

Prohibition of Waiting & Loading Proposal, Kerry

Summary of Responses

Public Consultation Period 12 October to 6 November 2017

Objection received from community council during the consultation period.

- **Kerry Community Council**

Proposed waiting prohibitions on Common Road are situated outside bungalows for the elderly and would therefore cause access problems for mobility impaired residents and support staff.

Comment – a no waiting prohibition prevents parking, but does not prevent loading and unloading of goods and persons from vehicles, and blue badge holders can park for up to 3 hours when correctly displaying their blue badge at locations where a vehicle would not cause a nuisance or obstruction to other highway users. Off street and on street parking is available to the rear of these properties within the residential estate where rear pedestrian access to these properties is also available. The proposed waiting prohibition will permit opposing traffic flows to pass one another safely, prevents longer term on street parking at locations on the immediate approach to the zebra crossing, and at locations where parked vehicles would otherwise be parked opposite the side road junction and private vehicular accesses causing an obstruction.

The no parking proposal outside the school area on the A489 will enable traffic to continue to speed through the village by removing parked vehicles which act as a traffic calming measure. No amount of speed restriction signs will deter the determined driver to slow down, only on street parking on the A489 has proven to be effective to any degree.

Comment – the extent of on street waiting and loading which occurs along the A489, particularly at school drop off and pick up times is hazardous as it prevents other traffic from entering and exiting the Nook Lane and Common Road side road junctions safely. The extent over which vehicles are parked all alongside the south side of the highway, and at times on the footway along the north side of the highway too, prevents the safe free flow of two way traffic along the A489 at this location.

Whilst a degree of on street parking is acknowledged to have a traffic calming effect for traffic passing through the village, and would still be permitted under the original proposal in front of part of the terrace of properties who's postal address is 'The Village'; the locations and extent of on street parking and loading/unloading which currently occurs along the A489 creates a hazardous situation that forces drivers to take unnecessary risks to pass opposing traffic and to negotiate the excessive on street parking which currently occurs.

The introduction of double yellow lines outside the Post Office will deny access for persons with mobility problems.

Comment – there are no such prohibitions proposed in front of the Post Office.

The introduction of no loading prohibitions outside the Post Office and The Herbert Arms public house would prove to be problematic to these businesses.

Comment – there are no such prohibitions proposed in front of the Post Office, and the proposed loading prohibition in front of The Herbert Arms was to force deliveries to the public house to occur further away from the Common Road junction, so that the delivery vehicles do not cause such a hazard when unloading too close to the side road junction on the brow of the hill. It is however acknowledged that if brewery deliveries are displaced too far away from the Common Road junction, they may interfere with the regular loading and unloading which occurs directly in front of the Post Office on the opposite side of the A489.

With the introduction of the proposed waiting and loading prohibitions, there is a need to consider where alternative parking can occur, particular for parents on the school run.

Comment – there is free public parking available within the village square, the village hall car park, and within the public car park owned by Powys County Council. All of these parking areas are within close and easy walking distance of the school and the other village facilities. Drivers are also at liberty to leave their vehicles at other locations on the public highway where there are no waiting or loading prohibitions proposed, and where they can park safely in accordance with the rules and guidance set out in The Highway Code.

The absence of waiting and loading prohibitions at the locations now proposed does not mean that it is safe or appropriate for drivers to park along or obstruct the county highways to the extent that currently occurs, particularly at but not restricted to school pick up and drop off times.

Concern that the proposal will simply move the problem further up Common Road and along the A489 creating an additional danger of school children running around.

Comment – the extent of the proposed waiting and loading proposals has already taken the likelihood of displacing the on street parking into consideration. It is intended that the proposal will encourage more parents to walk their children to school, lift share and/or utilise the nearby public car park areas instead of parking along the A489 and Common Road at hazardous and nuisance locations.

Parents have a responsibility to ensure that they do not park at hazardous or nuisance locations, and to control/educate their children to walk safely along a public highway. It is noted from the school's website that the primary school facilitates a walking bus on a Wednesday between the public car park and the school utilising the safe route to school via the Common Road zebra crossing and the 20 mph zone. With additional support from the school and parents, there is no reason why this "Walk to School Wednesday" initiative could not be rolled out to every school day during the week.

"The irresponsible parking at the junction of Common Road and the A489 causes traffic emerging right from Common Road onto the A489 to drive with increased caution due to reduced visibility."

Comment – whilst it is pleasing to have the community council acknowledge that irresponsible parking occurs along the A489 at this location; and whilst parking too close to the junction may encourage some drivers to undertake the turning manoeuvre with more caution than they would normally take; the extent of the on street parking which occurs right up to and opposite the side road junctions along the A489 at this location results in an unacceptable risk for the majority of drivers entering, exiting or trying to safely pass the side road junctions.

Officer recommendation – overrule continued objection from the community council, agree minor modification to extent and timings of prohibition of loading along the A489 as shown on the proposed modification plan, and maintain current proposals along Common Road.

Objections and representations received from the public during the consultation period.

- **Community Councillor G Griffiths - Argoed**

Objection – proposal will disrupt rhythm of village with access to properties and businesses disrupted, resulting in discontent and traffic violations. Painting yellow lines will be detrimental to street scene and attractiveness of village. Past road widening has narrowed footways, so proposal will create further hardship to residents.

- **B Johnson – Kerry Shop & Post Office**

Objection – proposal does not consider residents and businesses and is over the top, might make traffic problems worse, and might increase probability of accidents. Could push cars into the centre of the village putting viability of shop/post office at risk. Attention should focus on speeding through village and securing a proper crossing of A489.

