



Date of Meeting: 17 September 2019
Lead Member: Cllr Ray Bryan
Local Member(s): Cllr Derek Beer and Cllr Tim Cook
Lead Officer: Jack Wiltshire

Executive Summary:

Following the advertising of proposed changes to parking restrictions in Church Lane and Lyons Walk, Shaftesbury, seven objections and six support have been received to the proposals. This report considers the objections and support received, and whether the proposals in Shaftesbury should be implemented as advertised.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

The proposed waiting restrictions will have the usual exemption for disabled badge holders.

Budget:

The cost of making the Order is estimated at £2000 inclusive of advertising charges.

Risk Assessment:

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW
Residual Risk LOW

Climate implications: N/A

Other Implications: N/A

Recommendation:

That having considered the objections received, Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposed waiting restrictions on Church Lane and Lyons Walk as originally advertised.

Reason for Recommendation:

Church Lane and Lyons Walk are both narrow it also has a tight bend. Frequently parked cars cause obstructions to traffic flow. Both Church Lane and Lyons Walk are very close to the town centre and can be used by non-residents as free parking all day. The proposals will improve the movement of all vehicles that use the road regularly and improve visibility for pedestrians and all vehicles. Larger vehicles such as emergency services will have better access if required.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Drawing No. 2018/1/66
Appendix 2 – Detailed town centre plan

Background Papers:

Responses from the Town Council, Dorset Police and the local County Councillor are held on file in the Environment Infrastructure and Economy Directorate

Officer Contact:

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- 1.1 Proposals were advertised for public consultation on 13 June 2019 for a variety of changes to waiting restrictions in Shaftesbury. Six letters of support were received for the proposals at Church Lane and Lyons Walk, one letter with comments and seven letters of objection. This report considers the objections and support raised.
- 1.2 Church Lane and Lyons Walk are located central to Shaftesbury Town. There are currently restrictions along some sections of Church Lane and Lyons Walk.
- 1.3 There have been parking concerns along Church Lane and Lyons Walk from both Shaftesbury Town Council and the Local Members resulting in a request for waiting restrictions. The concerns were reported to the Community Highway Officers and it was agreed to consult on this Order.
- 1.4 The Town Council and Local Members are particularly concerned that parked vehicles are causing an obstruction to both roads and houses, it also results in damages to the gas meter boxes that are positioned along Lyons Walk.
- 1.5 The problems are reported as throughout the day (i.e. 24-hours) issues, which is why the proposal is to introduce double yellow lines along all lengths of Church Lane and Lyons Walk to prevent cars parking, excluding the existing disabled parking bay.
- 1.6 The proposal will reduce the amount of parking on Church Lane and Lyons Walks in preference to nearby car parks.
- 1.7 There is no record of any collisions in the area in the last five years (yearend 30th April 2019).

2. Information

- 2.1 Council officers proposed that no waiting at any time would be appropriate restrictions along both lengths of Church Lane and Lyons Walk as shown in Appendix 1. The restrictions would discourage parking in Church Lane and Lyons Walk by visitors and town workers parking and walking into Shaftesbury High Street instead of using car parks or other means of transport.
- 2.2 The proposed restriction would improve access for large vehicles including delivery vehicles, refuse vehicles and emergency service vehicles.
- 2.3 Church Lane and Lyons walk are located directly off from Shaftesbury High Street and Lyons Walk is the rear road for the newly refurbished Grosvenor Hotel. See Appendix. 2
- 2.4 Property accesses lead directly onto the highway, due to the style of buildings especially along Lyons Walk, windows are ground level and parked vehicles can block emergency exits to both windows and doors. The proposed restrictions would address this concern.
- 2.5 Gas meter boxes are positioned on the edge of the highway and are frequently obstructed or damaged by vehicles parking or manoeuvring.

3. Law

3.1 Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allow the 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 Council’s procedure, primary consultation was carried out on the proposed scheme and is supported by the Local Member, Shaftesbury Town Council, and the Police.

4.2 There have been 16 responses to the public consultation process for this Order. There are 7 objections to the proposal from residents, 6 support letters, one set of comments, these have all been summarised below:-

Name and Address	Summary of Response – Support of the proposal
Resident Church Lane, Shaftesbury	Fully supportive, very frequently it is impossible to exit onto Bimport or enter from Bimport because of parked vehicles. Same restrictions should also apply in Church Lane, the exception of one car parking space opposite the door of No.6 Church Lane. Many delivery vehicles now use Lyons Walk and Church Lane, members of public will leave cars parked for long periods of the day. Emergency service vehicles need access to these roads.
Freehold Owner Lyons Walk, Shaftesbury	Support the proposals not least to ensure access for emergency vehicles.
Resident Lyons Walk, Shaftesbury	Fully supportive of restrictions in Lyons Walk. Same restrictions should also apply in Church Lane, the exception of one car parking space opposite the door of No.6 Church Lane.
Resident Lyons Walk, Shaftesbury	Delighted to see the notice about the parking restrictions. Parking at the north end of the road (from Bimport) made it virtually impossible for emergency vehicles to get through if they were ever called out.

