



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and date of Committee	ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 5 DECEMBER 2019
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
Subject	PARKING ENFORCEMENT ON COUNCIL OWNED LAND
Wards affected	Witney
Accountable member	Cllr Norman MacRae Cabinet Member for Environment Tel: Email: norman.macrae@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Claire Locke, Group Manager - Commissioning Tel: 01285 623427 Email: claire.locke@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To seek agreement to renew the Parking Order to include plots of land at Langdale Gate, Marriotts Close and the Woolgate car park, Witney, so that parking enforcement can be carried out to protect pedestrian and motorist safety, ensure traffic flows freely on the highway and short term parking is available.
Annexes	Annex A – Maps of locations
Recommendations	That the Cabinet be recommended to: <i>a) renew the Parking Order to include the locations at Langdale Gate, Marriotts Close and Woolgate, identified in Annex A.</i> <i>b) enter into a lease with Witney Town Council for the land at Langdale Gate and delegate agreement for the terms of that lease to the Group Manager Legal Services, Group Manager – Commissioning (Publica Group (Support) Limited and Cabinet Member for Resources.</i> <i>c) delegate the consideration of consultation responses on the parking order, to the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Group Manager for Commissioning(Publica Group (Support) Limited.</i>
Corporate priorities	Working with communities to meet the current and future needs and aspirations of residents
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Witney Town Council

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Three areas of land have been highlighted, which are in the Council's ownership, are not leased out to a third party, and would greatly benefit from having parking enforcement. These areas are currently monitored by the Enforcement Officers during their regular patrol areas, but not enforced.
- 1.2. To enable the Council's parking team to enforce under the Traffic Management Act 2004 the land needs to be identified, named and regulated under the Council's Off-Street Parking Order. The presence of lines and signs alone does not allow enforcement to be undertaken.
- 1.3. There is a current Parking Order in place, which regulates the majority of car parks owned and managed by the Council. To add additional areas the Parking Order will need to be renewed, which once authorised by Cabinet will take a minimum of 3 months as there is a statutory process including public consultation.
- 1.4. The current Parking Order would benefit from a refresh to bring it up to date as it was created in 2007. Changes to any restrictions can be embedded in the new order. The Parking Order would need to be amended if and when any car parks are changed. All car parks will be reviewed as part of the action plan outlined in the Parking Strategy. For example, following Cabinet's commitment to progress with on-street reviews in priority locations, work is progressing in Woodstock to review both on and off-street parking with surveys and questionnaires to identify any changes that may benefit the town. If on or off-street restrictions are changed each will have an impact on the other so they cannot be dealt with in isolation.

2. PARCELS OF LAND REQUIRING ENFORCEMENT

- 2.1. Land at Langdale Gate, Langdale Hall, Witney
 - 2.1.1. The parking area outside Langdale Hall (see Annex A) is part owned by the Council and part by Witney Town Council. Although there are double yellow lines and signs in place for the Council's area these are largely ignored as drivers are aware the Council is unable to enforce as the area is not covered by a Parking Order.
 - 2.1.2. The Town Council would like to work with the Council to manage the parking as vehicles parked in this area create an obstruction for deliveries and place users of the hall car park at risk. There is also an option for the Council to manage the whole car park including the Town Council area. In order to do this the Council would need to take a lease on the area owned by the Town Council, as the Council can only place a Parking Order on land it has a legal interest in.
 - 2.1.3. This joined up approach would provide the best solution for protecting motorist and pedestrian safety. The Council would seek to recharge the Town Council for the enforcement service an equivalent amount to the lease costs. The aim being neither party suffers any financial loss or gain as a result of this arrangement. This additional area can be enforced using the existing level of resources. It is a relatively small area adjacent to the Shop Mobility unit, and is regularly patrolled and walked through by the enforcement team. Currently the team is only able to advise drivers and it is important that it is regulated appropriately.

2.2. Land adjacent to Zone G in the Woolgate Car Park, Witney

2.2.1. A section of the Woolgate car park adjacent to Zone G (See Annex A), is not covered by the current parking order. This area was developed as parking later than the original parts and was not added to the Parking Order at that time.

2.2.2. This section is part of the car park and as such requires regulating to ensure motorists do not park in it long term reducing the availability of parking for shoppers and visitors to the town.

2.3. Marriotts Close, Marriotts Walk, Witney

2.3.1. Marriotts Close is the access road leading to Marriotts Walk multi story car park (see Annex A). Whilst this road appears to be part of the highway it is not adopted by the County Council nor is it part of the lease for Marriotts Walk Shopping Centre and car park. It is the responsibility of the Council, but is not regulated currently as although it has double yellow lines it is not included in a Parking Order, so these are not enforceable.

2.3.2. Any cars stopping in this area would cause a significant obstruction which would block access to or from the car park, causing highway disruption and major inconvenience to motorists.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1. The cost to renew the Parking Order is estimated to be £1,500 which can be met from existing parking budgets.

3.2. The lease and parking enforcement arrangement for Langdale gate should be cost neutral. As the additional areas are currently monitored by the Enforcement Officers there is no resource implication.

4. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. The Council is the legal owner of these plots of land and is therefore entitled to make a Parking Order. In order to place a Parking Order on the Langdale Gate land owned by the Town Council a lease will need to be put in place.

4.2. The Council cannot enforce parking unless there is a Parking Order listing all the restrictions and both appropriate lines and signs are in place.

5. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

5.1. If the Council does not include these sites in a Parking Order, it will not be able to enforce parking restrictions which could lead to risks to the safety of pedestrians or motorists, cause obstructions to the highway, or impact on the availability of short term town centre parking.

