

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD	Agenda Item:
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Meeting Date	Monday 6 th December 2021
Report Title	Formal Objections to Traffic Regulation Order – Swale Amendment 28 2021
Cabinet Member	Cllr 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 Dolphin Road, Sittingbourne <u>either</u> be installed as advertised in the Traffic Order <u>or</u> be installed at a reduced length to exclude the frontages of 1-4 Dolphin Road;</p> <p>(2) the proposed extension to the double yellow lines in Canute Road, Faversham, <u>either</u> be progressed <u>or</u> abandoned;</p> <p>(3) the proposed double yellow lines on the junction of Queens Road and Imperial Avenue, Minster-on-Sea, be abandoned;</p> <p>(4) the proposed reduction of the double yellow lines in St Georges Avenue, Sheerness, be abandoned;</p> <p>(5) the disabled persons' parking bay in Colegates Close, Oare, <u>either</u> be relocated and formalised <u>or</u> formalised in its current position.</p>
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1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of objections, comments and indications of support received in relation to the recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order, Swale Amendment 28, 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, and the formal consultation took place between 27th August 2021 and 17th September 2021. 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 the proposals in the Traffic Order, and these are discussed below.

3. Issue for Decision

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

(1) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Dolphin Road, Sittingbourne

- 3.2 A Ward Member for the area requested the installation of double yellow lines along the full length of the north-easterly side of Dolphin Road and around the junction of Castle Road in Sittingbourne. This follows issues with a high number of vehicles parking along the road, partially on the footway, obstructing the safe passage of pedestrians and wheelchair users. It is understood that these vehicles are owned by employees on the nearby trading estate. Annex E includes some photographs of the parked vehicles and the limited width of available footway, and also photographs of the off-street parking facilities at the rear of the residential properties in Dolphin Road. The proposed double yellow lines are being funded through the County Members' Highway Grant Scheme.
- 3.3 During the formal consultation process, we received comments from one formal responder, supporting the proposals but objecting to the double yellow lines continuing across the front of numbers 1-4 Dolphin Road, as it was reported that the residents all own two vehicles and rely on this section of carriageway to park one of their vehicles. It was added that the restrictions would also create difficulties for visitors if installed across the frontage of the houses.
- 3.4 Ward & County Member Comments: The Ward Member has provided photographs, included in Annex E, showing 6 garages and 6 parking spaces which allows off-street parking for up to 12 vehicles. The County Member has concurred with officer comments that reducing the proposed restrictions to stop at the residential properties could result in those vehicles parked further down the road merely

moving to the unrestricted carriageway outside the houses, and supports the introduction of double yellow lines along the full length of the road. He has added that any visitors to the houses could park on the opposite side of Dolphin Road if required.

(2) Proposed Extension to Double Yellow Lines – Canute Road, Faversham

- 3.5 Following a request from the Ward Member, an extension to the existing double yellow lines either side of the Harold Court junction in Canute Road, Faversham, was included in our latest Traffic Regulation Order. This follows a request from residents for the existing lines to be extended to improve sightlines when exiting Harold Court.
- 3.6 During the formal consultation, we received a total of 3 formal objections and 2 indications of support. The main objections were around the loss of parking spaces in Canute Road, with some suggestions for traffic calming and road resurfacing which would come under Kent County Council.
- 3.7 Ward Member Comments: One Ward Member has confirmed his support for the proposed extension of the double yellow lines, stating that road safety must be the priority. Another Ward Member has stated *“the extension of double yellow lines in this location has my full support. With vehicles becoming larger, visibility at junctions where vehicles are parked in the sight line can be significantly reduced, though I certainly understand the comments made in the third objection, particularly concerning the quality of the road surface and the need for resurfacing. Safety must be the overriding consideration.”*

(3) Proposed Double Yellow Lines – Queens Road/Imperial Avenue, Minster-on-Sea

- 3.8 A request was received via a Ward Member, to be funded through the County Members’ Highway Grant, for double yellow lines to be installed at the junction of Queens Road and Imperial Avenue in Minster. An informal consultation was undertaken with residents, the results of which were reported to the Swale Joint Transportation Board in June 2021 when Members recommended that the proposals should be progressed. They were therefore included in our latest Traffic Regulation Order.
- 3.9 During the formal consultation, a total of 4 formal objections were received and one indication of support. The main comments in the objections related to the speed of vehicles travelling along Queens Road, the displacement of parked vehicles into Imperial Avenue if the double yellow lines are introduced and questions around the necessity of double yellow lines on this junction.
- 3.10 Parish Council & County Member Comments: The Parish Council have confirmed their support for the introduction of double yellow lines on all three of the junctions along Queens Road, Minster, included in the Traffic Order. The County Member has agreed that the proposed restrictions for the junction of Queens Road and Imperial Avenue should be removed from the Traffic Order following the formal objections received.

