

Regulatory Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	16 August 2018
Officer	Andrew Martin - Head of Highways
Subject of Report	Proposed Waiting Restrictions, Dorchester Hill/New Road, Blandford
Executive Summary	Following the advertising of proposed changes to parking restrictions in various roads in Blandford, an objection has been received to the proposals for Dorchester Hill and New Road, Blandford. This report considers the objection, and whether the proposals in Dorchester Hill and New Road should be implemented as advertised.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: The proposed waiting restrictions will have the usual exemption for disabled badge holders.
	Use of Evidence: Site investigations, public consultation and support of Local Member, Town and District Councils and the Police.
	Budget: The cost of making the Order is estimated at £2500 inclusive of advertising charges.
	Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW

Recommendation	That having considered the objection received, Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposed waiting restrictions on Dorchester Hill and New Road as originally advertised.
Reason for Recommendation	Dorchester Hill and New Road, Blandford has a tight bend which is frequently obstructed by parked cars. The proposals will improve the movement of larger vehicles that uses the road regularly and improve visibility for pedestrians and all vehicles.
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Drawing No. 2018/1/66
Background Papers	The file of the Director for Environment and the Economy Consultation responses from the District and Town Councils, Dorset Police and the local County Councillor are held on file in the Environment and the Economy Directorate.
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Jessica Cutler Tel: 01305 225719 Email: Jessica.Cutler@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Proposals were advertised for public consultation on 2 February 2018 for a variety of changes to waiting restrictions in Blandford. One objection was received to a proposed order for Jubilee Road, which was since withdrawn. One letter of support was received for the proposals at Dorchester Hill and New Road as well as one letter with comments and two letters of objection. One objection has since been withdrawn. This report considers the outstanding objection.
- 1.2 Dorchester Hill and New Road are located to the southern side of Blandford. The current speed limit is 30pmh and there are currently no restrictions along the sections of New Road and Dorchester Hill affected by this Order.
- 1.3 There have been parking concerns along Dorchester Hill and New Road and both Bryanston Parish Council and the Local Member have requested waiting restrictions. The concerns were reported to the Community Highway Officers and it was agreed to consult on this Order alongside the Jubilee Way Order. The Parish Council and Local Member were particularly concerned that large vehicles were unable to turn into Dorchester Hill from New Road due to parked vehicles. Damory Bus Company travel up New Road from the Blandford School, and would use this route on school days. The problems have been reported as 24 hour issues, hence the proposal is to introduce double yellow lines around the junction and one side of the highway to prevent cars parking both sides of the highway. The proposal also includes a section of single yellow lines to enable residents to park between 6pm and 8am therefore reducing the amount of day-time parking by people parking along this narrow section of highway in preference to nearby car parks. There is no record of any collisions in the area.

2. **Information**

- 2.1 County Council officers proposed that no waiting at any time and no waiting from 8am to 6pm would be appropriate restrictions along the lengths of Dorchester Hill and New Road as shown in Appendix 1. The restrictions would discourage casual on street parking in Dorchester Hill and New Road by people parking and walking into town instead of using car parks.
- 2.2 The proposed restriction would improve access for large vehicles including buses, refuse vehicles and emergency vehicles.

3. **Law**

Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allow the County Council to make an Order prohibiting or restricting the waiting of vehicles or the unloading of vehicles. The circumstances where an Order may be made include:
For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road;
For facilitating the passage on the road of any class of traffic;

4. **Consultation**

- 4.1 Under Dorset County Council's procedure, primary consultation was carried out on the proposed scheme and is supported by the Local Member, North Dorset District Council, Blandford Town Council, Bryanston Parish Council and the Police.
- 4.2 There have been four responses to the public consultation process for this Order. There is one outstanding objection to the proposal from a resident, one support letter, one set of comments and one further objection which are summarised below:-

