Subject to the outcome of the survey work, proposals to amend the current parking scheme will be developed.

Shaftesbury Road – Waterfields Recreation Ground car park

The outcome of the public consultation on the Colne Valley Linear Park (which includes Waterfields Recreation Ground) indicated that there is a need to provide greater parking opportunity for visitors to the park. As a result a

scheme has been developed for the above car park which will provide parking opportunity for visitors as well as securing parking for permit holders in the adjacent CPZ zones B and C. The scheme is due to go to consultation with residents in the immediate area in early July.

Horseshoe Lane and Eastbury Road

Concerns have been expressed at by Members and local residents in relation to the parking situation in both Horseshoe lane, Garston and Eastbury Road. In relation to Horseshoe Lane, the success of the Sports Centre and associated sports facilities at the site has led to overspill parking taking place on both sides of Horseshoe lane. This parking is regarded as both obstructive and dangerous and a scheme has been developed to introduce 'at any time' waiting restrictions on Horseshoe lane to address it. The scheme will run from Harding Close to the eastern junction with Newhouse Crescent. In addition to this work, improvements to the parking arrangements on the site itself to encourage fuller use of the top car park is also under way.

Eastbury Road along the frontage of Oxhey Park is heavily parked on its northern (Oxhey Park) side. Most of this parking is associated with commuters either working in Watford or travelling from Bushey Station. Recently a number of cars have started to park on the southern side of the road effectively reducing the road to single way working. This is considered to be both obstructive and hazardous and a scheme to introduce parking restriction on the south side has been developed.

Both the above schemes have been passed to Ward Councillors for comment and are scheduled to be advertised formally in the near future.

Various Road Traffic Orders

A Traffic Order to introduce new or amended parking controls in the following roads was advertised in 2010. A number of the proposals contained within the draft Order gave rise to significant objection which will require a review. The remaining sites (listed below) have no unresolved objections and the Order covering these sites will be made and the works implemented within the next few months

Croxley View
Crusader Way
Faraday Close
Milton Street
The Roundway
Shakespeare Street

A Traffic Order to introduce new or extended controls in the following roads is to be advertised in July following completion of formal consultation with the Police and Herts Highways. All Ward members have been consulted on the proposals.

Beechwood Rise
Bushey Mill Lane (Tudor Parade) – disabled bay
Courtlands Drive (Goodwood Parade) – disabled bay
Lavinia Close
Longspring/ Thrums
Tolpits Lane service road

Parking -- Update

Percy and Francis Road

Following the recent introduction of a one way system to the Francis Road and Percy Road area, our Traffic Engineer has re-assessed those roads and determined that an additional 5 residents bays can be created. This will bring some additional parking capacity to an area where such availability is notoriously low, which should provide a great benefit to local residential permit holders. Work shall commence shortly in amending the Traffic Order and subsequently implementing the required lining works.

Essex Road

Similarly, it has been identified that the pay and display bays in Essex Road, 22, appear to be under utilized whereby they are not used to capacity. As a result, a re-assessment of this area has shown that local resident permit holders can be benefit from using these bays during the core hours by amending them to shared use, which is not expected to have any detrimental effect upon availability for pay and display motorists.

Coin Changes

In line with the governments intention to produce new 5p and 10p coins in January 2012, all current pay and display machines, with the small exception of 10 newly ordered machines in January 2011, will require both software and coin selector upgrades in order to accept the new coinage. This will affect approximately 69 machines. As this applies to all Local Authorities nationally, we intend to commence this project sooner rather than later, in order to avoid delays being incurred due to demand on our manufacturing contractor.

Pay and Display Machine Replacement Programme

For the last few years the Council has run a programme of replacing the older style of pay and display machines, whereby some of them have been in place in excess of 15 years. In accordance with their age, some of the machines become less reliable and are more easily compromised than newer machines, which both may have an affect on income. These machines have been replaced at a rate of approximately 10 per year. The proposal this year is to undergo the replacement of the remaining 13 old style P&D machines and funded out of the parking “projects” budget code.

Under s115 of the Highways Act

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

A) Highway related

1) Cassiobury Park

Improvements to cycle and pedestrian route signage from existing walking and cycle routes. Sign design options under consideration. Implementation delayed until Sep 2011.

2) The Parade Events Market space

The section of The Parade from Clarendon Rd to Gade Access Rd. Works to create a more viable market space by removing certain items of street furniture are now complete. Specialist event markets have been planned for Sep 16/17/18 Italian and Dec 9/10/11/12 Christmas.

Herts Highways are drafting traffic orders to enable market vehicles to be driven in the pedestrianised section of The Parade and to suspend the cycle lane. Watford Council will make an Order under Town Police Clauses Act for the suspension of the cycle route for the September market if the permanent TRO is not made.

3) Town Hall subway facelift

Works to refurbish the subway lighting, paint the roof and brighten the tiled walls by applying a vinyl anti graffiti coating with images are currently underway. They are due to be completed by the end of July 2011.

4) Gade Access Road – removal of planter D

Works to remove the redundant planter at the side of Gade House commence in early July. The area will be paved to match existing and a new loading bay created primarily to assist the setting up of the events markets.

B) Transport related projects on Council owned land

1) Woodside Leisure Centre

a) A WBC 106/capital funded project for pedestrian and cycle access improvements to and across the site. Works are underway to construct a footpath to link the top car park to the running track and leisure centre. Phase 1 is nearing completion. It is anticipated that all works will be completed late October 2011.

2) Oxhey Park pedestrian and cycle bridge

a) Following completion of the bridge additional works to upgrade the path and install direction signage on part of fp56 and the permissive path from the bridge to Lower High St are currently being planned for Aug 2011

3) Whippendell Woods Bridleway conversion

a) The existing Council owned permissive horse track has been upgraded to adoptable standard and access improvements made at the Rousebarn Lane and Grove Mill Lane entrances. HCC are in the process of finalising legal orders to adopt it as a Bridleway thus permitting cycling on it. Expected completion date Sep2011

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

Planning consent was granted in August 2009 and the development necessitates the diversion of definitive footpaths 50 and 52. Preparation of draft legal orders has commenced. It is anticipated that they will be published for consultation in Sep 2011 (subject to HCC rights of way approval). A temporary diversion for the duration of the works will be in place for the duration of construction works.

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 Sep 2011 (subject to HCC rights of way approval).