

Report Title: Traffic Regulation Order objection associated with the proposed installation of a disabled persons parking bay in Wilkinson Close, Eaton Socon, St Neots.

To: Cambridgeshire County Council's Traffic Manager and the Local Member(s) representing electoral division below.

Meeting Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

From: Executive Director: Place & Economy

Electoral division(s): Local Member representing St Neots The Eatons

Key decision: No

Outcome: To determine objections received to the proposed installation of a disabled persons parking bay in Wilkinson Close, Eaton Socon, St Neots.

Recommendation: a) Approve the proposed disabled persons parking bay as advertised.  
b) Inform the objectors and interested parties accordingly.

Officer contact:

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Member contacts:

Names: Cllr Derek Giles  
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## 1. Background

- 1.1 Applications are submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council as County Highway Authority for the installation of disabled persons parking bays near the home of the applicant providing applicants meet the criteria set out on Cambridgeshire County Council's website.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire County Council received an application for a Disabled Persons Parking Bay (DPPB) from a resident in Wilkinson Close, Eaton Socon, the application meets the County Council's criteria to be considered for a DPPB. Wilkinson Close is a residential Cul-de-Sac, off of Great North Road approximately 2 kilometres from St Neots Town Centre. The width of the carriageway in the proposed location of the DPPB is 5.5 metres. A plan of the location can be viewed at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Disabled persons parking bays allow users to park near to their residence as an aid to mobility and can play an important role in helping maintain independence. Once installed DPPBs can be used by any road users in possession of a valid blue badge.
- 1.4 A plan showing the location of the proposed Disabled Persons Parking Bay can be found at appendix 2 and a Google Streetview image of the site can be found at appendix 3.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) procedure is a statutory consultation process that requires the Highway Authority to advertise, in the local press and on-street, a public notice stating the proposal and the reasons for it. The public notice invites the public to formally support or object to the proposals in writing within a 21-day notice period.
- 2.2 The proposed TRO for the disabled persons parking bay at Wilkinson Close and other location in St Neots was advertised in the Hunts Post on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The statutory consultation period ran from the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The consultation resulted in 3 objections (one of which was later withdrawn). The objections are summarised along with Officer responses in the table in appendix 4.

## 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 3.1 A good quality of life for everyone  
Disabled Persons Parking Bays can have an important role in maintaining the applicant's independence, furthermore once installed these bays can be used by anyone holding a valid blue badge.
- 3.2 Thriving places for people to live  
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children  
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050  
There are no significant implications for this priority.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 Resource Implications

The necessary staff resources and funding have been secured through the Accessibility budget.

### 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The statutory process for this proposal has been followed.

### 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The design and implementation, if approved, would comply with all relevant regulations, standards, and other accepted practises. Once installed the dimensions of the bay markings of a Disabled persons parking bays provide the user with sufficient space to safely enter and exit their vehicle and provide sufficient space to safely access and use any mobility aids the user may have. Blue badge holders may not be able to walk/travel long distances if a parking space is not available near to their home address and can feel anxious about going out in their vehicle in case a parking space is not available when they return. Therefore, having a disabled persons parking bay near to the applicant's property can play an important role in maintaining the applicant's independence.

### 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

Residents living in the vicinity were individually consulted by letter. Email consultation was sent to local Councils and local Councillors.

### 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The County Councillor, District Councillors and St Neots Town Council were consulted. No comments were received.

### 4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas:

#### 4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Status: neutral

Explanation: There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Status: neutral

Explanation: There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### 4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.

Status: neutral

Explanation: There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Status: neutral

Explanation: There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Status: neutral

Explanation: There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Status: neutral

Explanation: There are no significant implications for this priority.