(4) Proposed Reduction of Double Yellow Lines – St Georges Avenue, Sheerness

- 3.11 Following a request from a resident, Kent County Council approached Swale's Engineering Team to see whether we would be able to include the reduction of the existing double yellow lines in St Georges Avenue, Sheerness, in our next Traffic Regulation Order, which we agreed to do.
- 3.12 During the formal consultation period for the Traffic Regulation Order, 2 formal objections and one indication of support were received. One of the Ward Members requested a site meeting with Swale officers to discuss the proposals, expressing concern at potential issues around the double yellow line removal, and these concerns were relayed back to Kent County Council who have acknowledged the points raised and are now of the opinion that the proposals should be abandoned.
- 3.13 Ward Member Comments: One of the Ward Members has commented as follows:-
"I do overall support the removal of the yellow lines as I believe it will help as a traffic calming measure for what is a residential street. I think it will also help clear some of the cars parked on neighbouring streets which are already rather heavily congested. I do however also understand where the resident is coming from in regards to the line of 28. I feel it would be easier for cars if this was kept clear". Another Ward Member, who has good local knowledge of the area and met the Swale officer on site, has expressed concern around the proposed removal of the double yellow lines. Having witnessed congestion caused by vehicles temporarily stopping on the restrictions, particularly during school drop off and collection times when the road becomes even busier, the Member felt that the removal of the lines would cause significant safety issues. This includes forcing traffic onto the wrong side of the road, conflicting with vehicles exiting Granville Road, and also resulting in vehicles parking partly on the footway due to the narrow carriageway, as is the case further down St Georges Avenue.

(5) Proposed Formalising of Disabled Persons' Parking Bay – Colegates Close, Oare

- 3.14 Following a request from a blue badge holder, the disabled persons' parking bay in Colegates Close, Oare, was included in our latest Traffic Regulation Order. The bay was installed in 2017 and due to the road layout was placed in the corner of an on-street parking area as near to the applicant's property as possible. The applicant then reported that vehicles were parking in front of the bay, which was making it difficult to access/egress the bay when another vehicle was parked next to it, and the length of the bay was therefore extended.
- 3.15 The applicant has now contacted us again, asking for the bay to be moved sideways by one parking space to improve access/egress as they are still experiencing problems with parked vehicles blocking them in. This alteration will reduce the chances of a vehicle parking in front of the bay. Details of the proposals can be found on the plan in Annex D. As well as re-locating the bay, it is proposed to install hatching on one side of the bay to allow the applicant to open their door fully to allow better access into and out of the vehicle. The applicant has also requested that the bay be made enforceable to stop non blue badge holders parking in it, hence the inclusion of the bay in our latest Traffic Order.

- 3.16 A total of two formal objections have been received in relation to the proposals, based on the re-location of the bay as opposed to the formalising of the bay in the Traffic Regulation Order. Details of the objections can be found in Annex C.
- 3.17 It should be noted that applicants for disabled persons' parking bays are required to meet specific criteria, set out by Kent County Council, and whilst the Traffic Regulation Order process states that any formal objections received must be considered by the Joint Transportation Board, there would need to be substantial evidence to back up any recommendation not to include a disabled persons' parking bay in the Traffic Regulation Order. Having said that, in this particular case we believe there are two options to consider, either moving the bay as requested or leaving it in its current position, formalising it at either location.
- 3.18 The objections focus on the proposed re-location of the bay, but consideration should be given as to whether leaving the bay in its current position would result in continued access issues for the blue badge holder.

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 Dolphin Road, Sittingbourne **either** be installed as advertised in the Traffic Order **or** be installed at a reduced length to exclude the frontages of 1-4 Dolphin Road;

(2) the proposed extension to the double yellow lines in Canute Road, Faversham, **either** be progressed **or** abandoned;

(3) the proposed double yellow lines on the junction of Queens Road and Imperial Avenue, Minster-on-Sea, be abandoned;

(4) the proposed reduction of the double yellow lines in St Georges Avenue, Sheerness, be abandoned;

(5) the disabled persons' parking bay in Colegates Close, Oare, **either** be relocated and formalised **or** formalised in its current position.

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 installation of double yellow lines in Dolphin Road will improve independence for disabled users of the footway, and those with pushchairs, by allowing unrestricted access.</p> <p>The introduction of double yellow lines on and around junctions to improve sightlines and vehicle movements could have a positive impact on the mental health of drivers by reducing stress levels and potential incidents of road rage.</p> <p>However, where on street parking capacity is limited there may be some negative mental health effects on residents who may be forced to park further away from their properties, potentially increasing the distance to walk at night.</p> <p>The formalising of disabled persons' parking bays ensure that only blue badge holders can use the bay, assisting those with mobility issues.</p>

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Annex A – Extract from Traffic Regulation Order Swale Amendment 28 2021
 Annex B – Extract of Statement of Reason
 Annex C – Copy of Formal Objections, Indications of Support & Comments
 Annex D – Plans of Proposals Receiving Objections and Support
 Annex E – Photographs of Parked Vehicles – Dolphin Road, Sittingbourne

7. Background Papers

7.1 None