TO:

**SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD** 

DATE:

26<sup>th</sup> March 2007

SUBJECT:

**WAITING RESTRICTIONS - CONSULTATION RESULTS** 

BY:

Head of Technical Services

Classification:

Unrestricted

Summary:

Members to consider the results of recent consultation exercise carried out in the Queenborough location in relation to new

waiting restrictions

**Decision Required:** 

Members are asked to note the comments received and recommend that the waiting restrictions are installed in Queenborough, and the consultees are notified accordingly

### Introduction

- 1. One of the outcomes from the public consultation in relation to the major regeneration proposals for the area was the residents concerns regarding parking problems experienced in Queenborough. Following this consultation process, a number of sub groups were established to examine specific issues. One of these groups, the Traffic/Transport and Safety Group, have highlighted the issues and have provided a positive contribution to the development of options to introduce restrictions to improve the safety of the highway network in Queenborough.
- 2. An initial consultation undertaken last year showed that there was general support for the introduction of new restrictions within Queenborough, albeit with some changes to the scheme proposed. The results of this consultation are shown in Annex A. Further consultation has now taken place for the final version of the scheme taking on board comments from the original consultation. The results of this consultation are the subject of this report, and are included in Annex B.
- 3. The consultation material, which includes a plan of the proposals, has been included in Annex C

### **Discussion**

4. The proposed restrictions will help in areas where parking causes problems for visibility and access. The initial consultation showed support for the introduction of the proposals, and did suggest some amendments. The scheme was refined taking on board the comments and we did receive some comments on this final version. The consultation did highlight that the some residents feel there is a need for a form of traffic calming and improving the layout of the narrow sections of the highway.

5. A letter was received during the consultation this is included in Annex D, along with the response from Swale Borough Council.

# Recommendation

6. Members are asked to note the comments received and recommend that the waiting restrictions are installed in Queenborough, and the consultees are notified accordingly

### Reason for Recommendation

7. The proposed restrictions will improve the safety and operation of the highway network in Queenborough

Author - Ext. Brett O'Connell 7061

Date 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007

List of background documents -

QUEENBOROUGH HIGH STREET AREA

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QUEENBOROUGH HIGH STREET AREA

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Again one side only, both sides pointless Would in theory support DYL proposed but can see problems from parked cars moving to non restricted areas & blocking SHA garages & causing congestion at Church Hall. Restrictions in place at Library are often ignored. If new restrictions not inforced, then waste of time. o/s property no 20. Traffic problems mainly caused by Transporter iorries, if they were banned it would reduce congestion. Current parking slows down traffic and reduced risk of speeding vehicles. Vehicles must be clear at the comer of Chalk Road & North Road to allow a view for exit and entry. At the moment comer is blind. is your aim to clear road so no-one slows down to take turns to go through gap? When this is achieved will you put humps in to slow cars down. very good made available? Too narrow for vehicles to be parked, but where are the residents going to park? Will part of South St and Creek Side be If yellow line installed I will require Crossover or DB which could cause restrictions. Am Blue badge holder and need park Comments ANNEX A

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Well Road North Road Chalk Road Well Road High Street North Road Chalk Road Well Road Address Support Support Support Object Object Object Object High St North Rd Chalk Rd Well Rd High St North Rd Chalk Rd Well Rd as above Most cars are parked off the road. Only halfway along with single line will force parking towards Church Hall and ols my where there is parking space. Q/Boro. It would be easier to make lorries go via North Road to get to the creek and MIT etc. or move Doctors to Community Hall where there is parking space. It's the doctors causing the problems. Lines o/s will push us who live close by up around Good idea in theory, but where are we supposed to park, as it is I have to use car park which is ok at the moment, athough a lot of commuters park there. The car park isn't big enough to take the rest of the those who can't park in their Proposal will cause serious problems for the residents on the north and south side. Residents who are elderly and disabled. Town counciliors who suppport this should support the residents not work against them. Put a restriction on large and heavy lorries using High St. except for access My opinion the proposed DL's are on the wrong side. Where will the cars go? The problem is the iomes speeding down the road. Stop the iomes problem solved. Live opp Church and have one car damaged, and seen and heard many near misses due to parking on both sides of the road. Comments ANNEX A