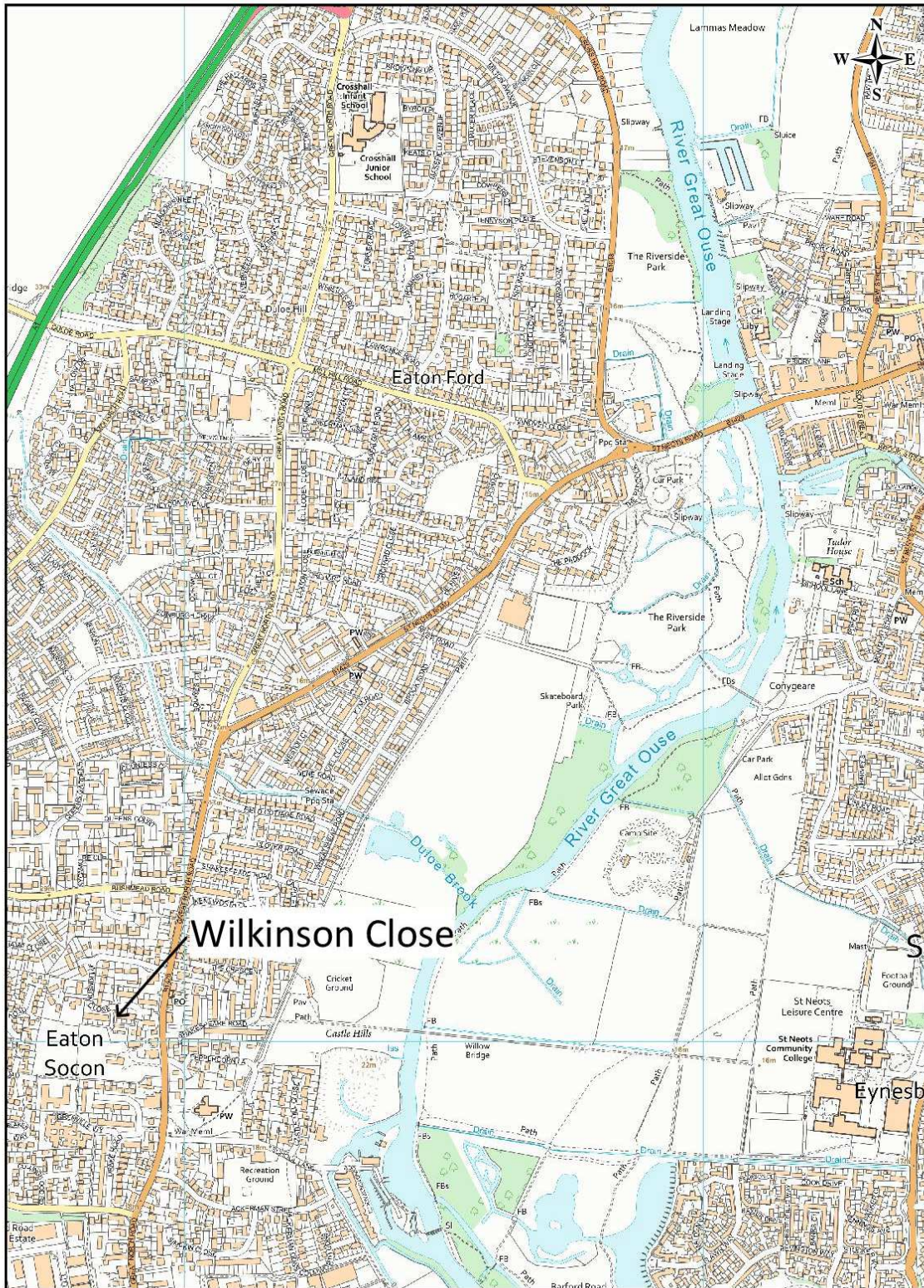
## 5. Source documents

| Source Documents   | Location   |
|--|--|
| Draft Traffic Regulation Order<br>Copies of written representations (redacted)<br>received during the public notice period | <a href="mailto:policyandregulation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">policyandregulation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a> |