- **P Lee – Cottage attached to Kerry Shop**

Objection – people must have access to houses to have deliveries, load/unload goods and passengers. Proposals are over the top and heavy handed, and will cause inconvenience and hardship. Suggest that proposal is looked at again in a more realistic light.

- **C Brooks – 1 Clun Road Cottages**

Representation – proposals will increase traffic speeds through village which will make it more dangerous for children to cross the road. Speed humps and 30mph flashing lights should be installed instead of waiting/loading prohibitions which will make it difficult for residents to load/unload goods and passengers in front of their properties.

- **Duplicate letter sent by Mr & Mrs Upton, Church House and Mr & Mrs Williams, 10 The Village**

Objection – proposal does not address existing problem of insufficient parking facilities within the village at certain times of the day. Many properties have no separate off

street parking areas or garages, so need to load/unload goods and passengers in front of property. Double yellow lines would prevent workmen parking vans in front of properties to effect repairs to properties. Neither public house would be able to take delivery of stock. Church and chapel congregation park their vehicles on the highway when there is a funeral or wedding. The senior citizens group have coach trips which depart from the A489. Fear that the proposals will prevent parking for Post Office.

- **D Corfield – 11 The Village**

Objection – have lived there for over 50 years and proposal will cause disruption and misery as they need to load/unload goods and passengers in front of property. Bus stop outside property will cause damage to cellar and cause pollution. Do not recognise “chaos” that parked cars cause on A489, and when there are no parked cars along the A489 the village becomes a “drag strip” for vehicles.

- **J Corfield – 12 The Village**

Representation – urge to reconsider proposals, as there is no vehicular access to rear of property so need to load/unload goods and passengers in front of property. Vehicles parked along A489 also act as a traffic calming measure.

- **Mr & Mrs Friel – 13 The Village**

Objection – need to load/unload goods and passengers in front of property. Vehicles parked along A489 also act as a traffic calming measure. Parking availability elsewhere in village is limited, especially when there is an event on in the village.

- **R White – 17 The Village**

Objection – loading prohibitions will make it difficult to take delivery of goods and services. Would limit access for elderly or disabled persons visiting property. Young children have to be offloaded from vehicle outside property as private driveway alongside property is too narrow to load/unload children into car. Proper traffic calming measures and speed cameras would be a better proposition.

- **R Corfield, The Maltings (owner of both public houses in Kerry)**

Objection – proposal will adversely affect both public houses which could lead to closure of one or both public houses. If customers cannot park they will go somewhere else. Kerry Lamb’s car park will become overflow car park for residents who cannot park anywhere else. Brewery deliveries to Herbert Arms will become impossible or illegal. As lifelong residents, do not recognise “commotion” that parked cars cause on A489, and when there are no parked cars along the A489 the village becomes a “race track” for vehicles.

- **Landlords of The Herbert Arms**

Objection – proposals will prevent brewery deliveries from occurring directly in front of the cellar access located in front of the public house on the A489, which is the only location that deliveries can take place. Removal of parked cars along the A489 will increase traffic speeds along the A489.

- **D Morgan – Llanwnog (nr Caersws)**

Representation – removal of parked cars along the A489 will increase traffic speeds along the A489.

Comments – whilst it is recognised that the properties and businesses who directly front onto the sections of public highway where the waiting and loading prohibitions are proposed, will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposals; nobody has a right to park on a public highway directly in front of or near their property. The highway authority has a duty to manage obstructive and hazardous parking along a public highway when a legitimate safety issue is highlighted, and must strike a balance between the desires of local residents and businesses to park in front of their properties, against the rights of other highway users to travel along a public highway in safety.

Having taken into account the objections and representations raised by residents during the public consultation period, the traffic authority has carried out a refinement exercise to address these concerns where possible as detailed below:-

- The bus stop is still proposed at the location of the existing bus stop flag along the A489, but has been repositioned slightly and shortened in length by 2 metres. The times that it has been reserved for use by buses only has been reduced to 8am to 5pm Mon to Sat (not 7am to 7pm as previously)., therefore residents etc. can park any type of vehicles or take deliveries within the bus stop outside of those reserved times.
- The accurate extent of the school zig zag lines has been plotted on the revised plan, therefore length of the unrestricted area in front of the terrace where residents can park any type of vehicle or take deliveries without any restriction has been extended from 20 metres to approximately 25 metres.
- The primary school has agreed with the proposal to time restrict the school zig zag area so that it can be utilised for deliveries etc. over the weekend and during the evening/night. This gives residents more flexibility for parking and deliveries in that area than they currently have.
- The extent of the loading prohibition has been reduced back to the street light in front of the Herbert Arms to permit the brewery wagon to pull up in front of the public house, but not too close to the Common Road junction.
- The no loading prohibition between the bus stop and the Kerry Lamb on the north side of the A489 has been modified so that is only effective in the morning and afternoon Mon-Fri to prevent parents parking there to drop off and collect their children.
- Given that vehicles parked or loading between the Common Road and Nook Lane junctions interfere with safe turning movements, and the Highway Code advises that vehicles should not be parked within 10 metres of or opposite a side road junction, the no loading at any time prohibition cannot be relaxed at that location.

Officer recommendation – agree minor modifications to extent and timings of the prohibition of loading along the A489 as shown on the proposed modification plan, and maintain current proposals along Common Road.

End of report.