



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Planning and Regulation Committee
Date:	08 January 2024
Subject:	Sleaford, East Gate and Ashfield Road - proposed amendments to waiting restrictions

Summary:
This report considers objections to proposed amendments to permit only parking bays and waiting restrictions in the vicinity of the William Alvey C of E School

Recommendation(s):
That the Committee overrules the objections so that the Order, as advertised, may be introduced.

Background

The William Alvey school accommodates over 600 pupils and despite promoting the Walking Bus initiative, parking generated by parents bringing children to and from school results in many vehicles parking on East Gate. Monitoring at peak school finish time indicates that up to 20 vehicles park on the north side with an additional 10 on the south side, where currently there are no waiting restrictions. The existing limited waiting bay and to some extent the permit only parking bays on Ashfield Road are also utilised by parents.

Parked vehicles on East Gate results in obstruction to traffic flow, especially for buses, other large vehicles and emergency vehicles exiting the Blue Light Centre. On the south side, vehicles pull onto the adjacent cycleway making it difficult and hazardous to use.

To address these issues a consultation process has taken place outlining the proposals shown at Appendices B1 and B2. A 24 hour restriction on parking is proposed on the south side of East Gate and on the north side around the access into the Blue Light Centre. An extension of existing part time restriction on the north side to apply between 8am and 6pm is also proposed.

To accommodate those vehicles displaced by these restrictions it is proposed to utilise the existing permit bays on Ashfield Road by allowing non permit holders to park within them

for up to 40 minutes. In addition, a new dual use bay is proposed where there are currently no restrictions at the southern end of Ashfield Road. The permit only bays in Duke Street will be retained as provision solely for permit holders on the basis that the bays on Ashfield Road may be fully occupied at certain times.

Objection and comments

Six objections to this scheme have been received. The majority of these object to the proposal to allow the permit only bays on Ashfield Road to be accessed by the general public for a 40 minute period. Some permit holders maintain that as they pay for their permits, this entitles them to park between 8am and 6pm outside their properties and that the proposal favours the general public at the expense of residents. They believe that the scheme will reduce availability for residents' visitors who can access the bays using visitor permits, and ultimately decrease property values. There are concerns that the potential loss of car parks in the town will increase the use of the bays, as will visitors to a new care home being constructed nearby, which will further reduce the opportunity for permit holders to park at all times. They state that there are car parks available to the public nearby and that the permit bays should be retained as exclusive to permit holders. An additional objection relates to parking provision for residents further west on Eastgate who currently use the unrestricted area on Ashfield Road to park. This will be lost if the new dual bay is introduced and as these residents live outside the permit zone, they will not be eligible for permits to use the bays. A request has also been received for an extension to the proposed double yellow lines to the west of the junction with the Blue Light Centre.

The concerns of permit holders have been considered. Surveys to confirm the use of the bays have been carried out, most recently on 20th December. The capacity of the bays on Ashfield Road is 16 spaces but it was noted that the number of permit holders using them was just two. In Duke Street the capacity is 15 spaces and five vehicles with permits were parked. These findings are consistent with similar results of surveys carried out previously and suggest that the permit bays are underused and could support the dual use proposed to accommodate the potential displacement of vehicles from East Gate. Owing to the area's close proximity to the town centre the unrestricted section of Ashfield Road is likely to be used by commuters and it will therefore not be readily available to residents. The space was observed to be full of parked vehicles during the recent survey. The new bay will apply during the day, Monday – Saturday, and will therefore be available to all during the evenings and on Sundays.

We would not support a further extension to the double yellow lines proposed on East Gate. The extent proposed is sufficient for the purposes of protecting the junction with the Blue Light Centre at all times.

Conclusion

This proposal aims to provide dual use within the permit parking bays on Ashfield Road as part of a wider scheme to reduce parking on Eastgate, where this causes issues for traffic flow and obstructs the cycleway facility at school start and finish times. With only limited

space available for parking within the highway but high demand at certain times of the day, the scheme seeks to utilise existing space more effectively by providing short stay parking for the general public within parking bays which are currently underused.

Consultation

The following were consulted with regard to these proposals: Local Member, North Kesteven District Council; Sleaford Town Council; Lincolnshire Police; EMAS; Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue; Road Haulage Association; Freight Transport Association; National Farmers Association; Stagecoach; Centrebus; Traffic Commissioners; Confederation of Public Transport; Willaim Alvey School; all potentially affected residents and businesses. The local Member supports the proposals.