6. **EQUALITIES IMPACT**

6.1. Disabled motorists who have a valid blue badge may park where certain restrictions apply as long as it is safe to do so and they do not block the highway.

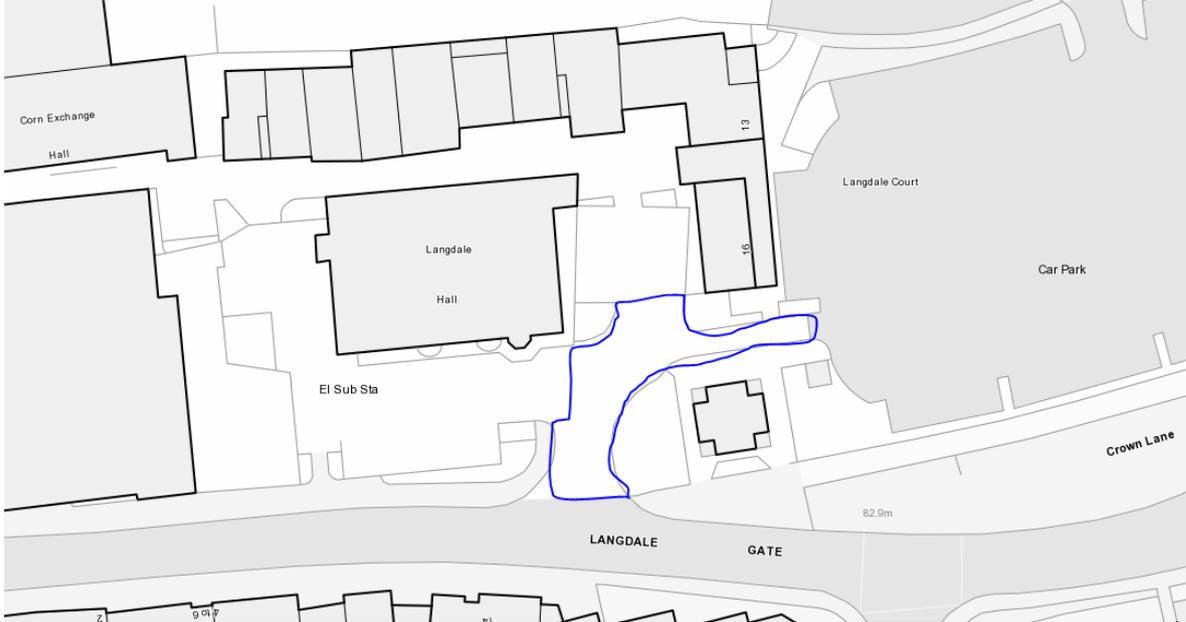
7. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

7.1. The Council could decide not to enforce parking restrictions in these locations.

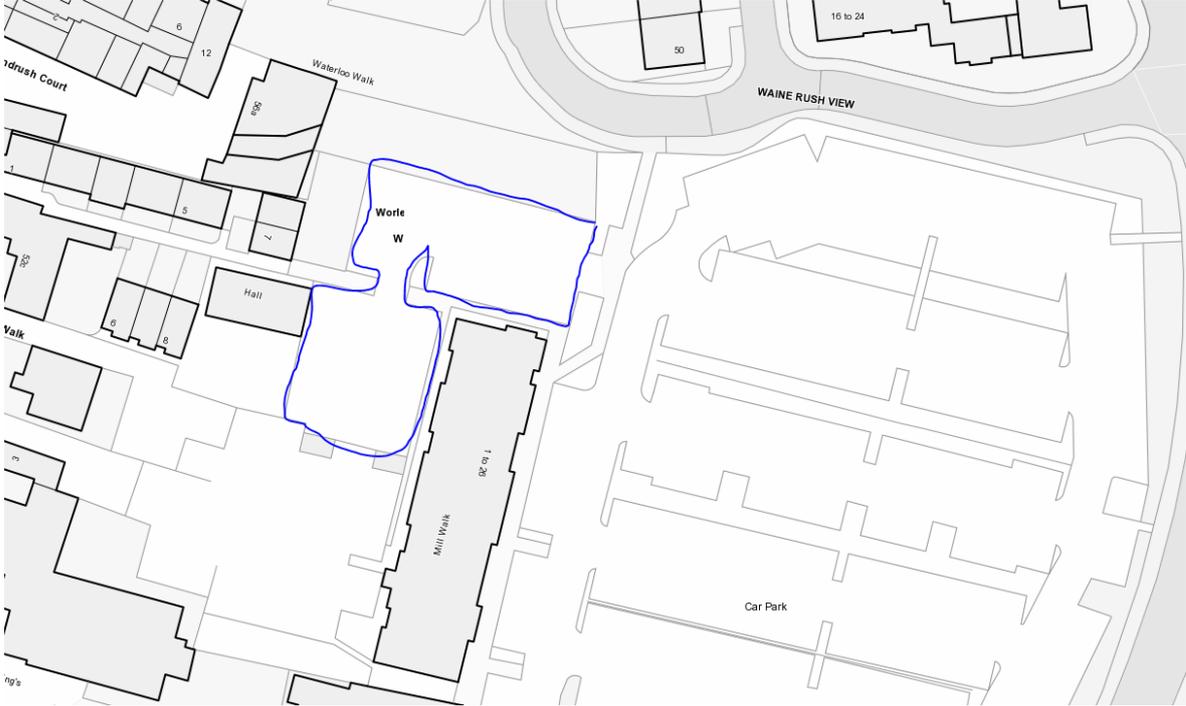
8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

Langdale Gate



Woolgate Car Park



Marriotts Walk

