

Agenda Item 4.1



Regulatory and Other Committee

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

Report to:	Planning and Regulation Committee
Date:	13 January 2020
Subject:	Marston: Main St, School lane and Stonepit lane – proposed waiting restrictions

Summary:

This report considers objections to a proposal for a traffic regulation order to introduce waiting restrictions at Main Street, School Lane and Stonepit Lane, Marston.

Recommendation(s):

That the objections are overruled and the order as advertised be introduced.

1. Background

Following concerns raised by residents with regard to parking in the vicinity of the village school, visits to the area took place to investigate the issues raised.

A school safety zone has been in place on Main Street and School Lane for some time. This advises a 'no stopping' restriction on the zig zag markings daily between 8 – 9 am and 3 - 4 pm, and is generally well observed. This being the case, at school drop off and pick up times parking takes place beyond the zone further along School Lane, on Stonepit Lane and around its junction with Main Street. Observations confirm that this can result in obstruction to footways, private accesses and traffic flow, and to visibility for vehicles exiting Stonepit Lane. In order to manage parking at these locations and therefore improve pedestrian safety and traffic flow it is proposed to introduce a 24 hour restriction to remove parking on one side of the road only or on both sides where the carriageway narrows down. The extents of the restriction are shown at Appendix A, and these were publicly advertised from 23 August until 20 September 2019.

1.1 Objections

Twenty-six objections and comments were received following the public advertisement of these proposals. These raised the following concerns:

- The proposals are too onerous, are unnecessary and an overreaction to minor traffic disruption which is inevitable in areas around schools.

- The removal of parking will result in increased traffic speeds.
- The Parish Council objects to the restrictions on School Lane, preferring an extension of the school safety zone to include the access to the school car park.
- Parking will relocate to Main Street where it will cause disruption to traffic flow and safety.
- Suggestions are made that the restrictions should apply at school start and finish times only to reduce the impact on parking for visitors to the Community Hub. It is felt that the restrictions as proposed will reduce attendance at the Hub and the church, and will affect pupil numbers attending the school.

1.2 Comments

Site visits have confirmed that parked vehicles on School Lane and Stonepit Lane result in obstruction to footways and traffic flow, and parking on Main Street impairs visibility for vehicles exiting Stonepit Lane. The restrictions proposed are the minimum required to manage on street parking whilst retaining provision wherever possible. It is unlikely that traffic speeds will increase following a reduction in parking given the distances involved.

The proposals comprise enforceable restrictions as opposed to the advisory status of the school safety zone markings. For this reason a traffic regulation order is preferable to an extension of the zone as suggested.

It is understood that parking may be displaced further away from the school beyond the extents of the school safety zone on Main Street. Displacement of on street parking is taken into consideration in the design of schemes which restrict parking. However such parking on Main Street is unlikely to result in obstruction to traffic flow as the carriageway here is generally wider throughout than it is on the side roads.

Requests for a lesser restriction to be imposed are noted. However the 24 hour restriction is proposed where parked vehicles will potentially cause an issue for through traffic and residents' access at any time. This being the case a part time restriction will not remedy the situation, and after consideration, was not pursued as an option. The unrestricted lengths will remain available to visitors to the Community Hub and church and it should be borne in mind that the restriction imposed by the school safety zone applies between 8 and 9am and 3 and 4pm only. Its effect on parking is therefore minimal and as it is an advisory restriction it cannot be enforced.

2. Conclusion

The restrictions proposed serve to manage on street parking on roads and junctions in the vicinity of the local primary school. It is anticipated that improvements to pedestrian safety and traffic flow will result following their introduction.

3. Consultation

The following were consulted with regard to these proposals: Local Member and District Councillors; Marston Parish Council; South Kesteven District Council; Lincolnshire Police; EMAS; Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue; Road Haulage Association; Freight Transport Association; Lincs Interconnect Bus Service; Centrebus.

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out??

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Plan showing extent of proposed restrictions.

Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Copies of objections.	

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