

**SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**Agenda Item: 7**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Report Title</b>	Formal Objections to Traffic Regulation Order – Swale Amendment 7
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Tim Valentine
<b>Head of Service</b>	Martyn Cassell
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Mike Knowles (SBC)
<b>Classification</b>	Open

<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>Members are asked to note the formal objections received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) the proposed double yellow lines in Church Road, Eastchurch, be progressed as detailed in the Traffic Regulation Order;</li><li>(b) the proposed double yellow lines in Cormorant Road, Iwade, <b>either</b> be progressed <b>or</b> abandoned;</li><li>(c) the proposed double yellow lines for the kerb build-out in The Mall, Faversham, <b>either</b> be progressed <b>or</b> the waiting restrictions and KCC Scheme be abandoned;</li><li>(d) the proposed double yellow lines on the junction of Gore Court Road and Whitehall Road, Sittingbourne, be progressed <b>either</b> as detailed in the Traffic Regulation Order <b>or</b> at a reduced length of 10 metres either side of the junction;</li><li>(e) that the proposed extension to the double yellow lines in Conyer Road, Teynham, <b>either</b> be progressed <b>or</b> abandoned.</li></ul>
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## 1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of objections received to the recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order, Swale Amendment 7, which covers various amendments to on-street waiting restrictions in the Borough.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 A Traffic Regulation Order has been drafted for various proposed amendments to on-street waiting restrictions in Swale, and a copy of this Order can be found in Annex A. A Statement of Reasons summarising the contents of the Order can be found in Annex B. A number of formal objections have been received to some of these proposals, and these are discussed below.

## 3. Issue for Decision

- 3.1 A copy of the formal objections received can be found in Annex C, and plans of the proposals for each of these areas can be found in Annex D.

### Church Road, Eastchurch – Proposed Double Yellow Lines

- 3.2 Following a request from Eastchurch Parish Council, proposals to install double yellow lines on the east side of Church Road, from the existing double yellow lines on the junction with High Street down to the southern boundary of 19b Church Road, were added to our current Traffic Regulation Order. The proposals, to be funded by the Parish Council, were developed to tackle problems with parked vehicles hindering traffic flow down Church Road.
- 3.3 Prior to the Borough Council adding these to the Traffic Regulation Order, the Parish Council undertook an informal consultation with residents of Church Road, and the response suggested residents were in favour of the proposals. A copy of the consultation material from the Parish Council can be found in Annex E.
- 3.4 One formal objection has been received in relation to the proposed restrictions, from a resident of Church Road. The objection states that the proposals will cause issues between residents over parking, with some residents already placing bins in the carriageway to reserve parking spaces. Comments have also been made around some properties having a large number of commercial vehicles, and the personal issues experienced in finding a parking space and the need to carry a disabled child. With regard to the comments around the proposed one-way system for Church Road, we have been advised that Kent County Council intend to start work on this scheme in September.
- 3.5 Ward Member Comments: A Ward Member has commented on the proposals by saying *“knowing the problems with passing parked vehicles in this section of Church Road, I agree totally with Eastchurch PC, however as with all the parishes in Eastern Sheppey the restrictions mean nothing if not enforced and that’s the problem, there is nominal enforcement at present”*.

3.6 Eastchurch Parish Council Comments: The Parish Council have kindly provided a response to the objection received, and a copy of this response can be found in Annex F.

Cormorant Road, Iwade – Proposed Double Yellow Lines

3.7 Following a request from the County Member for the area, proposals to install double yellow lines in Cormorant Road in Iwade, opposite the junction of Wigeon Road, were added to our current Traffic Regulation Order. The proposals, to be funded through the County Member's Highway Grant, were requested to tackle issues with parked vehicles obstructing the movement of cars from off-street parking facilities opposite.

3.8 Two formal objections have been received in relation to the proposed double yellow lines, both from nearby residents. Comments in the formal objections include the fact that parked vehicles at this location are not causing an obstruction, and that parking is already difficult due to lack of capacity. The question has also been raised as to why this area has been pinpointed as it is stated the situation is similar throughout the village. Suggestions have also been made that part of the existing grass verge in Sandpiper Lane could be made into additional on-street parking, and the "emergency only" access could be opened to reduce traffic flows through the current singular route in and out of the estate.

3.9 County Member Comments: Comments from the County Member have been invited, and at the time of writing this report, we are awaiting a response. Any comments received after the submission of this report will be reported verbally to the Swale Joint Transportation Board.

3.10 Iwade Parish Council Comments: The Clerk to the Parish Council kindly e-mailed Parish Councillors asking them to respond if they had any concerns regarding the proposals. As no responses were received, it was assumed that the Parish Councillors were happy for the proposals to proceed.

3.11 Ward Member Comments: Comments from the Ward Members have been invited, and at the time of writing this report, we are awaiting a response. Any comments received after the submission of this report will be reported verbally to the Swale Joint Transportation Board.

The Mall, Faversham – Proposed Double Yellow Lines

3.12 A request was received from the Traffic Schemes Team of Kent County Council for a length of approximately 15 metres of double yellow lines for The Mall in Faversham to be included in our latest Traffic Regulation Order. The KCC Scheme consists of a kerb build-out opposite the former Crown and Anchor Public House in The Mall, in an existing section of Residents' Parking Bays, and part of this work will include the installation of double yellow lines around the build-out.

3.13 At the time of writing this report, a total of 8 formal objections have been received against the proposed scheme, and these objections have been referred to Kent County Council for comment. The majority of comments received are around the

already limited on-street parking capacity in The Mall and the suitability of the proposed scheme from Kent County Council.