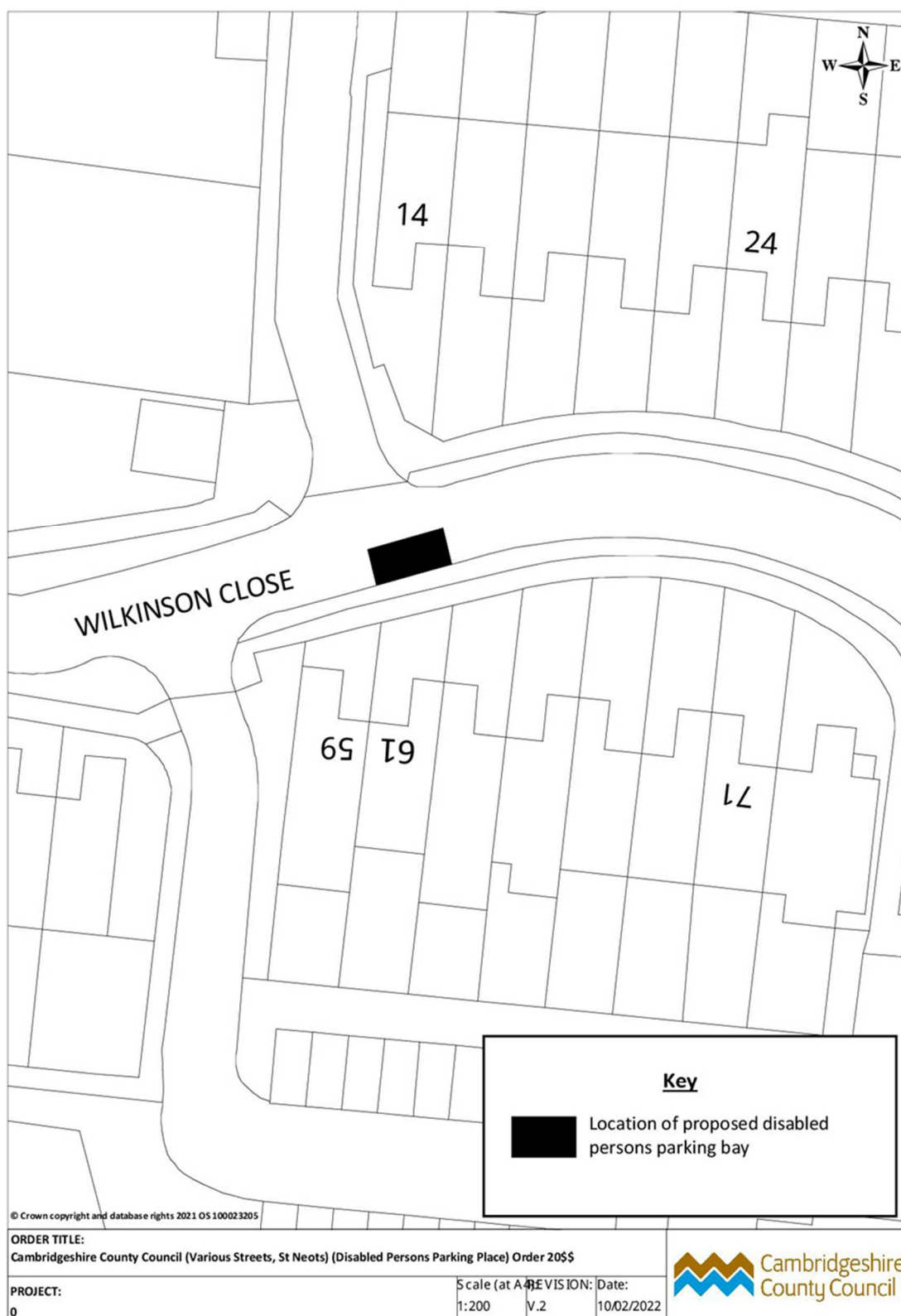
## Appendix 1: Location plan

Cambridgeshire County Council



Scale (at A4): 1:5316 Centred at: 517575,258904 Date: 10/02/2022 © Crown copyright and database rights 2022 OS 100023205

Appendix 2: Plan showing the proposed location of the disabled persons parking bay in Wilkinson Close, St Neots.