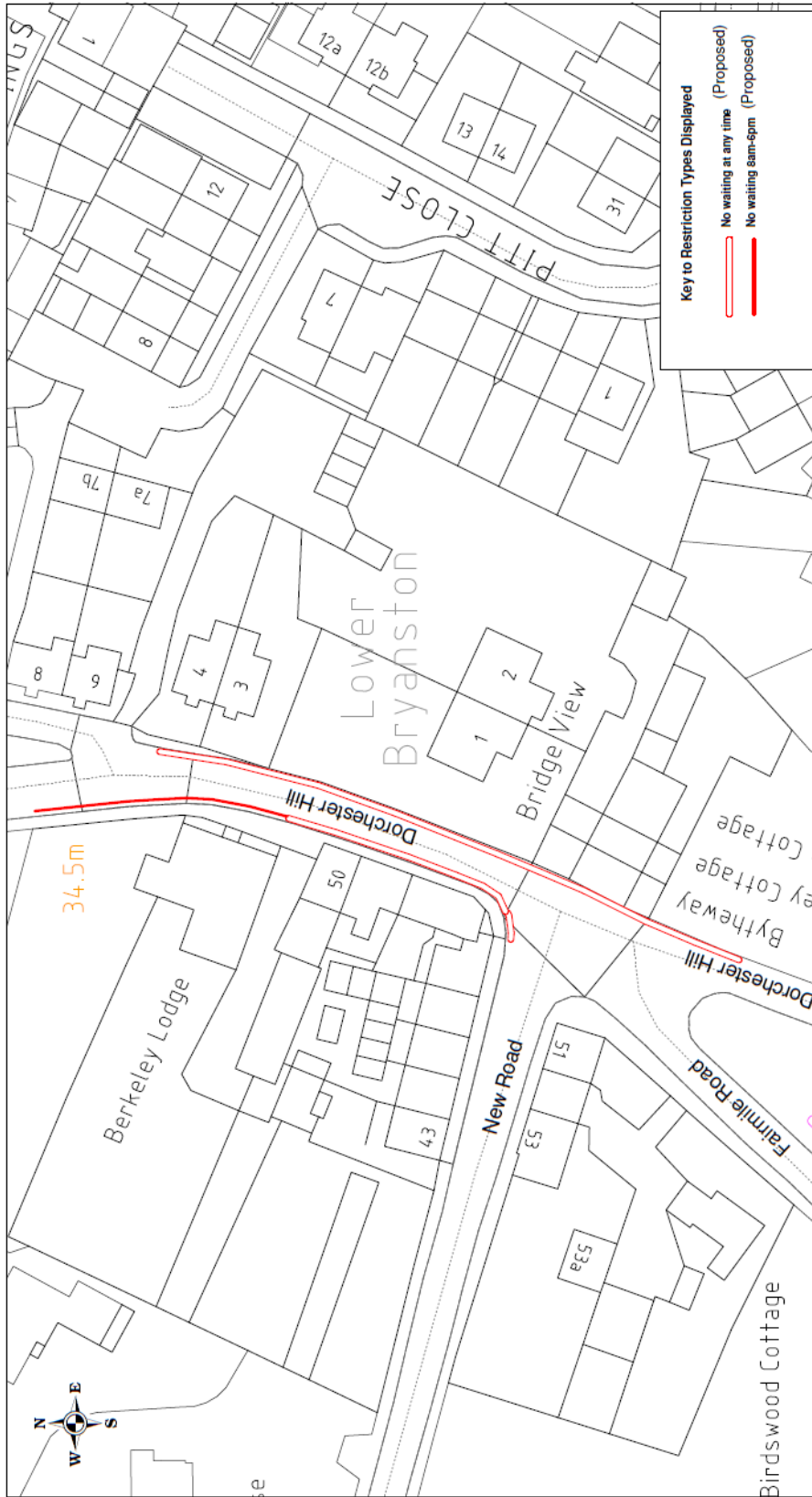
Name and Address	Summary of Response – Support of the proposal
Resident Badger Sett Blandford St Mary	The junction with New Road and the bend on Dorchester Hill is very congested with poor sight lines. Restricting parking makes huge sense for safety and traffic flow.
Name and Address	Summary of Response – Withdrawn objection
Resident Dorchester Hill Blandford St Mary	<p>Our hedgerow has been destroyed by large vehicles driving into it as they are unable to make the turn cleanly due to cars parking very close to the bend. The proposal will hopefully alleviate this problem so we are broadly supportive of it.</p> <p>Improvements to the turnings in this area could have been made by ensuring vehicles don't park near the corners rather than a blanket ban on parking along the whole stretch of road which will be unnecessarily inconvenient to some of the properties here without off-street parking.</p> <p>Concerned with the proposal as the vehicles parked in this road currently perform a natural traffic calming function. We will see an increase in speed. This is a residential area and there are many elderly residents and families with young children who live alongside this road.</p>
Name and Address	Summary of Response – Opposing the proposal
Resident Dorchester Hill Blandford St Mary	<p>The current parking on the western side of Dorchester Hill acts as traffic calming method making the unmarked dropped kerb crossing point fairly safe for pedestrians.</p> <p>The proposed will enable traffic to travel at greater speed making crossing points more dangerous to pedestrians. I propose that this crossing point be made more formal, this will only increase in importance with the increased pedestrian use of the road by the residents of the new housing development currently being built at the top of Dorchester Hill.</p> <p>There are already significant numbers of children using these crossings before and after school.</p> <p>Suggests that traffic calming methods such as sleeping policemen and/or chicanes be included such as successfully used on the Milldown Road.</p> <p>Proposes a 20 mile per hour speed limit.</p>
Name and Address	Summary of Response – Other comments
Resident Dorchester Hill Blandford St Mary	Not against this proposal, access to and from my drive will become quite a danger. There is a very restricted view up Dorchester Hill, as the pavement outside No 50 is very narrow. While cars were parked there our chance of a safe exit were good, the proposal will increase the speed of cars.

