

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR MAKING EXPERIMENTAL TRO PERMANENT

Cheltenham West Parking Review

The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) Proposal

To remove the newly implemented Permit Holder Only parking restrictions from Lansdown Place Lane, Lansdown Crescent Lane and Lansdown Walk in order to retain pre-existing unrestricted parking.

The newly implemented parking bays (restricted to Permit Holders or Limited Waiting 4 hours) will remain in place.

The Reasons

The County Council has recently consulted on and implemented area-wide changes to parking restrictions in western Cheltenham, comprising three permit parking zones - Zones 12, 13 and 14. These restrictions will be enforced from August 1st 2017.

Through on-going discussions with some local businesses ahead of the scheme launch, it has become apparent that the Zone 13 permit scheme in Lansdown may have a severe impact on some small garage businesses in Lansdown Place Lane.

The Zone 13 scheme would introduce a 'Permit Holder Only' restriction on most of Lansdown Place Lane, Lansdown Crescent Lane and Lansdown Walk. In line with the permit schemes terms & conditions, each business would be limited to two business permits, which would therefore limit the number of customer vehicles they can park near their premises.

A number of local businesses have requested the Permit Holder Only restrictions be removed, in order to retain the pre-existing unrestricted parking on the road, as they claim a limit of two customer vehicles parked on-street at any time will severely impact the viability of their business. Although 4-hour limited waiting parking bays are provided nearby, the businesses feel this will not mitigate the impact on their business sufficiently.

At this point, the potential impact of such a change (to unrestricted parking) is unknown. There is a real risk that the three roads, being the only unrestricted parking in the area, become severely congested with commuter parking, which itself would hamper operation of the garage businesses. There is also a risk that local residents will oppose this change, instead favouring the permit parking arrangements originally intended – a number of representations supporting the permit scheme were received to the original consultation.

The County Council proposes to trial the removal of Permit Holder Only parking from Lansdown Place Lane, Lansdown Crescent Lane and Lansdown Walk (to retain the pre-existing unrestricted parking) through an ETRO. This will allow a period for all parties to assess the operation of the wider permit scheme, and for views to be

gathered from all local stakeholders before a final decision is taken for the best way forward in this location.

The County Council intends through this ETRO to preserve or improve the amenities of the area through which the roads run, namely by addressing local business owner concerns. In making this ETRO, the Council has considered the need to secure and maintain suitable access to premises on the roads.

The TRO consultation process for the new permit scheme (JKS/60327), in which the new Permit Holder Only restriction was originally proposed, resulted in ten representations objecting to the proposals from the three roads, and eight in support.

It is clear from further discussion that local businesses feel the Zone 13 permit scheme restrictions would have a severe impact on their business. However, whilst the Council is keen to address the concerns of the local businesses in making this ETRO, it is not clear at this point whether this change will receive wider local support, or deliver the benefits to local businesses that they require. Implementing an ETRO allows all stakeholders time to assess the resulting situation and identify if it should be continued permanently, or if some other solution is required. If no revised solution can be found, the parking restrictions will revert back to those originally planned by the new Zone 13 permit scheme, and the three roads will be subject to a Permit Holder Only restriction.

Note: The newly implemented parking bays (restricted to Permit Holders or Limited Waiting 4 hours) will remain in place.

Conclusion of ETRO

The ETRO has run for an 18-month period between 1st August 2017 and 31st January 2019 and there have been a number of rounds of consultation. From the responses received, there is generally support for the ETRO arrangements to be made permanent as advertised.

The County Council has acknowledged that there is a differing response from residents in the eastern section of Lansdown Place Lane, between Lansdown Walk, and Lansdown Crescent,

It has therefore been decided, in agreement with Councillors, to make the ETRO permanent as advertised. Then conduct a separate TRO process to support the resident's wish to go back to the permit holder parking arrangements of the original Zone 13 on the eastern side of Lansdown Place.