

Agenda Item:

# Regulatory Committee

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**Dorset County Council**



Date of Meeting	12 March 2015
Officer	Andrew Martin - Head of Highways
<b>Subject of Report</b>	<b>Proposed Waiting Restrictions, Duck Lane, Stalbridge</b>
Executive Summary	Following the advertising of proposed changes to parking restrictions in various roads in Stalbridge, objections have been received to the proposals for Duck Lane. This report considers those objections, and whether the proposals in Duck Lane 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 objections received, Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposed waiting restrictions on Duck Lane, Stalbridge as originally advertised.
Reason for Recommendation	The proposals should improve the movement of vehicles along Duck Lane and give priority for parking to residents and visitors, and to parents dropping off and picking up at the Primary School, rather than all-day parking by employees in the town centre.
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Location Plan Appendix 2 – Drawing No. 2189/1/15A
Background Papers	Ten letters of response are available in the Members Room.  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: Andrew Brown Tel: 01305 225142 Email: a.brown@dorsetcc.gov.uk

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Proposals were advertised for public consultation on 21 November 2014 for a variety of changes to waiting restrictions in Stalbridge. The only objections received were to the proposed No Waiting restrictions in Duck Lane, Stalbridge. This report considers those objections.
- 1.2 Duck Lane is a short cul-de-sac located on the northern side of Stalbridge town centre as shown in Appendix 1. The road is very narrow for most of its length but at the eastern end it has been widened to create a turning circle. At its western end there are older properties including a cycle shop, in the centre section there are accesses to the Stalbridge Primary School and to a large residential home, and at the eastern end there are 4 modern detached houses around the turning circle.
- 1.3 There have been parking problems in Duck Lane for many years and residents of the modern properties at the eastern end of the road have requested waiting restrictions. They were particularly concerned that emergency, refuse and delivery vehicles were sometimes unable to pass along the road due to parked vehicles. The residents requesting the restrictions all have off-street parking adjoining their properties.

## **2. Information**

- 2.1 There are several competing demands for the parking spaces available in Duck Lane. The spaces are used by residents in the vicinity of the western end of Duck Lane who do not have off-street parking including residents on High Street and Church Hill. The spaces are also used for all-day parking by workers in both the town centre and at the adjoining residential home, and by parents and visitors to the Primary School.
- 2.2 County Council officers proposed that No Waiting Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm would be an appropriate restriction on the length of Duck Lane as shown in Appendix 2. This restriction would discourage all-day parking in Duck Lane by workers and give priority to parking by those residents who do not have off-street parking. It would also allow parents to park at school starting and finishing times. To allow for residents who need to park all-day, a length of unrestricted parking would remain on the southern side of Duck Lane at its western end.
- 2.3 The proposed restriction would improve access during Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm. The road would still be very congested at school starting and finishing times, and access would be difficult for large vehicles at those times. The proposed restriction would reduce the number of spaces available for those residents who leave their vehicles parked in Duck Lane during the working day, but it would result in more space being available for residents who return to Duck Lane after 2pm and park overnight and at weekends.

## **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, Stalbridge Town Council and the Police.
- 4.2 There have been 10 responses to the public consultation process, and these are summarised below. There are 3 objections to the proposals from residents who regularly park in Duck Lane, 4 objections for other reasons, and 3 responses from residents strongly supporting the proposals:-