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Patients at the doctors cause the problems not residents. Town Council not had courtesy to come and talk to residents or assess the problem. What data do you have. What do you intend to do about enforcement when you cannot stop car transporters parking on yellow lines or five at the chip shop at 5pm. Have you spoken to doctors to sacrifice their wall, this would solve problem. Situation needs careful throught not heavy handed action. Car situation will get worse and parking
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Will council put in drop kerbs for a cars will make it more dangerous.
Where will residents park
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Object to section o/s Q/boro church. There is barely enough space for residents and visitors. New restrictions should only be applied to solve major safety issue. This section is not essential on these grounds. Visitors to shops, doctors, pubs, guildhall etc need parking space as well as residents.
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Vans park across yellow lines onto f/w police and traffic wardens not interested
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QUEENBOROUGH HIGH STREET AREA

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# Queenborough High Street Area - Proposed Waiting restrictions

Resident Ref No.	Resident Comment/Objection Ref No.	Response
1	Pleased about this. Have cars parked o/s property from Woodhall Terrace. Fed up with cars and lorries having to go on the footway past my house. Hope this goes ahead sooner the better.	The proposals will allow better vehicle movements.
2	I park my car outside my property in Well Road. On few occasions I have had to park in the Library car park, like a few other residents in my block but the car has been vandalised. This is an on going problem. By putting yellow lines outside our building would be a real worry for this reason. I would even buy a parking permit to avoid this and so would others in the block	Cars being vandalised is a Police issue. There are no current Plans to introduce permit parking.
<b>o</b>	I agree with your plan but I am disabled and cutting-parking restrictions will only make North Road more hazardous as people will park from the High St into North Road. What really needs doing is having sleeping policemen all way along North Road; also ban lorries from North Road. This is what most people would like and there would no further problems.	K.C.C are the Highway Authority. They introduce traffic calming There are no current plans to introduce a weight restriction in this area.
10	Firstly there does not appear to be any revision to initial proposal, therefore comments not taken on board. Cannot see need for single yellow lines in North Road when a continuous double yellow lines on the south side of North Road would do. I do not know of any resident parking problems. Only problems I see are speeding traffic and HGV traffic. Traffic calming, speed or width restriction would do a better job. As it is the parked vehicles on North Road act as a traffic calming measure. Therefore I vehemently oppose these parking restrictions.	Comments have been noted and where feasible included within the amended plan. The proposals will allow better vehicle movements. Residents have highlighted parking problems. K.C.C are the Highway Authority and they introduce traffic calming and speed restrictions.

8	The problem is not with parking, it is the heavy traffic. The car transporters that do not obey the speed restrictions.	K.C.C are the Highway Authority that introduce traffic calming schemes.
4	We have difficulty parking outside property and accessing our drive due to people blocking these areas. So we have to park near War Memorial or not move car out of drive. We are concerned if double yellow lines were placed there the problem will increase. What is the possibility of residents parking? Our concerns relate to the patrons of the pub and other visitors to the area.	The double yellow lines should deter vehicles from blocking driveways. There are no current plans to introduce residents parking.
5	The extension of double yellow lines could be successful if it is enforced; the present double yellow lines are not. It also needs to be extended to the whole of High Street and South Street areas and possible residents only parking in the area of public houses. South Street and creek have real problems with footway parking. Enforcement of parking in these areas appears to be extinct.	All new parking restrictions will be enforced at regular intervals, although, attendants cannot be there all the time. There are no current plans to introduce residents parking.
9	My main concern regarding the new proposed, no parking in the High Street. Where are the residents meant to park, they need somewhere. Why not make the High street one-way also North Road going down the High Street and out of North Road on to Railway Terrace or opposite direction.	Restrictions are proposed where there are current problems with visibility and vehicle movements. There are no current plans to make the High Street one-way.
8	Suggest widening the High St between 91-183 to get rid of bottleneck there is a very wide pavement there. No parking by War Memorial outside the church will cause problems at weddings and funerals.	K.C.C are the Highway Authority that introduces highway alterations. The effect of restrictions outside the church will be minor and intermittent.
<del>-</del>	I did write and enclose photo with first proposal. Our problem will increase with the new proposals. Our property is a very old building; problems with parking on the footway will not be helped at all. Constant parking so near to property, especially heavy vans is causing the cellar walls at the front to push in. This narrow part of the High Street needs bollards to stop this constant nuisance, which is affecting the quality of our life.	K.C.C are the Highway Authority that addresses parking on footways.
13	Parking outside my property is hit and miss. If double yellow lines were introduced we would never be able to park. I suggest parking permits or one-way system. Main problem is people using Rose Pub and leaving their cars by the war memorial and outside our houses. The other problem area is people going to the church and leaving their cars anywhere	Parking within any High Street area is a premium. No one is guaranteed a parking space. There are no current plans to introduce permit parking or one-way system.
14	Single yellow lines outside doctors does not help because other local residents park there, when they cannot park in High Street. You have not offered alternative parking for residents in the High Street yet you are taking away parking places. Further along High Street. Opposite The Rose Pub have double yellow lines again	Reply letter sent by Ian Lewis.