### Appendix 3. Google Streetview image of bay location

Google Maps 55 Wilkinson Ct



Appendix 4: Comments received during the consultation to the proposed installation of a disabled persons parking bay at Wilkinson Close, St Neots

| No. | Summary of Objection / Comments   | Officer Response  |
|-----|---|---|
| 1.  | <p>Please be advised that I strongly oppose the above request for a parking bay outside of 61 Wilkinson Close.</p> <p>This road already has dreadful parking issues and to allow this go ahead would rob two residents either side of her a space to park.</p> <p>The applicant always has their car parked outside their house, I go by daily and have never seen it parked anywhere else? They have very understanding neighbours so I am very surprised at this request.</p> <p>The applicant's husband parks his car very near to their back gate which is closer and far more easily accessible than any other resident in this Close, so they are the only couple I know who are able to park at the front and back of their house with two family cars. I can see no parking issues for either of them and I'm astonished at their application.</p> <p>We live in mid-terraced houses with garages en block which are too small and not fit for purpose for the modern day car, therefore, we need to be able to park our cars outside our own properties.</p> <p>I have lived here a long time and we are a road that suffers with parking issues but most if not all of residents are able to park outside their own house including the property in question.</p> <p>If I felt there was a need and never saw their car parked out the front of their property I would agree but I do not see any parking issues and I am sure they have very understanding neighbours should a problem ever arise.</p> | <p>The objection has since been withdrawn.</p>  |
| 2.  | <p>I am writing to say that I strongly object to the installation of a disabled bay outside number 61 Wilkinson Close. My objections are:</p> <p>We live in terraced houses and the parking is not good around here but we are all</p>  | <p>The applicant has stated their Grandchild has a number of physical and mental disabilities and becomes very stressed if they cannot park outside of their property and is also very unsteady on their feet and therefore, they have applied for this</p> |



|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
|    | <p>considerate towards each other and only park our cars outside our own houses and because of the size of a disabled bay the houses either side of no. 61 will lose the space outside their houses which will have a knock on effect that will affect the rest of the residents even those further along the road.</p> <p>The people that have requested the disabled bay have 2 cars and they have always been able to park outside their own house with their second car parked up the side road which is a couple of yards from their back gate, this is something that is not available to us all.</p> <p>There are garages en block but they are no longer fit for purpose for the size of today's modern cars plus there is no street lighting there anymore so it is very dark and as an older woman I don't feel safe leaving for work at 4am if I have to park away from my house.</p> | <p>disabled persons parking bay. The need for this bay has been supported by the Social Worker of the Grandchild.</p> <p>Once installed the dimensions of the bay markings of a Disabled persons parking bays provide the user with sufficient space to safely enter and exit their vehicle and provide sufficient space to safely access and use any mobility aids the user may have. Blue badge holders may not be able to walk/travel long distances if a parking space is not available near to their home address and can feel anxious about going out in their vehicle in case a parking space is not available when they return. Therefore having a disabled persons parking bay near to the applicant's property can play an important role in maintaining the applicant's independence. If installed the bay would only overhang the property boundaries of adjacent properties by a minimal amount.</p> |
| 3. | <p>We aren't happy about the bay as it will stop us from being able to park outside of our property. We will have a dropped curb one side and then then the bay will overhang quite a bit which will not allow us to park our car outside of our home and there is no room anywhere. I feel uneasy about not being able to park outside my own home especially in the winter months when it is dark.</p> <p>I don't understand why the bay is needed as they are always able to park outside of their house? This potentially will have a huge effect on the street parking as it is such a large space.</p>   | <p>Response as with objection No. 2.</p>  |