

Report Title: Objection associated with the proposed installation of an advisory disabled persons parking bay in May's Avenue, Balsham

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

Meeting Date: April 2021

From: Executive Director: Place & Economy

Electoral division(s): Local Member representing Linton

Key decision: No

Outcome: To determine an objection received to the proposed installation of an advisory disabled persons parking bay in May's Avenue, Balsham.

Recommendation: a) Approve the proposed advisory disabled persons parking bay in May's Avenue, Balsham.  
b) Inform the objector accordingly

Officer contact:

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Member contacts:

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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 An application for a disabled persons parking bay has been received by Cambridgeshire County Council from a resident in May's Avenue, Balsham. The applicant meets the County Council's criteria for a disabled persons parking bay (DPPB). The carriageway at the location of the proposed DPPB in May's Avenue is approximately 5.2 metres wide. There are no parking restrictions in the nearby locality.
- 1.3 There are two different types of disabled persons parking bays that can be installed, these are mandatory disabled persons parking bays and advisory disabled persons parking bays. Mandatory DPPBs require the making of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and the misuse of such bays can be enforced. Advisory DPPBs are installed without the legislative upright sign and although these are non-enforceable they are generally well respected by other road users. As advisory bays do not require the making of a TRO they are more cost effective to install. Cambridgeshire County Council assesses each application for DPPBs before deciding which type of bay to install.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 It has been proposed to install an advisory disabled persons parking bay in the vicinity of 19 and 21 May's Avenue, Balsham. A plan of the location can be viewed at Appendix 1. A plan showing the location of the proposed Disabled Persons Parking Bay can be found at appendix 2.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Consultation was carried out with interested parties (local Council's, Councillors and local residents) regarding the proposed disabled persons parking bay in May's Avenue, Balsham. The consultation ran from the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
- 2.2 The consultation resulted in one objection and one comment which are summarised in the table in appendix 3 along with Officer responses.

## 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.

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 and District Councillors were consulted, no comments were received from the County Councillor or District Councillors.

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 Copies of written representations (redacted) received during the public notice period	<a href="mailto:policyandregulation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">policyandregulation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>

