

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Agenda Item: 6

Meeting Date	Monday 1 st March 2021
Report Title	Formal Objections to Traffic Regulation Order – Swale Amendment 20
Cabinet Member	Clr Richard Palmer, Cabinet Member for Community
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Mike Knowles (SBC)
Classification	Open

Recommendations	<p>Members are asked to note the formal objections and comments received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that:-</p> <p>(1) the proposed double yellow lines in Cormorant Road and Wigeon Road, Iwade, <u>either</u> be progressed <u>or</u> abandoned;</p> <p>(2) the proposed double yellow lines in Dark Hill, Faversham, be progressed but that consideration be given to additional lining in a future Traffic Regulation Order;</p> <p>(3) the proposed extension to the double yellow lines, and reduction of residents' parking bay at the side of 6 East Street, in St Mary's Road, Faversham, be progressed;</p> <p>(4) the proposed double yellow lines in Nutfields, Sittingbourne, be abandoned;</p> <p>(5) the proposed formalising of the existing disabled persons' parking bay in Invicta Road, Sheerness, be progressed.</p>
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1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of objections and comments received in relation to the recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order, Swale Amendment 20, which covers various amendments to on-street waiting restrictions in the Swale area.

2. Background

- 2.1 A Traffic Regulation Order has been drafted for various proposed amendments to on-street waiting restrictions in Swale. Extracts from this Order where objections and comments have been received can be found in Annex A. A Statement of Reason summarising the relevant contents of the Order can be found in Annex B. A number of formal objections, comments and indications of support, have been received to some of these proposals, and these are discussed below. Where proposals have received support without formal objection, the Order will be progressed without the need to report these to the Swale Joint Transportation Board for a recommendation.

3. Issue for Decision

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

- 3.2 (1) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Cormorant Road/Wigeon Road, Iwade
Following a request from the County Member for the area, proposals to install double yellow lines in Cormorant Road, Iwade, opposite the junction of Wigeon Road, were included in a previous Traffic Regulation Order. During the formal consultation, two objections were received, and these were reported to the Swale Joint Transportation Board in September 2019 where Members recommended the scheme should be abandoned.

- 3.3 However, at the following Cabinet meeting on 25th September 2019, Members agreed that the issue should be taken back to the next JTB meeting in January 2020 for further consideration. At this meeting, Members recommended that the proposed double yellow lines be progressed, and also that Officers consult with the appropriate Members to consider whether double yellow lines should be installed on all three roads at this junction.

- 3.4 Following the requested consultation with Members, revised proposals were drafted to include all three arms of the junction of Cormorant Road and Wigeon Road, and an informal consultation subsequently took place with residents on these revised proposals. The results of the informal consultation, 3 responses supporting the proposals and 2 objecting, were reported to the Swale JTB in September 2020 where Members recommended that the proposals be drafted into the next Traffic Regulation Order.

- 3.5 The proposed double yellow lines have therefore been included in this Traffic Regulation Order, Swale Amendment 20, which was formally consulted between 4th December 2020 and 8th January 2021, during which time a total of three formal objections were received, and one indication of support.
- 3.6 Comments in the formal objections included a statement that no issues have been experienced with parking along these roads and that delivery, emergency and refuse freighter vehicles access the area with no problems. Concern was also raised that the proposed restrictions will cause congestion in other areas of the estate through displacement of parked vehicles, that the whole area has a lack of parking and that whilst agreeing to the proposals around the junction itself disagreed with the need to extend the lines across driveways. There was also the suggestion that the edges around the play areas that were left as grass with concrete edging could be surfaced to provide extra parking facilities.
- 3.7 The indication of support stated that the estate was built as a trial estate with narrow roads to prevent the appearance of a car park, and that when purchasing the property they were required to sign an agreement that they would not park on-street, but they state this agreement has not been passed to subsequent property buyers. They have also advised that they have had three accidents at this location and have been requesting double yellow lines or bollards. The support also included various photographs of the parked vehicles, but to preserve anonymity of the individual these have not been included in this report.
- 3.8 County and Ward Member Comments: The County Member has provided the following comments: - *“As the County Member who first raised this issue, I would remind colleagues that the original request was to stop parking opposite the terrace comprising 16 to 22 Cormorant Road. I had received a complaint from one of the residents that they regularly could not get in or out of their drive. I first enlisted the help of the police, but it became clear that enforcement was not the solution. I met with officers from SBC and KCC to discuss bollards, but they were ruled out, and yellow lines were proposed. I was surprised, and still am, at the extent of the proposed yellow lines. The lines go far beyond the short section of Cormorant Road I describe above. I feel a more limited scheme with just one short length of double yellow line would solve the problem identified by the resident without displacing too many of those who have little option than to park in the highway.”* The Ward Member has stated that *“I have been aware of the problems to the two roads for quite some time. Residents who live in these roads get cars that are not from their road parking around the bends and each side of their drives, making the exit from them very difficult with cars to the front and sides, mainly by people who are getting lifts for the London runs. So I fully understand the residents who live in the roads feel so strongly.”*
- (2) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Dark Hill, Faversham
- 3.9 Following a paper presented to the March 2020 JTB by Ward Members, proposed double yellow lines in the vicinity of Stonebridge Pond in Faversham have been included in our latest Traffic Regulation Order. During the formal consultation period, several comments were received in relation to the specific proposals for Dark Hill.

