



Report to Leader (Transport portfolio)

Decision Date:	5 November 2024
Reference number:	TR26.24
Title:	Coates Lane, High Wycombe – “No Stopping on Verges” and “No Waiting At Any Time” Parking Restrictions
Cabinet Councillor(s):	Cllr Steve Broadbent (Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Transport)
Relevant Councillor(s):	Cllr Maz Hussain, Cllr Melanie Smith, and Cllr Paul Turner
Author and/or contact officer:	John Pateman, Commissioning Team Leader, John.Pateman1@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	Downley
Recommendations:	That the Leader notes the outcome of the Statutory Consultation for the Traffic Regulation Order; That the Leader approves the making of the Traffic Regulation Order as advertised.

Reason for decision:

Under the provisions set out in the Road Traffic Act 1984, Section 3, Subsection 2(e):

- *“For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road to which the order [will] relate or any other road”.*
- *“For preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising”.*
- *“For preventing damage to the road or buildings on or near it”.*
- *“For facilitating the passage of vehicular traffic on the road”.*
- *“For preserving or improving the amenities of an area by prohibiting or restricting the use on a road or roads [...]”.*

... the proposals seek to ...

- Prevent motorists parking on the grass verge (or footway) - to stop ongoing verge damage - and encourage them to park fully on the carriageway instead, where the parked vehicles will create 'informal' traffic calming.
- Prevent parking on the bend on Coates Lane, and at side road junctions, where current parking practices create road safety issues by detrimentally affecting vision.
- Remove a short length of existing 'No waiting at any time' restriction to allow some convenient unrestricted on-street parking near the playground for users.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The High Wycombe Community Board has reported ongoing damage caused to the grass verges along Coates Lane due to injudicious parking.
- 1.2 Buckinghamshire Highways representatives met with Local Members and residents to identify ways in which to address this maintenance issue as well as concerns raised regarding speeding.
- 1.3 As a result, the following proposals were developed ...
 - a) Introduction of a "*No Stopping on Verge or Footway*" restriction to prevent verge parking and force motorists to park fully on the carriageway where the vehicles would act as 'informal' traffic calming;
 - b) Installation of new highway direction signs highlighting the presence of, and guiding, motorists to the car park on Coates Lane for Hughenden Park.
 - c) Laying of white Dragon's Teeth markings and a white 30mph carriageway speed roundel (on a patch of red coloured surfacing) on Coates Lane immediately north of Wyndham Avenue to compliment / supplement the start of the 30mph speed limit on the approach from Downley by creating a 'Gateway Feature'.
 - d) Removal of a short section of existing 'No waiting at any time' double yellow line parking restriction on Coates Lane in the vicinity of the Playground to provide unrestricted parking for its users.
- 1.4 Subsequent visits to the site also identified the need to impose '*No waiting at any time*' double yellow line parking restrictions on the bend on Coates Lane (between Nos. 33 to 45) and at the Coates Lane junctions with Disraeli Crescent and Wyndham Avenue to prevent parking affecting vision / visibility splays.

1.5 The recommendations in this report are following the results of the Statutory Consultation required to advertise those proposals requiring a Traffic Regulation Order.

2. Content of report

2.1 Buckinghamshire Council is responsible for the highway network within its boundary; this includes the provision, management, and enforcement of waiting restrictions.

2.2 As mentioned in Section 1.3, site visits to Coates Lane have led to a suggestion to introduce or amend the following restrictions:

- a) Extending the existing Double Yellow Lines westwards from Tancred Road – This would remove the risk of motorists parking at this location which is subject to adverse visibility.
- b) A small section of double yellow lines east of Tancred Road (near Hughenden Park) would be removed to allow a short length of on – street parking.

2.3 The proposed restriction on Coates Lane, High Wycombe was put to Statutory Consultation between **17 May** and **21 June 2024**.

2.4 Residents that would be potentially affected were notified of the proposed restrictions via a letter (**Appendix 1**) and accompanying Mapping Tiles (**Appendix 2**).

2.5 A Public Notice (**Appendix 3**) was published in the local press and copies attached to selected lamp columns in the affected area.

2.6 The proposals were also advertised on the Buckinghamshire Council website at ...

<https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/roads-parking/coates-lane-high-wycombe-verge-parking-restriction>

2.7 A total of **28** responses to the Statutory Consultation were received via the online survey, email, and letter. A summary of the results is provided in Table 1 below.

