

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 September 2021

Report of the Head of Service - Highways

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Ribble Valley South West;

Lancashire County Council (Elker Lane and Elker Meadows, Billington, Ribble Valley Borough) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 202*

(Appendices 'A' to 'D' refer)

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Executive Summary

This report sets out proposals to introduce 'No Waiting At Any Time' (double yellow lines) on Elker Meadows and Elker Lane, Billington.

The proposed waiting restrictions are intended to address parking problems and associated road safety concerns relating to Elker Meadows with Elker Lane, which has resulted in obstruction and access problems for residents using the footways with mobility scooters.

Statutory consultation and advertisement on the scheme proposal as set out in the plan and schedule attached at Appendices 'A' and 'B' and although no objections were received, comments from two sources were considered to be adverse, warranting a report to Cabinet.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the introduction of 'No Waiting At Any Time' parking restrictions on Elker Meadows/Elker Lane Street as set out in the Draft Order (Appendix 'C'), Plan (Appendix 'B') and Statement of Reasons (Appendix 'D').

Background and Advice

Elker Meadows is a newly constructed access road of approximately 120 metres length leading from Elker Lane to a recent development of 19 self-contained apartments which are age restricted for elderly persons. As part of the same planning permission, approval is given for a 120 place children's day nursery which would also be accessed off Elker Meadows, although not yet implemented. In

addition, a reserved matters planning application, pursuant to existing outline permission, is currently being considered for construction of a further 60 self-contained apartments and a 50-bed care home, which would also be accessed off Elker Meadows with a new estate road if planning permission is granted.

Elker Meadows forms a junction with Elker Lane, directly opposite a privately-maintained bus turning facility/car park for St. Augustine's RC High School where the main school entrance is also located.

Complaints were received by parish councillors from residents and their management company regarding parking obstruction on Elker Meadows and its junction with Elker Lane. This was escalated to county and district councillors, school governors and finally brought to the attention of the county council's highways team.

The issues were discussed at Ribble Valley Traffic Liaison Meeting in October 2019 and it was considered that the introduction of sections of 'No Waiting At Any Time' would be an appropriate response to the existing and potential issues. It was agreed that monitoring should be continued and that a low priority could be given in view of the levels of parking so far observed and current levels of traffic generated by existing property development.

Consultations

The proposal for double yellow lines was formally advertised from 29 April 2021 until 27 May 2021 both by notices placed on site and in the local press. Details of this consultation are contained within the Notice of Proposal (Appendix 'A'), Plan (Appendix 'B') and Statement of Reasons (Appendix 'D'). This resulted in no objections, two letters of support and a further letter of comment. Although not objecting to the proposals, some of the comments made were considered 'adverse' and these are detailed below.

Adverse Comments:

- Although understandable that residents of Elker Meadows would want the road kept clear of cars, obstruction problems would be simply moved elsewhere, e.g. to Whalley Road and other surrounding residential streets. The respondent questioned why priority was given to the advertised proposal and presumed waiting prohibitions would also be introduced for the latest residential/care home planning application and for other surrounding residential streets that are affected by school traffic.

Officer's response: As Elker Meadows is currently subject to a 12-month maintenance period prior to being adopted by Lancashire County Council, it is not proposed that 'No Waiting At Any Time' be introduced over its entire length as may otherwise be wished for by residents. Instead, the highway should be managed to achieve a workable balance between opposing highway needs to provide acceptable traffic flow, on-street parking opportunities and protect the safety of road users. Observations carried out since complaints were received, have suggested that there are limited numbers of vehicles parked in Elker Meadows or along its visibility splays on Elker Lane at any one time and these can be accommodated by the sections of

Elker Meadows left unrestricted in the proposals resulting in little or no displacement onto other streets. Parking opportunities on Elker Meadows have purposely been proposed adjacent to footways and where dropped kerbs are provided (or are likely to be provided) these have been protected by 'No Waiting At Any Time'. The turning head at the bottom of the road, existing and potential side roads/access points, and sight lines across bends are similarly protected from parking obstruction and these also provide passing place opportunities.

The county council does not currently provide amenity or parking restrictions around schools, unless there are overriding safety concerns that need to be addressed. It is not unusual for highway comments to recommend that parking restrictions are conditioned as part of planning approval in order to avoid future problems that may then incur a subsequent financial burden on the council. In this instance there was no recommendation made at the planning stage. Due to the ongoing nature of the complaint, however, a low priority was agreed for parking restrictions to be introduced with a view to seeking funding from developer contributions. A scheme was subsequently designed and submitted for advertising when an agreement was reached for costs to be covered by the developer due to the reported safety and access problems.

It is unlikely that waiting prohibitions will be sought for the latest residential/care home planning application as this is outside the likely area affected by parking and because it has been considered in the current 'No Waiting At Any Time' proposal, as far as access problems are concerned, should the development actually take place. An intentional excess of off-street parking provision has also been made within the planning application, above normal standards for this type of development, with the specific intention of preventing any impact on the immediate highway network.

- Waiting restrictions would be difficult to enforce unless drivers leave their vehicles and the problem will be shifted elsewhere.

Officer's comments: Double yellow lines do offer a deterrence to the majority of drivers. While resource for parking enforcement is finite, the county council will respond to requests where parking has been reported on a priority basis.

- Can other methods of getting to and from school be encouraged, e.g. more smaller bus services, walking, cycling?
- It is suggested that the school should provide staff to prevent cars from turning/dropping-off in the bus turning circle, as this obstructs buses and forces them to queue on Elker Lane, adding to congestion.

Officer's comments:

The proposals are designed to address current parking issues and also the potential access and parking issues arising from further development on Elker Meadow which is approved in planning. Road Safety Officers are currently addressing and reviewing transport issues with the school, relating to daily travel to and from it.

Response from Statutory Consultees

Support for the scheme proposal has been received from Billington and Langho Parish Council and an individual parish councillor who is a resident of Elker Meadows.

No objections were received from the statutory bodies consulted on the proposal including Police, Fire and Ambulance services.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The consequence of not introducing the proposed scheme is that drivers will continue to park in inappropriate places and cause unsafe obstruction to visibility splays, pedestrian dropped kerbs access and also obstruct traffic travelling in and out of Elker Meadows, particularly after there is likely to be an increase in traffic usage resulting from future planning applications.

Financial

Advert Cost: Advertising costs are estimated to be £1,500 (Traffic Regulation Order proposal and sealing respectively including all relevant notices including in the London Gazette which may make these costs appear high compared to the costs of the work itself) and have been met by the developer.

Construction Costs: The scheme will be funded by the developer. The cost of the work on site is estimated to be £450.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A