- 4.3 The resident who objected lives in Dorchester Hill, has young children in the family and is concerned about the proposed restrictions allowing cars to increase in speed.
- 4.4 The proposed double yellow lines cover all the junctions that have been highlighted as problematic with visibility. As it is a short section of road it was practical to propose double yellow lines and single yellow lines from the junction of New Road to the junction of Dorchester Hill (heading towards The Stour Inn) on both sides.
- 4.5 The short stretch of the proposed single yellow lines will enable residents to park overnight and allow the free movement of traffic throughout the day. Officers are aware that parked cars sometimes perform a natural traffic calming measure. However in this instance safety for road users and improving visibility for road users and pedestrians on a fairly narrow stretch of road were important and supported by the Local Member, Dorset Police, North Dorset District Council and Blandford St Mary/Bryanston Parish Council. Any requests received have to come via the Town/Parish Council or the Local County Councillor in the first instance to be considered.
- 4.6 The objection refers to the new housing development proposed for Dorchester Hill. Having spoken with our Highway Development Team the development plans relate to further south of Dorchester Road and have initially identified the need for three pedestrian crossing points. Any future issues can be considered at the appropriate time.
- 4.7 Traffic calming methods are not considered appropriate as the road is not a 20mph zone. 20mph speed limits or 20mph zones would only be considered in streets that are primarily residential and in other town or city streets where pedestrian and cyclist movements are high, such as around schools, shops, markets, playgrounds and other areas, where motor vehicle movement is not the primary function
- 4.8 Having considered all the responses received and in particular the outstanding objection, it is considered that the current proposals should be progressed rather than leave the situation as existing.

Andrew Martin

Service Director, Highways and Emergency Planning
June 2015

Appendix 1



SCALE	1 : 750
DATE	19/01/2018
DRAWING No.	2018/1/66
DRAWN BY	JB

The County of Dorset (Various Roads in the District of North Dorset) (Consolidation of Orders Made for the Regulation of Traffic) Order 2013 (as amended) (Amendment Order No. , 2017), Various Roads, Blandford – Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting

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