	could be demolished as no one will be able to park. Double yellow lines opposite The Rose and Crown in conjunction with double yellow lines in front war memorial you are encouraging part of High Street to become race track. Changes made to 133-139 High Street have made matters worse because of knock on effect. Comments about local councillor living in area and closing local shop. Requesting reply to this letter and dates for coming in to see other letters under Freedom of Information Act. Copy of letter given to land.	
15	Not just the parking problem to be resolved, there has got to be some speed reduction measures installed. Our front door is one step from the main road, many occasions our 5yr old has had to jump back in fear of the maniacs who hurtle through.	K.C.C are the Highway Authority that introduces traffic calming schemes.
~	Double yellow lines should be extended by another property either side of Chalk Road turning left on the North Road and the same from Well Road turning right in North Road. The existing yellow lines make it difficult with those travelling from either end to see clearly other vehicles and prevent vehicles mounting the footway endangering pedestrians.	If the proposed is implemented then the layout of the scheme will be monitored and adjusted if needed.
16	Support the proposed restrictions. Could the double yellow lines be extended just across my access at the junction of Well Road and Castle Street in accordance with the enclosed letter and attached plan? Access to our property is imperative at all times, son is severely disabled and wheelchair bound, I am also registered disabled and we both require ambulance access periodically	If the proposed is implemented then the layout of the scheme will be monitored and adjusted if needed.
12	No specífic observations	
17	Really do not see how theses plans are set to benefit the residents. Main problems are due to lorries coming past at all hours at speed. I disagree completely against these proposals.	K.C.C are the Highway Authority that introduces traffic calming schemes. There are no current plans to introduce a weight restriction in this area.
18	The doctor surgery patients cause the problems not the residents. The single yellow line proposed outside the surgery should improve things, but the area will need to be enforced. The ultimate achievement would be to get rid off the surgery and combine it with the doctor's new building in Sheerness.	All new parking restrictions will be enforced at regular intervals, although, attendants cannot be there all the time.

### ANNEX C

To the Resident/Occupier Queenborough Area

Please ask for: Mr Brett O'Connell

Direct Line:

01795 417061

Fax:

01795 417477 brettoconnell@swale.gov.uk

E-mail: Our Ref:

Date:

February 2007

Dear Resident

## Proposed Parking Restrictions in Queenborough

As you are probably aware we are planning on introducing various parking restrictions within the Queenborough area. During a consultation in relation to the major regeneration proposals for the area, residents highlighted parking problems experienced within Queenborough.

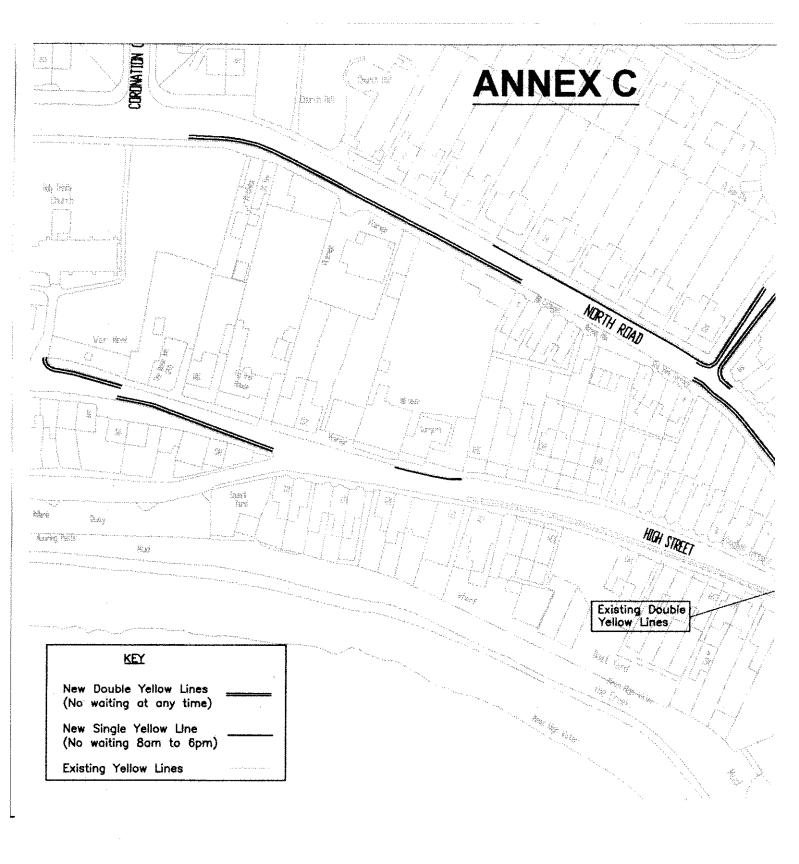
A proposal was submitted to the residents and comments were received in regards to the layout. Following on from the last consultation, we have taken on board your comments and revised the proposals.