- 3.14 Kent County Council have provided the following comment following receipt of the formal objections to date: *Kent County Council is promoting a scheme to install a buildout on the west side of The Mall immediately south of the junction with Nelson Street. This was following representations from local residents via their elected representatives for better pedestrian crossing facilities on The Mall and specifically for pedestrians travelling between the rail station and Abbey School. In 2018, the County Council undertook traffic and pedestrian surveys on The Mall, funded through the Combined Member Grant to understand if a Zebra pedestrian crossing may be justified. The data showed that, whereas there was a regular flow of pedestrians throughout the day, the number fell significantly short of what would normally be considered sufficient to justify a crossing. If a Zebra crossing was installed in these circumstances, it could lead to an increase in collisions so was not pursued. However, it was recognised that minor improvements could be implemented to make crossing easier and safer for pedestrians. (An alternative location for a crossing point was also proposed by residents at the easternmost end of Forbes Road. This was also discounted on road safety grounds given its poor visibility and proximity to the junction with the minor arm of The Mall.)*
- 3.15 Faversham Town Council Comments: Comments from the Town Council have been invited, and at the time of writing this report, we are awaiting a response. Any comments received after the submission of this report will be reported verbally to the Swale Joint Transportation Board.
- 3.16 Ward and County Member Comments: A Ward Member for the area has provided the following comments regarding the proposals for The Mall: *"As a ward councillor I support the plan to make a safer place for pedestrians to cross the Mall. However I also support the residents' concerns at the difficulty parking in the area. I would ask therefore that the JTB considers either amending the residents' parking scheme to favour residents, and or to consider the addition of resident parking bays along parts of Forbes Road."* Comments from the County Member have also been invited, and at the time of writing this report, we are awaiting a response. Any comments received after the submission of this report will be reported verbally to the Swale Joint Transportation Board.
- 3.17 Gore Court Road/Whitehall Road, Sittingbourne – Proposed Double Yellow Lines Following a request from a resident of Whitehall Road in Sittingbourne, proposals were included in our latest Traffic Regulation Order for double yellow lines to be installed on the junction of Gore Court Road and Whitehall Road, to prevent vehicles parking close to the junction and obstructing sightlines. One formal objection has been received from a resident. The objection states that the proposed restrictions are excessive, stating that the legal parking requirement is a minimum of 10 metres from any junction.
- 3.18 The proposals for the junction were developed based on the existing sightlines along Gore Court Road when exiting from Whitehall Road, but it is acknowledged

that in light of the objection received consideration could be given to reducing the restrictions to limit the impact on the on-street parking capacity for residents.

- 3.19 Ward and County Member Comments: Comments from the County and Ward Members have been invited, and at the time of writing this report, we are awaiting a response. Any comments received after the submission of this report will be reported verbally to the Swale Joint Transportation Board.

Conyer Road, Teynham

- 3.20 Following a previous informal consultation with residents of Conyer Road, as a result of a submitted petition to the Swale Joint Transportation Board, proposals to reduce the existing single yellow line on the east side of the road and extend the double yellow lines opposite by 3 metres, were included in our latest Traffic Regulation Order.
- 3.21 One formal comment has been received to these proposals, supporting the removal of the single yellow line but asking for further discussion on the proposed extension to the double yellow lines opposite. Swale's Parking Operations Team have stated that the extension to the double yellow lines would be strongly recommended if the single yellow line is to be removed. Although residents have provided video evidence of an HGV exiting Conyer Road into Lower Road whilst an ambulance was parked in the position of the proposed double yellow line extension, the concern is for vehicles turning into Conyer Road, and Parking Operations have stated that vehicles currently park on this corner every evening.
- 3.22 One option would be for Kent County Council to undertake a sweep path survey of the junction to provide further evidence as to whether the extension to the double yellow lines would be essential, but unless there is a history of personal injury crashes at this location funding would not be available and as such the Borough Council would need to source a budget to fund such a survey.
- 3.23 Ward Member & Parish Council Comments: Comments from the Ward Members and the Parish Council have been invited, and at the time of writing this report, we are awaiting a response. Any comments received after the submission of this report will be reported verbally to the Swale Joint Transportation Board.

## **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the formal objections received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that:-

(a) the proposed double yellow lines in Church Road, Eastchurch, be progressed as detailed in the Traffic Regulation Order;

(b) the proposed double yellow lines in Cormorant Road, Iwade, **either** be progressed **or** abandoned;

(c) the proposed double yellow lines for the kerb build-out in The Mall, Faversham, **either** be progressed **or** the waiting restrictions and KCC Scheme be abandoned;

(d) the proposed double yellow lines on the junction of Gore Court Road and Whitehall Road, Sittingbourne, be progressed **either** as detailed in the Traffic Regulation Order **or** at a reduced length of 10 metres either side of the junction;

(e) that the proposed extension to the double yellow lines in Conyer Road, Teynham, **either** be progressed **or** abandoned.

## 5. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Cost of Installing/Removing Double Yellow Lines.
Legal and Statutory	Formal Sealing of Traffic Regulation Order by Kent County Council.
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.

## 6. Appendices

- 6.1 Annex A – Copy of Draft Traffic Regulation Order
- Annex B – Copy of Statement of Reasons
- Annex C – Formal Objections and Indications of Support Received
- Annex D – Plans of Proposals Subject to Objections
- Annex E – Copy of Informal Consultation Material – Church Road, Eastchurch
- Annex F – Response from Eastchurch Parish Council

## **7. Background Papers**

7.1 None