Following statutory consultation the proposals were advertised last November.

Risks and Impact Analysis

None carried out.

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Site location
Appendices B1 and B2	Detail of proposed Waiting Restrictions

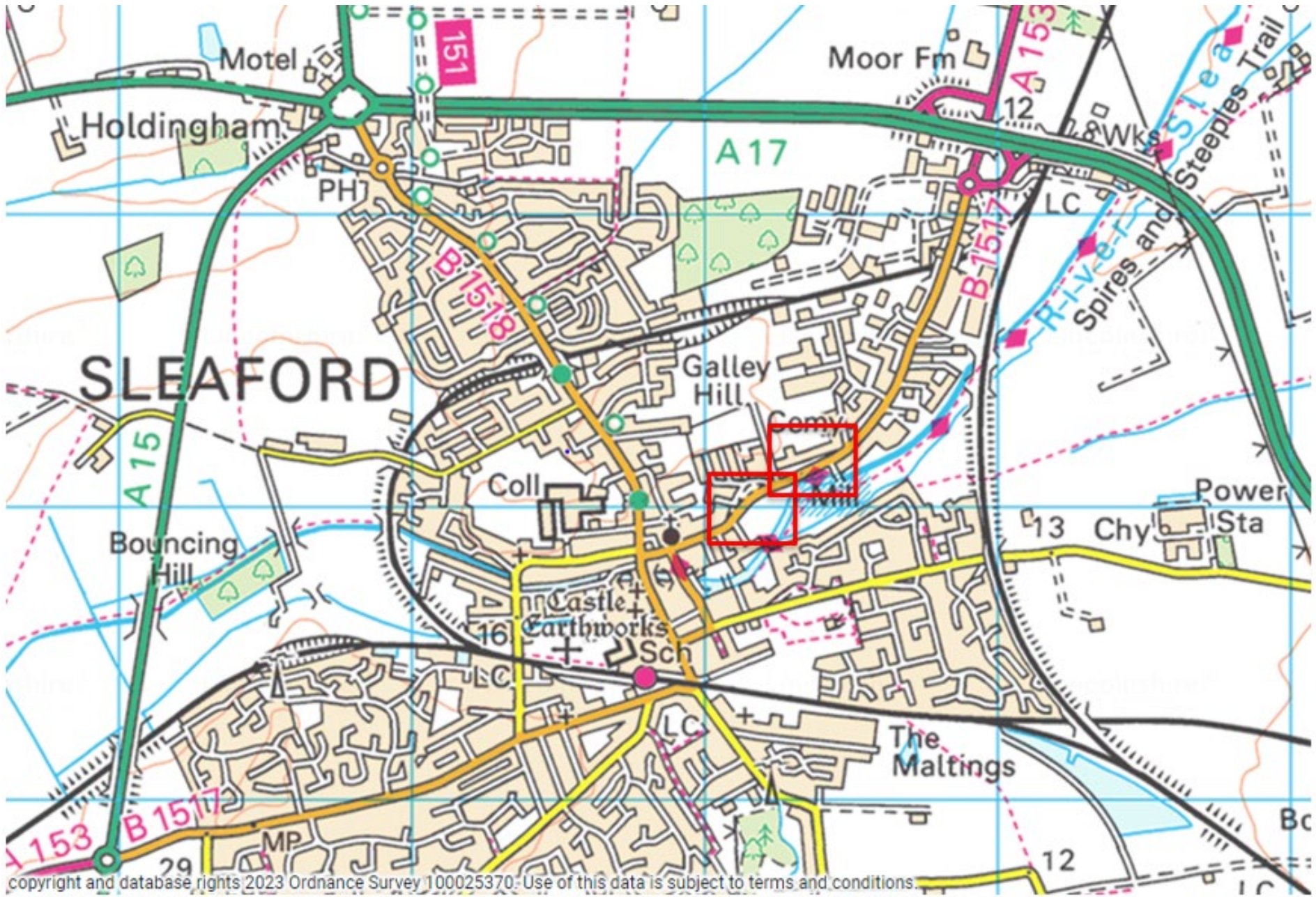
Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