## Appendix 1: Location Plan

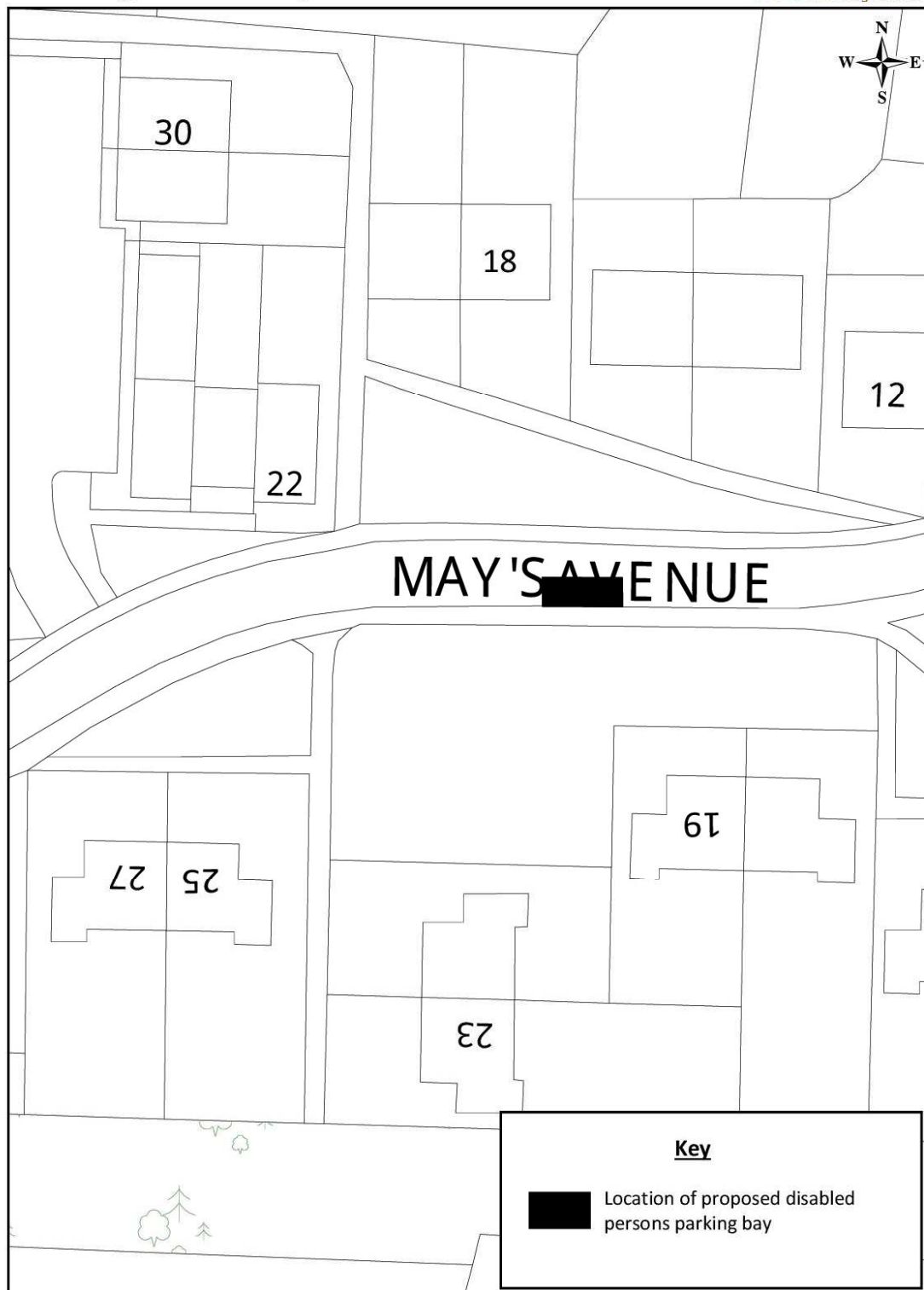
Cambridgeshire County Council



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Appendix 2: Plan showing location of proposed disabled persons parking bay in May's Avenue, Balsham

Cambridgeshire County Council



Appendix 3: Comments received during the consultation to the proposed installation of a disabled persons parking bay in May's Avenue, Balsham.

No.	Summary of Objection / Comments	Officer Response
1.	<p>I am constrained to respond to the above application. Whilst I fully understand the needs of the individual concerned in this application I feel it necessary to draw your attention to the impossible situation with regard to parking in said area. There is not an ounce of space when all residents, and can I add non-residents, park their vehicles in Mays Avenue. It is further complicated by a taxi firm using its drive for parking a Mini Bus and parking private cars on the road. We all acknowledge the cars impact on the environment but the lack of a decent bus service has therefore necessitated more use of the car in Balsham. South Cambs District Council has always emphasised that parking is on a first come first served basis and to now install such a bay would heavily rankle with those that adhere to that rule. With all the cars parked we see difficulty experienced by emergency service vehicles and tankers delivering both heating oil and gas.</p> <p>I believe it would be more beneficial if a deep layby could be installed near the site of the intended bay where cars could be parked at ninety degrees to the road and the relevant individual could be allocated a space in the layby.</p> <p>In conclusion can I repeat that I fully understand and appreciate the needs of the disabled and am not averse to their needs. However I believe it is now time to address the extreme difficulties of parking in Mays Avenue. It is with regret that I have to object to said bay and urge</p>	<p>I do sympathise with the issues you have raised regarding the lack of available parking provision in Mays Avenue. Unfortunately there is no easy solution to remedy the shortage of parking provision as these road and homes were designed and built at a time when car ownership was a fraction of what it is today.</p> <p>Blue badge holders may not be able to walk/travel long distances and if a parking space is frequently not available near to their home they may be unwilling to leave the house in fear that there will be nowhere within close proximity of their home to park when they return. Having a disabled persons parking bay near to the applicant's property can therefore play an important role in maintaining the applicant's independence.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire County Council has a limited annual budget specifically to install disabled persons parking bays for those people that apply for them and meet the criteria to be considered for a bay. Unfortunately this budget is not sufficient to finance a scheme to redesign the road layout to accommodate a layby/parking area. Whilst I appreciate objecting to the proposed disabled persons parking bay seems like an ideal opportunity to air your grievances about the parking issues in Mays Avenue a redesign of the highway is beyond the scope of this application for a disabled persons parking bay and will only serve to slow the process for the applicant of the bay. Although if installed a disabled persons parking bay can be used by anyone holding a valid blue badge it is likely to be mostly used by the local resident who applied for it and therefore the bay will not increase the number of vehicles parking on the road.</p> <p>As the green areas adjacent to the road in Mays Avenue are owned by South Cambridgeshire District Council and the roads are maintained by Cambridgeshire County Council it may be a good idea for concerned local residents to raise the parking issues with the local County Councillor and</p>

	relevant bodies get together and sort the problem.	District Councillor to see if there is anything that can be done.
2.	<p>Thank you for your letter regarding installing a Disabled Parking Bay for a resident in Mays Avenue I am okay with it.</p> <p>My concerns is that the parking at Mays Avenue is becoming more and more difficult and visitors are parking on the grass as there are no spaces for people to park and if I go out I can not guarantee I will be able to park near my bungalow . My partner is disabled so sometimes walking can be a problem.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email comments. Unfortunately there is no easy solution to remedy the shortage of parking provision as these road and homes were designed and built at a time when car ownership was a fraction of what it is today. If you partner felt that it would help to apply for a disabled persons parking bay more information and the online application form can be found on Cambridgeshire County Council's website (link provided).</p>