New On-Road Parking Bays

A number of new 2 hour limited waiting time parking bays were introduced in the Village to provide additional parking spaces for visitors, shoppers and those using local businesses, as well as to compensate for the loss of parking spaces in Station Road through the creation of a pedestrian lane.

The bays were part of the changes to parking restrictions consulted on by Oxfordshire County Council Highways (OCCH) and agreed (with amendments) last year. The Parish Council had previously consulted on the need for changes to parking restrictions and providing more parking space and its outline proposals were the basis for the changes made by OCCH. However, OCCH are the highway authority and, while reflecting the Parish Council's proposals, the final location and extent of the marked bays is their responsibility and the Parish Council does not have the powers to make any changes although it can make representations to OCCH.

Residents have complained to the Parish Council about a number of problems with parking bays. Most complaints are about the last bay at the junction of Cleeve Road and Glebe Ride where it is felt that cars coming south down Cleeve Road to the junction would have to cross onto the opposite side of the road to pass a car parked in the bay and risk meeting a vehicle coming out of Glebe Ride from the direction of Thames Road and turning north into Cleeve Road. OCCH say that cars parked in that bay would be within the guidance in the Highway Code for parking at a junction. It also has to be remembered that a 20mph speed limit applies and that should give time for drivers to slow down or stop to avoid a collision. However, sight lines are not ideal and there is a combined risk of traffic from Glebe Ride going too fast and traffic from Cleeve Road, ignoring the need to give way at the junction, continuing at speed towards the High Street.

In addition, similar potential problems for vehicles turning right out of Station Road into Croft Road and into Manor Road have been noted.

Other complaints have been about problems of access into and out of private driveways onto the road. These include the first bay on Thames Road after the junction with the High Street and the bays on Cleeve road opposite the parking spaces for Brewery Cottages.

Councillors will want to consider whether there is a case for making a formal approach to OCCH for changes (noting that any changes will probably require further Traffic Restriction Orders and full consultation as before) or to allow further time for the changes to settle down.