Name and Address	Summary of Response
Mrs P Smith, Old Bank House, High Street, Stalbridge	Objects to the proposed yellow lines. Has no off-street parking so Duck Lane is the closest she and her daughter can park to her property. Workers in the town should park in the free car park.
Mr R Frost, 27 Woodmill Close, Stalbridge	Objects to the proposed yellow lines. They would result in all-day parking moving into Woodmill Close, obstructing accesses. Woodmill Close is already used for drop off/ pick up of school children from the Duck Lane school.
Mrs M Miles, Home View Cottage Church Hill, Stalbridge	Objects to the proposed yellow lines. Has no off-street parking and Duck Lane is the nearest she can park to her property. Parking problems are caused by staff at the adjoining nursing home and school parents.
Mrs B Hunt, Dumbledore, Church Hill, Stalbridge	Objects to the proposed yellow lines. Has no off-street parking and has parked in Duck Lane for 30 years. Husband also parks in Duck Lane, works part-time and returns after lunch.
Mrs M Russell, 22 Cloverfields, Gillingham	Objects to the proposed yellow lines. Works in Stalbridge and sometimes parks in Duck Lane, particularly when the public car park is full. There is very little other parking for workers in the town.
Mr N Brown, Dorset Cycles, High Street, Stalbridge	Objects to the proposed yellow lines. They should be shortened on the south side to provide more spaces for residents. The main problem outside The Tree House and Old Rectory Cottage has not been addressed.
Joint letter from residents of The Tree House and Old Rectory Cottage, Duck Lane, Stalbridge	Consider that the proposals do not address the problem of the pinch-point outside their properties where parking often prevents access into Duck Lane by larger vehicles. Residents parking permits should be considered.
Mr M Dando, The Long House, Duck Lane, Stalbridge	Strongly supports the proposed yellow lines which residents have requested for many years, although would have preferred a longer restricted period. There may still be problems for emergency vehicles entering Duck Lane.
Mr & Mrs J Ross, Bothain, Duck Lane, Stalbridge	Strongly support the proposals which are long overdue, although would have preferred a longer restricted period such as 9am to 3pm. The end of the cul-de-sac is like a large car park due to cars parked all day.
Mr R Kinnibrugh, Teal House, Duck Lane, Stalbridge	Strongly supports the proposals which will reduce congestion, improve safety, and improve the environment for residents. Would prefer a longer restricted period such as 9.30am to 2.30 or 3pm.