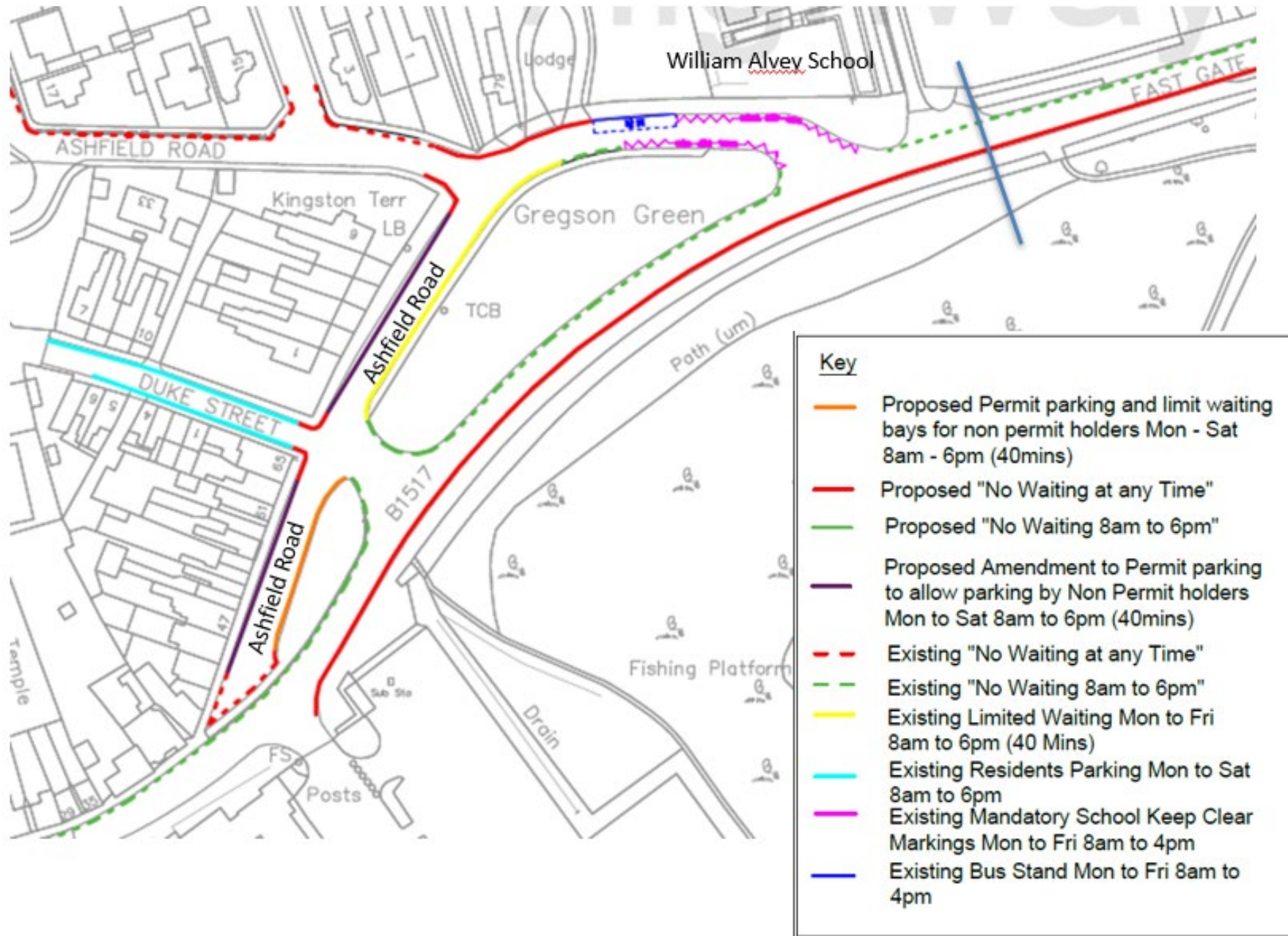
Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Consultation documents, survey information and correspondence	Available on request

This report was written by Jeanne Gibson, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or at TRO@lincolnshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX A : Sleaford, East Gate and Ashfield Road - proposed amendments to waiting restrictions



APPENDIX B1 : Sleaford, East Gate and Ashfield Road - proposed amendments to waiting restrictions



APPENDIX B2 : Sleaford, East Gate and Ashfield Road - proposed amendments to waiting restrictions