A plan of the proposed restrictions is on the reverse of this letter.

If you have any comments on the proposed restrictions then please fill out the form and return in the envelope provided no later than Tuesday 27th February 2007.

Yours sincerely

Brett O'Connell **Assistant Engineer** Swale Borough Council



Brett O'Connell Assistant Engineer Technical Services Swale Borough Council Swale House East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT

16th February 2007

Dear Mr Brett

### Proposed Parking Restrictions in Queenborough

I am in receipt of your Circular dated February 2007 in respect of the above proposed parking restrictions in Queenborough and it is blatantly obvious that your Council/Department have not taken the trouble to really look into the problem that your proposals are going to create for the residents of Queenborough High Street. I would like to know if anybody from your Department has in fact taken the time and effort to come out to the High Street in Queenborough during the Surgery Hours at Mill House, High Street, Queenborough and after 6.00pm parking availability for local residents. If they have then they should be fully aware of the enormous problems that exist for local residents in Queenborough High Street during surgery hours and after 6.00pm in trying to find a place to park their vehicle. Once a local resident actually finds a parking space in this area, we do not dare let go of it for fear of not being able to park again. Today has been a prime example of the fact that I have had to drive around four times in order to wait and find a parking space along the High Street. This further driving around only impounds on local residents safety and the environmental pollution increase. Trying to find a parking space along this part of Queenborough High Street is exactly like waiting for parking spaces to become available on a Saturday at Wincheap Park & Ride! A nightmare.

Your initial proposals showed double yellow lines across the doctor's surgery parking area, which have now been downgraded to a single yellow line. This does not help local residents by the downgrading because local residents do not in fact park on that bit of road because other local residents use the doctor's surgery (out of surgery hours) to park their cars because they cannot find a parking space at the side of the road in the High Street. Therefore if anyone parks across the doctor's surgery entrance then those local residents already parked there would not be able to get out. The parking problem arises when DOCTORS' PATIENTS park their cars in front of this area and it now appears that Swale Borough Council are penalising local residents in the High Street for the wrongdoings of people who do not even live in the High Street. Your Council have not offered ANY ALTERNATIVRE PARKING AREAS for local residents in the High Street YET YOU ARE TAKING AWAY PARKING PLACES FROM US. As a local resident I would like to know where are our council tax payments going to if your Council are not improving the local area for us?

Further along the High Street and opposite The Rose Pub your Council have left in place DOUBLE YELLOW LINES again outside local residents homes and also in front of a very cherished War Memorial that commemorates local residents lost soldiers. This implies to me as a local resident that our local church is going to be demolished as no-one will be able to park their cars for Sunday Services, Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms and Visiting because there will be nowhere to park. Queenborough Church attracts worshippers from all over the Island and due to the disgraceful public transport service on a Sunday, those people are forced to use their vehicles to attend Church. I am sure that there are some Human Rights Elements within the placing of double yellow lines put in front of a House of God!

With regard to the double yellow lines opposite The Rose Crown, in conjunction with the double yellow lines in front of the war memorial, your Council are blatantly encouraging this part of the High Street to be used as a 'race track' as when there are only a few vehicles parked along this stretch of road, other vehicles are driven at high speed because they have a clear view of the road from the absence of obstructing vehicles. I myself have been a victim of broken wing mirrors due to the excessive speed that vehicles travel at when there is a clear road along the High Street.