- 3.10 One comment expressed concern that the proposed double yellow lines stopped halfway across a driveway entrance, and felt this would encourage motorists to park in the un-restricted section of the road creating an obstruction to the driveway. Another responder commented that they felt that the design brief given by residents had been missed, and that the proposed double yellow lines on the Davington Hill side of Dark Hill should be extended along the full length of Dark Hill, and also on the opposite side of the road to prevent vehicle displacement.
- 3.11 Members have responded to these comments by stating that extensive double yellow lines in Dark Hill would increase traffic hazard by removing natural traffic calming by parked vehicles and allowing an increase in speeds. It is also acknowledged that the proposed restrictions should be reviewed after implementation, and this would be something that would fit with the wider safety improvement measures such as reducing traffic speed and constructing a pedestrian crossing in the local area.
- 3.12 Two indications of support to the proposed restrictions have also been received, stating the additional lining will improve pedestrian safety, especially for local schoolchildren, reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, and improve residents' amenity.
- 3.13 Ward Member Comments: A Ward Member has stated *"I am supportive of the changes, which I was involved in putting forward on behalf of local residents, for safety reasons. I would be concerned about any further extension of yellow lines as it would be likely to increase traffic speeds at a complicated junction where there have been collisions."*

(3) Proposed Extension to Double Yellow Lines and Residents' Parking Bay Reduction – Side of 6 East Street, Faversham

- 3.14 A request has been received by a local business for the existing double yellow lines in St Mary's Road, Faversham, to be extended and the existing residents' parking bay reduced slightly to accommodate an extension to their driveway access and tyre fitting bays. The proposals would result in the loss of one on-street parking space.
- 3.15 One formal objection was received in relation to these proposals, stating that a wider range of services appeared to be undertaken at these premises, often resulting in vehicles being worked on within the public highway, and stated that this was not the place for a larger type of business. The objection was raised reluctantly, with comment that the business owners were friendly and helpful. Consideration could be given to amending the on-street restrictions as requested to accommodate the extended entrance, with an accompanying letter to the business reminding them that all works to vehicles should be undertaken within the confines of their site.
- 3.16 The applicant on behalf of the premises contacted Swale Borough Council following the formal consultation process to enquire whether any objections have been received to the proposed parking changes. They have subsequently provided a response to the objection, which can be found in Annex E.

3.17 Ward Member Comments: A Ward Member has provide the following comments to the proposals:- *“Having read all the documentation and just been on a site visit, my views are as follows: I fully support this application, the last 10 months have been extremely difficult for businesses, so for this business to expand and employ new staff can only be a good thing. Although I completely sympathise with the objection, due to the loss of one resident parking bay, I feel this is accounted for in that the bay can be used when the business is closed by the tenants of the flats. So that vehicle will then free up the space that is lost. Also, an additional work bay will take customers’ vehicles off of the road.”*

(4) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Nutfields, Sittingbourne

3.18 A petition signed by 9 residents of Nutfields and a further 25 signatories from other roads requesting road safety improvements in Nutfields, Sittingbourne, was considered by the Swale Joint Transportation Board in September 2020. Members recommended that a Traffic Regulation Order be drafted for double yellow lines to be installed on both corners of the entrance to the access road to Nos.16 to 20 Nutfields to keep the junction clear of parked vehicles.

3.19 These proposals were included in our current Traffic Regulation Order, and during the formal consultation a total of 8 objections were received, 7 of which were from residents of Nutfields. The main reasons for objections included the lack of available parking in Nutfields, the effects of displacing parked vehicles further down Nutfields and into Rectory Road creating a greater hazard, and reports that larger vehicles were capable of negotiating parked cars without any issues. The number of objections received was considerable based on the number of properties located in Nutfields.

