

**REPORT TO THE HEAD OF HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT
REPRESENTATIONS TO AN ADVERTISED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

**The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull (Station Road, Balsall Common)
(Blue Badge Holder Parking Bay Designation and Restriction of Waiting) Order 2023**

**24 FEBRUARY 2023
LEAD OFFICER: JANE WILLIAMS**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider representations received to a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to move an existing disabled persons parking bay on Station Road, Balsall Common.

2 Background

In response to a local request, it was proposed to relocate an existing disabled persons parking bay on Station Road in Balsall Common to the other side of a build out where there is more room for people to access their vehicles.

The proposed Traffic Order is shown on plan no. 9035-1 in Appendix A.

3 Matters for Consideration

- 3.1 The proposal was formally advertised on 26th January 2023 and the closing date for receipt of representations was 16th February 2023.
- 3.2 Twenty-nine representations were received. All were supportive of the proposals. Four of the responses contained additional questions and comments. The table below summarises these in relation to the proposed order: -

Representations	Officers Comments/ Response (Refer to paragraph)
Can I suggest that disabled markings are put on the ground where the actual parking spot is going to be, I believe it is a representation of a wheelchair. I notice as a resident out and about in the centre most days, some motorists fail to see the rather small sign on a pole that marks the existing area. A big one on the ground might just catch their eye!	3.3
Could I also suggest the markings designating the space of parking area are made more apparent.	3.4
The signage and marking of the existing bays are not clear enough, many times I have seen motorists pull into the space or attempt to pull into the space before realising it is a designated Blue Badge space causing traffic disruption. Therefore, can we have the "New Bay" marked more clearly with the normal yellow paint markings as well as signs. This also applies to the space on the north side of the road.	3.3
Please could you also consider narrowing the walkway to increase the width of the space further to enable wheelchair users' easy access to their chairs? We would often have to park in the Co-op car park and wheel her chair through to the shops rather than use the designated spaces.	3.5
I appreciate that this will add to the expense but as neither of the other spaces for the disabled are actually adequate, I feel it would be a thoughtful and indeed, necessary gesture. I imagine there will also be painted diagonal yellow lines to discourage other drivers from encroaching on the designated space.	3.3
I understand that some local businesses have been told they need to increase the size of their specialised spaces, so it has always seemed very strange to me that the local council has not conformed to the rules.	3.6

It is an obviously sensible proposal. So obvious that it begs the question of why neither the Council nor the Contractor could see it when the original works were carried out!? How much money could have been saved if it had been done thoughtfully first-time round!

3.7

- 3.3 In accordance with the regulations a formal disabled persons parking bay must be marked in white paint and include the word 'DISABLED', providing a wheelchair symbol or using yellow paint would make the bay unenforceable.
- 3.4 The parking bays, including the disabled parking bay will all be remarked.
- 3.5 Narrowing the footway would involve engineering works which are outside of the scope of this scheme. However, the comment has been noted and will be considered as part of the larger scheme for Balsall Common.
- 3.6 The council abides by the guidance set out in TSRGD (The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions) and this guidance changes periodically. When changes are made to a restriction it is a legal requirement that a full public consultation be undertaken. As you can appreciate it is not resource or cost effective, nor a legal necessity to change historic restrictions.
- 3.7 The original disabled persons parking bay at this location was installed in 2012 and was subject to the same statutory consultation which received general support at that time. Looking at this situation with a new lens has resulted in an improved solution coming forward.

4. Ward Members' Views

- 4.1 The Ward Members for Meriden were informed of the proposals and are supportive.

5. Officer Recommendation

- 5.1 The responses received in respect of the proposed traffic regulation order have been fully considered and the question answered accordingly in section 3 of the report.
- 5.2 It is recommended that the proposed Traffic Regulation Order implemented as advertised.

6. Democratic Services

- 6.1 Democratic Services have confirmed that the proposed order was subject to statutory advertisement on the dates reported and that representations were received as noted above.

7. Risk Implications

- 7.1 The Corporate Risk Management Approach has been complied with to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision / project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation and reputation risks.
- 7.2 The Approach is not intended to eliminate all risks and not all the risks identified can be managed all of the time. Also, risks will still exist that have not been identified.

For Decision

The Head of Highway Management is asked to approve that the Traffic Regulation Order, as detailed on plan no. 9035-1 in Appendix A.

The recommendation as set out above is hereby approved:

Signature: ...P.S.Tovey.....Date...28th February 2023.

Paul Tovey, Head of Highway Management

Station Road, Balsall Common 2023 TRO Report

Page 2 of 3