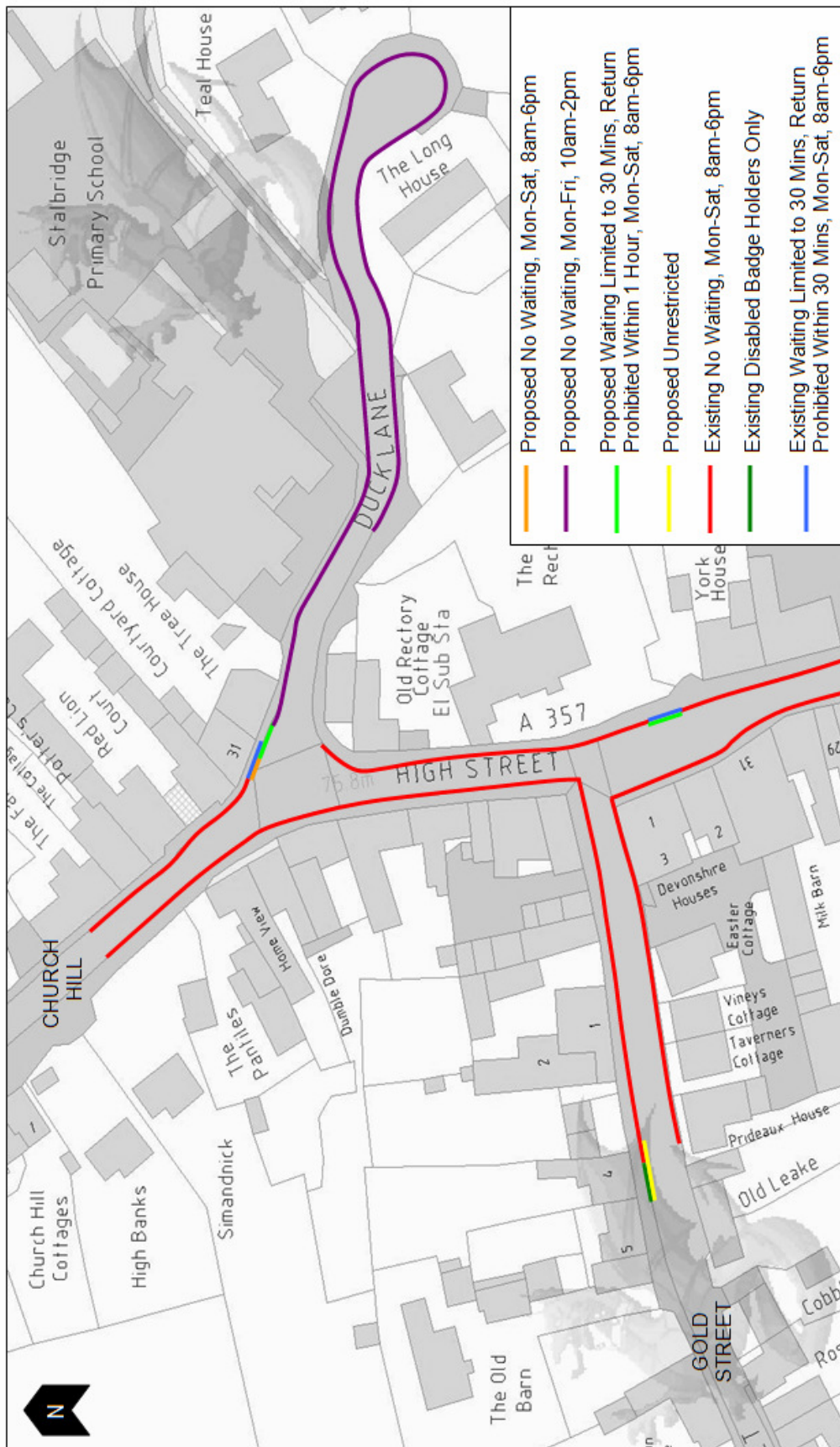
- 4.3 The 3 residents who object and regularly park in Duck Lane all live in Church Hill and High Street close to their junction with Duck Lane. Duck Lane is the nearest on-street parking to their properties and they all mention having more than one vehicle. They all consider that there are times when they need to park in Duck Lane during the working day, and that the proposed restrictions would be detrimental to them.
- 4.4 Of the other 4 objections, one objector lives in Gillingham and parks in Duck Lane while working. Two of the objections relate to the narrowest point in Duck Lane near its western end and suggest that a No Waiting At Any Time restriction is required over a short length. One objector lives in Woodmill Close which is linked by footpath to the eastern end of Duck Lane, and he considers that the proposals will result in all-day parking migrating from Duck Lane into Woodmill Close.
- 4.5 The 3 responses strongly supporting the proposals are from residents of the modern properties at the eastern end of Duck Lane. These residents all have off-street parking within their properties, and they have all commented that they would prefer the restrictions to apply for a longer period such as 9.30am to 3pm.
- 4.6 Having considered all the responses received, it is considered that the current proposals are a reasonable compromise between the differing views of residents in the Duck Lane area. The proposals will only partly remove the problems of access into Duck Lane, but on balance it is considered that the introduction of the proposed restrictions should be progressed rather than leave the situation as existing.


**Andrew Martin**  
Head of Highways  
March 2015

**Location Plan for Duck Lane , Stalbridge**



**Plan of the Duck Lane Proposals**



<p><b>Dorset County Council</b></p>  <p>Environment and the Economy Directorate</p>	<p><b>The County of Dorset High Street and Duck Lane, Stalbridge Proposed Waiting Restrictions</b></p>			<p>Mike Harries Director County Hall Dorchester DT1 1XJ</p>
<p>Scale Not to Scale</p>	<p>Date 30 Apr 2014</p>	<p>Drawn by ASJ</p>	<p>Reproduced from the 2002 Ordnance Survey, 1:1250/1:2500 scale Land Line maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. Dorset C.C., County Hall, Dorchester. Licence No. L4076570</p>	
<p>Drawing No. 2189/1/15A</p>				