Coates Lane, High Wycombe – Proposed Parking Restrictions		
Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	14	50%
No	14	50%
Total	28	100%

Table 1 - Results from Statutory Consultation

- 2.8 Out of the total number of **28** responses received, **22** (78.57% overall) were from residents living on or near Coates Lane.
- 2.9 Of these **22** responses, **7** (25% overall) were from Coates Lane residents; **6** (21.43%) were from Wyndham Avenue; **4** (14.29%) were from Tancred Road residents; **3** (10.71%) were from Calverley Crescent residents; with the remaining coming from residents of Disraeli Crescent, Buckingham Drive and Hughenden Boulevard.
- 2.10 Several comments made during the consultation were regarding the nearby car park on Coates Lane for Hughenden Park. Residents complained that the car park is always full; that parking is not enforced and that it is regularly used by students (who live in Hughenden Park Student Village), commuters and other local residents.
- 2.11 Suggestions were also made to implement more onerous / formal traffic calming measures in the area; and to extend the existing 30mph speed limit on Coates Lane further north to Downley to address antisocial speeding.
- 2.12 A summary of the feedback, recommendations and reason for the recommendations is included in **Appendix 5**.

3. Other options considered.

- 3.1 Alternative options of formalising the verge parking by either installing 'grasscrete' (a grid of open-cell concrete structures with voids, or similar, that allow grass or other vegetation to grow) or removing the verge altogether and installing a formal layby for parking were previously considered. However, these options were rejected due to anticipated high costs and the fact that neither offered any speed reducing / traffic calming benefits.


4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 The High Wycombe Community Board is fully funding this project and is estimated to be circa **£28,404**.
- 4.2 Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act 1984 places a duty on Buckinghamshire Council to secure the expeditious, convenient, and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.
- 4.3 Section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 places a duty on Buckinghamshire Council to manage the highway network with a view to secure the expeditious,

convenient, and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) on its highways.

- 4.4 The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA 1984) contains the powers under which Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders / Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs/TROs) and Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) can be made by local authorities; the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 details the procedure for introducing TROs.
- 4.5 The authority must have regard to S122 Road RTRA 1984 when determining whether to make a TRO and in exercise of the powers available under the RTRA 1984
- 4.6 Part IV of Schedule 9 (RTRA 1984) provides the authority with the powers to vary or revoke an order made by the Council.
- 4.7 Regulation 14 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 states that an order making authority may modify an order – whether in receipt of any objections or otherwise – before it is then made. Provided the resulting modified restriction is less onerous than the advertised restriction as part of the statutory consultation process.
- 4.8 Once a decision is taken and recommendations agreed, the TRO will then be made and publicised by Buckinghamshire Council in accordance with the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 4.9 If approved, this key decision will be the authority for Legal Services to 'make' the TRO and advertise the Notice of Making in the local press in accordance with the Procedure Regulations.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 **Equality:** An Equality Impact Assessment (**Appendix 6**) has been undertaken and the decision is not expected to have any negative impacts on persons with protected characteristics.
 - 5.2 **Property:** All land for this project is already within the Highway Boundary.
 - 5.3 **Value for Money:** The construction contract will be let via the Buckinghamshire Highways Alliance Term Maintenance Contract Framework with Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP). This framework meets all required procurement protocols.
- 

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 6.1 Engagement with Downley Members has been undertaken, advising that Buckinghamshire Council wishes to proceed with the Statutory Consultation. Details were sent by email on 29th January 2024.
- 6.2 A further email was sent out to Members on 27th February 2024 reminding them to provide their comments on the proposals before Statutory Consultation commenced.
- 6.3 Councillors Paul Turner and Maz Hussain provided responses on 6 March 2024. No response was received from Councillor Melanie R Smith. See Table 2 below for responses received.

Consultee	Response
Cllr Paul Turner	<i>"I am happy to support assuming it is ... the same as agreed with the residents association"</i>
Cllr Maz Hussain	<i>"I am happy to support this, hopefully this gets sorted soon"</i>
Cllr Melanie R Smith	No Response Received.

Table 2 - Initial Feedback from Local Members

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 Statutory Consultation took place between **17th May** and **21st June 2024**.
- 7.2 This consultation was advertised in the local press, through letters to frontages, notices on site and online via 'Your Voice Bucks'.
- 7.3 The parking proposal are for road safety and support the Highway Code (rules 242 and 243), therefore no informal consultation has been undertaken prior to the statutory consultation.
- 7.4 Councillor Hussain requested a meeting with the Council's Design Team to discuss concerns raised by residents. This meeting was held on 3rd of July 2024.

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 This report and the decision will be published on the Council's web page and on the Your Voice Bucks consultation survey page.

- 8.2 If approved as a Leader Decision, these proposals will be implemented, and a Notice of Making will be published in a local newspaper.
- 8.3 All consultees and respondees to the statutory consultation will be contacted by either email or letter and will be informed of the decision and where they can find the details of the Statutory Consultation and the decision taken. This report will be published on the Council's web page.
- 8.4 The parking enforcement team will routinely measure the success or otherwise of any new parking restrictions.

9. Background papers

Appendix 1 – Statutory Consultation Letter

Appendix 2 – Map Tiles

Appendix 3 – Public Notice

Appendix 4 – Statement of Reasons

Appendix 5 – Consultation Response Documents

Appendix 6 – Equality Impact Assessment

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider, please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk by 5pm on 1 November 2024.