Contained in my 1st set of observations, I brought to your attention the fact that there are four town houses in the High Street that have under-house parking areas incorporated when they were built and there have been times when residents cannot get their cars out due to vehicles being parked across their entrances. To me it seemed VERY SENSIBLE that double yellow lines be placed along that stretch of road and the existing double yellow lines from 133 High Street until just after 139 High Street be removed and placed directly opposite to assist those residents. AGAIN you have totally ignored that aspect which would help local residents out with their parking problems. INSTEAD you have only in fact made matters worse for those local residents because now there are more restrictions further up the High Street for local residents, those local residents in that area will be looking to park their cars further down the High Street which will impact upon the doctor's surgery area, which in turn will impact upon local residents in that area, which in turn will impact on those local residents who have under-house parking facilities. Great Job SBC! (not). I personally can see future altercations due to frayed tempers about parking spaces.

Your Council's proposals appear to me, as a very concerned local resident, to be extremely inconsiderate towards the local residents needs and in favouritism of those residents who live further up the High Street nearer to the sea front. I would mention that there is a Borough/Town Councillor living in that part of the High Street but I am sure that would not influence your Council's decision at all to do nothing in that part of the High Street. As previously stated there are parking issues at the end of the High Street too but it is blatantly clear that your Council are not bothered with road accidents from vehicles parked in the middle of the road with their engines left running whilst drivers enter the local shop. A possible solution would be to SHUT the LOCAL SHOP and then cars would not stop in the middle of the road with engines running and unattended.

As I have already stated in this letter my great objections to your proposals and the blatant blanking of the problems your Council are causing local residents, it is a great shame that local residents and local businesses pay taxes to your Council only to have that money spent on hampering their way of life and causing us local residents more grief and stress with your ill-thought out proposals.

I look forward to your response to the issues contained in this letter as well as my first letter of objection, but I do feel that your Council only give us local residents 'lip service' on issues that your Council have already rubber stamped.

I would be most interested in viewing the Letters/Proposals in respect of these parking restrictions under the legal right contained within the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore please forward to me dates that I will be able to attend at your Council Offices for viewing.

Yours faithfully

Cc: SBC Council Leader

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Date:

27 February 2007

Dear

# **Queenborough Parking Restrictions**

Thank you for your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007 regarding the above.

In areas constructed towards the end of the 19th century there is a general issue with parking provision. This is simply due to the fact that the demands of the 21st century could not have been foreseen, particularly when you consider the impact of the motor car. In these areas it is very difficult to accommodate the needs of residents, particularly if they have more than one car per property. This creates the situation where demand for parking vastly outweighs the space available.

Against this, we must also provide a safe highway for use by motorists. In the case of Queenborough High Street, this has meant that restrictions have had to be placed to give a safe route for all road users. If parking were left uncontrolled then this would result in vehicles parking in inappropriate places which would prevent access, particularly so for emergency vehicles.

The restrictions outside the doctors surgery have been downgraded to a single yellow line to allow residents to park in the evening and at weekends. This change to the original proposals was as a result of the initial consultation.

In the Rose and Crown Pub/War Memorial area the restrictions on the south side have been placed to reinforce that parking should not take place there; currently this area is not used because of the reduced width of the road so has no detrimental effect on parking space available. Cont'd





The yellow lines at the war memorial have been placed to form a gap, particularly in the evening and overnight. This is because currently vehicles park along the northern side in such a way that does not allow drivers to assess if it is safe to proceed eastbound before committing themselves to a single traffic lane. This gap will allow drivers to check that it is safe to proceed before doing so.

Placing double yellow lines across the driveways of the town houses would not create a useable parking space on the opposite side of the road. Our observations from visiting the area in the evening are that residents and visitors to these properties do use the space across the driveways for parking, which is a good use of the space available.

The results from the initial consultation regarding the restrictions were positive. Taking on board the comments we have had back, we have amended the scheme accordingly. The area around your home does have a very high demand for parking, and it must be accepted that it will not be possible to find a space nearby and that on occasion you may need to park further away from your home than you may wish. From our evening visits we have observed that there is usually space in the High Street heading towards the sea and that the car park at the end of the High Street is very lightly used.

This process has been taken forward through a number of meetings of the Traffic and Transport/Safety committee, which you have been involved with but have not attended for some time. Your point about favouring different parts of the High Street is unfounded; there are simply fewer issues in relation to parking at the western end of the High Street.

With regard to your request to view responses, can I ask that you contact Brett O'Connell directly to arrange an appointment. He is now leading this particular project and can be contacted on 01795 417061.

Yours sincerely

lan Lewis

Principal Engineer

CC Cllr Andrew Bowles

Austin Clays