	<p>Priority should always be to keep Lyons Walk free of parking.</p>
<p>Resident Lyons Walk, Shaftesbury</p>	<p>Concerns that emergency vehicles would be unable to access the properties due to parked cars.</p> <p>Parked vehicles cause a problem for deliveries to the properties as well as blocking the highways for other traffic wishing to pass through.</p>
<p>Resident Lyons Walk, Shaftesbury</p>	<p>Delighted at the proposal to change the parking restrictions, especially along Lyons Walk but also on Church Lane.</p> <p>This narrow lane is not really designed to have cars driving or parked outside its houses. When cars are parked outside the houses, the small lane is impassable for any vehicle larger than a car and drivers of large cars must take extreme caution for fear of hitting the wall or another car. The narrowness of the street would certainly preclude any emergency service vehicles from reaching the front doors of the properties.</p> <p>Many cars park so closely to the houses, that they routinely block important emergency exits from the houses. The houses along Lyons Walk each have a gas meter outside their front door. These are routinely damaged by cars parking in front of houses which break the protective bars or even the boxes themselves which contain the gas meters.</p> <p>Vison is often obscured by parked cars when leaving front doors, this is a danger to small children.</p>
<p>Name and Address</p>	<p>Summary of Response – Opposing the proposal</p>

<p>Residents Lyons Court, Shaftesbury High Street, Shaftesbury Heathlands Way, Shaftesbury Lyons Walk, Shaftesbury High Street, Shaftesbury</p> <p>(all five residents signed copies of the same letter)</p>	<p>There is very low level of risk to given the length of the road and the tight corner where Lyons Walk meets Church Lane, any traffic using the lane does so at a very low speed. I have never witnessed excessive speed or any persons in any danger.</p> <p>The proposal will restrict all parking along the lane, even in the widest sections and yet the disabled bay will remain. Therefore, this suggest that cars parked (sensibly) in the lane do not actually propose an obstruction.</p> <p>The lane allows, at most, 6 cars to park. Everyone parks considerately there has never been a problem with residents parking on the lane obstructing access for others. Residents parking on this lane do so because of the severe lack of unrestricted free parking for residents living in the town centre. Parking available within a reasonable distance to residents living on Lyons Walk or Church Lane, is in Trinity Church Yard. This is on a permit basis at a cost near to £600 per annum. There seems to be a lack of understanding of resident's points of view, or to take time to understand the different points of view. There appears complete disregard by the town council and Dorset Council for residents who are working full time, contributing to the life of Shaftesbury and economy and do not have the means to pay for expensive parking permits. It seems a way of forcing people out of the town, creating a town only supportive of retired wealthy people.</p> <p>Emergency access – we have had no problems to date with emergency vehicles accessing the lane. Both police and ambulance crews have parked and accessed the lane in the last 18 months, with no problems. A fire engine would not be able to access or negotiate the corner where the roads meet, with or without cars parked.</p> <p>The proposed TRO seems excessive and shows no compassion or understanding of different residents' circumstances. I object in the strongest terms. Should the TRO be approved, then I urge the council to consider other</p>
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	options available and come to a compromise, rather than proceed with the proposal.
Resident Lyons Court, Shaftesbury	Personally, parks own car very close to property as not to obstruct anyone driving through Church Lane. As the disabled bay is remaining, the reason for double yellow lines cannot be for obstruction of the road.
Resident Parsons Pool, Shaftesbury	Never an issue with cars being parked.
Name and Address	Summary of Response – Other comments
Resident Coronation Drive, Shaftesbury	Cannot see why this is necessary, not a busy street.

- 4.3 The proposed double yellow lines cover the entire lengths of both Church Lane and Lyons Walk (exception of the existing disabled parking bay) after concerns were raised and supported by Shaftesbury Town Council and the Councillor for Shaftesbury.
- 4.4 The proposed exemption of the disabled parking bay is to ensure that people who meet the eligibility criteria are provided with adequate parking facilities in the vicinity of their homes as part of the Council's policy of providing measures for social inclusion. There is no suitable alternative location for the disabled parking bay it was installed in 2006 and would be replaced with double yellow lines should the bay no longer be required.
- 4.5 The proposed double yellow lines will always enable residents to safely access their properties and allow the free movement of vehicles. Officers are aware that some people park their vehicles with a conscious effort not to obstruct others. However, the concerns that emergency vehicles and repeated obstruction and damage to private property was deemed to outweigh any need to maintain unrestricted parking on Church Lane and Lyons Walk.
- 4.6 Parking permits for residents are available from Shaftesbury Trinity Trust Church at Trinity Church Yard at an annual cost of £575.00, parking permits for residents and/or visitors at Angel Lane and Bell Street car parks bought through Dorset Council at £240 per annum, see appendix 2 for locations of all car parks.
- 4.7 The location of Church Lane and Lyons Walk is just off Shaftesbury High Street, this makes it a popular area of free parking for visitors and people working in the town.

- 4.8 Parking restrictions on Bimport restrict parking Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm 1 hour no return within 2 hours. The restrictions allow for overnight parking and all day parking on Sunday, see appendix 2 for location.
- 4.9 Parking restrictions on High Street restrict parking 8am to 6pm 1 hour no return within 2 hours. The restrictions do allow for overnight parking, see appendix 2 for locations.
- 4.10 Despite parking restrictions further down High Street which restrict parking Friday to Wednesday 8am to 6pm 1 hour no return within 1 hour and no waiting 4am to 4pm on Thursdays; these restrictions allow overnight parking. See appendix 2 for locations.
- 4.11 Emergency vehicle access is a key consideration, and it is understood that the lane is narrow, and fire and rescue vehicles would not be able to manoeuvre the corner from Lyons Walk into Church Street. It is vital however that emergency vehicles can access as far as the corner of both roads at least without damaging parked vehicles or properties.
- 4.12 Having considered all the responses received, it is considered that the current proposals should be progressed rather than leave the situation as existing.

