

**Summary of Open Meeting Hosted by Old Marston Parish Council  
Regarding Proposed Controlled Parking Zones in Old Marston held on  
16 March 2007**

The purpose of this meeting is to present details of the proposed introduction of Controlled Parking Zones in Old Marston and for residents to express their opinions on the scheme. These views will be presented to the County Council to enable them to make a more informed decision when implementing the scheme. The next stage will involve consultations with the contractors in early 2008 who will be evaluating and implementing the scheme. All residents can be involved in the consultation with the contractor. The scheme is due to be implemented late 2008.

The clerk informed the meeting that further enquiries should be directed to Richard Kingshot at Oxfordshire County Council, who is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Controlled Parking Zones.

Surveyors from the County Council will be surveying the roads around the parish to evaluate the levels of parking and road use, starting at 04:00hrs and taking measurements every two hours.

In addition to the residents' parking will be the allocation of permits for visitors' parking. Residents will receive 25 visitor parking permits for six months. The first six months will be free then it will cost £15 for the following six months. Residents over the age of 70 years will have free parking permits. The scheme only applies to parking on the road and not to residents parked within their front boundary. Having a permit to park in the street does not guarantee a parking bay and in some areas there may be less parking bays than permits, which has the potential to sour relationships with neighbours. Residents will need to prove that they are residents and have a vehicle. Residents without cars are still entitled to visitors permits.

Several options are being proposed. One suggestion is simply having notices at the ends of roads stating that it is a residents' only parking area. A similar scheme has been employed in the area known as the lakes (Eden Drive, Ambleside Drive, Bowness Avenue, Conniston Avenue, Derwent Avenue and Snowdon Mead). Designated bays and yellow lines on roads is another option, although some residents were not happy about having numerous yellow lines painted over the roads. The Scheme will be enforced by Control Plus working on behalf of the County Council.

One resident wanted to know if there will be concessions for the disabled or for health visitors on official business. The Clerk and Chairman will look into this.

In Marsh Lane parking is not allowed on the grass verges but it happens. The police have admitted that they have no-one to enforce the parking restrictions. Some residents wondered if the scheme would be enforced.

A number of residents asked if they would have a parking bay outside their house or if

there would be enough parking bays for all of the residents. The general consensus is that there was no guarantee that there would be enough parking for all those with permits.

The options available are: Monday to Sunday, Monday to Saturday, Monday to Friday, 24 hours per day, 09:00hrs to 17:00hrs or 08:00hrs to 18:30hrs. A vote was taken on the options and the most popular option was Monday to Friday from 09:00hrs to 17:00hrs. Visitors tend to arrive in the evening or at the weekend and this would extend the cost of the permits if the time restrictions were longer.

Someone asked how Arlington Drive and Raymund Road near the school would be affected.

Some of the roads in the parish are private and will not be covered by the scheme. Some residents expressed concern that once the controlled parking comes into effect then the unwanted traffic will move into the private roads. They would like to know support they would receive.

It was felt that the cost of the scheme would rise in subsequent years. A number of residents said that the parking scheme would have a very limited benefit and was simply a means of making money by the County Council. One suggestion made was to give residents free parking and to charge the offenders. The City Council have their agenda: reducing car journeys and improving the environment. The effect of this is that a number of residents are likely to knock down their walls and to pave over their front gardens to accommodate their vehicles. This will raise issues of planning permission.

One resident asked what the situation was for commercial vehicles and residents running a business from home. Someone asked if council employees who parked council vehicles outside their properties would be subject to the same restrictions and charges as other residents. The Clerk and the Chairman will look into this.

When the meeting was asked, no-one admitted to wanting the scheme but felt that it was inevitable.