3.20 County and Ward Member Comments: The County Member has commented on the proposals as follows:- *“I am not phased by this notification as speeds here and access is generally not too bad, there is no accident record. I would be more concerned with the junction with Rectory Road rather than here where speeds are higher, although parking at any junction should be discouraged to give good visibility. Having had this recently with a planning application whereby despite the visibility splay being non-existent and vehicles having to reverse onto the public highway, Swale Borough Council planning approved. The situation there being far worse than here, therefore in keeping with Swale’s perspective of risk and traffic management I would not support this application for double yellows.”* A Ward Member has noted the contents of this report.

(5) Proposed Formalisation of Disabled Bay – Invicta Road, Sheerness

3.21 Following a report that an existing disabled persons’ parking bay in Invicta Road, Sheerness, was no longer in use, a consultation took place with nearby residents to remove the bay. An objection was received from a blue badge holder who stated they were going to use the bay, and a further request was received to make the bay legally enforceable. This was therefore included in our current Traffic Regulation Order.

3.22 One objection has been received to the proposed formalising of the bay, stating that parking in the area is at a premium, particularly as many houses are being

converted to multiple occupancy, and requesting that the bay be removed. It is agreed that parking capacity is limited in the area, and as such it is felt that disabled persons' parking bays are important for those with mobility problems. The objector to the bay being removed has now supplied a copy of their blue badge.

(6) Proposed Formalisation of Disabled Bay – Church Road, Murston

- 3.23 A request was received for the existing advisory disabled persons' parking bay to be formalised to allow enforcement of non-blue badge holder parking. This bay was therefore added to our latest Traffic Regulation Order, and two objections were received during the formal consultation.
- 3.24 Following these comments, the daughter of the applicant was contacted, who confirmed that the applicant's husband had passed away in 2020 but that her mother was the blue badge holder. The daughter advised that she now lives with her mother as her full time carer, and in light of this information it has been deemed appropriate to proceed with formalising the disabled persons' parking bay.
- 3.25 **Update:** Prior to this report being finalised, we have been advised that sadly the applicant for the disabled bay has now passed away, and the previously proposed formalising of this bay will therefore no longer take place and will be removed from the Traffic Regulation Order prior to sealing. A consultation will be undertaken with nearby residents to determine whether any other blue badge holders are using the bay, and if so the bay will remain but only as advisory.

4. Recommendation

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

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

(2) the proposed double yellow lines in Dark Hill, Faversham, be progressed but that consideration be given to additional lining in a future Traffic Regulation Order;

(3) the proposed extension to the double yellow lines, and reduction of residents' parking bay at the side of 6 East Street, in St Mary's Road, Faversham, be progressed;

(4) the proposed double yellow lines in Nutfields, Sittingbourne, be abandoned;

(5) the proposed formalising of the existing disabled persons' parking bay in Invicta Road, Sheerness, be progressed.

5. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Cost of Advertising Made Order, Cost of Installing Lines and Signs on site.
Legal and Statutory	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.
Health Implications	<p>The introduction of double yellow lines in Cormorant Road and Wigeon Road in Iwade, should keep the junction clear of parked vehicles, improving the safe movement of both vehicles and pedestrians and reducing potential driver stress negotiating the parked vehicles. There could be some negative impact on the mental health of residents who would experience a reduction in on-street parking capacity and possible displacement of parked vehicles into adjoining areas. The proposed double yellow lines for Dark Hill, Faversham, should improve the safety of pedestrians by removing parked vehicles at sensitive locations and encouraging walking for shorter journeys, and by maintaining some degree of on-street parking traffic speeds should still be limited. The high number of objections to the proposed double yellow lines in Nutfields, Sittingbourne, suggest that implementation could have an adverse effect on mental health for residents by reducing on-street parking capacity and forcing residents to park elsewhere, and this should be considered against the reported issues of lack of access for larger vehicles to some properties. The formalising of disabled persons' parking bays would have positive health benefits for those residents with mobility issues, helping to maintain their independence and quality of life, but it is acknowledged that with these benefits comes the reduction of parking capacity for able-bodied residents who may be forced to park elsewhere, further from their properties.</p>

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Annex A – Extract from Traffic Regulation Order Swale Amendment 20
- Annex B – Extract from Statement of Reason
- Annex C – Copy of Formal Objections & Indications of Support Received
- Annex D – Plan of Proposals Subject to Formal Objections and Support
- Annex E – Response from Applicant to Formal Objection – St Mary's Road,
Faversham

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None