

October 2011

Possible parking restrictions in St Matthews Gardens OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

Dear St Matthews Gardens resident/owner

As you know, I have been working with my City Council colleagues to consult residents and owners at St Matthews Gardens over possible parking restrictions following adoption of the road by the County Council earlier this year.

RESIDENTS' RESPONSES

We received responses (reply slips and/or emails) from a total of 62 residents and owners, showing the following preferences:

Want no parking at all	15	(24% of the vote)
Support the proposal sent to you, ie spaces for around 11 vehicles	42	(67% of the vote)
Want more parking than was shown on the plan sent to you	5	(8% of the vote)

This outcome indicates a very clear general support for the proposal suggested by councillors. However, numerous respondents (from each of the above groups) suggested that the scheme could be improved by making some adjustments to the layout.

The most widely suggested amendments were that all of the parking spaces should be located on the inside carriageway and as far away as possible from people's homes.

COUNCILLORS' RESPONSE

Councillors have met to consider the views emerging from the consultation. We have read and considered carefully all the representations made to us and have concluded that it is right to take forward the principle of double yellow lines throughout the estate, with the exception of space for around 11 vehicles. However, we were keen to try and amend the parking layout to meet, as far as possible, residents' requests and, following a walk around the estate with County Council officers, we have produced an amended plan. This maintains the same amount of space for parking, but adjusts the location of spaces.

The new plan therefore shows all parking spaces located on the inside carriageway and on the opposite side of the road from houses and flats. I am attaching a copy of the new plan.

We have also agreed that one space (location not yet identified) may at a later date be reserved for Car Club use should a car club operator request this, and we have agreed that the double yellow lines should be of the narrow, conservation area type, so as to minimise the visual impact of painted lines in the estate.

NEXT STEPS

Following our meeting, councillors have recommended to the council officers that they proceed to publish a draft Traffic Regulation Order for the parking restrictions shown on the new plan. Officers hope to place the advertisement at the end of November and a formal public consultation (about which you will be informed) will follow. If there are no objections to the draft TRO, council officers have delegated powers to implement the scheme. If objections are received, then the matter will be decided by the Cambridge Area Joint Committee in January 2012.

FUNDING

As you know, the implementation of parking restrictions in St Matthews Gardens does not fall within the spending priorities of the County Council under its present political leadership and the cost would therefore fall on residents of the estate. However, I have talked with council officers and can confirm that under the council's third party funding policy, a discounted rate is offered to residents' groups and this will apply to the Traffic Regulation Order costs. If you have queries about the funding issue, I suggest you contact the Steering Group of the St Matthews Gardens Residents' Association: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

CONCLUSION

My colleagues and I have been aware for some years that there is a range of views over car parking at St Matthews Gardens, and are very aware of the background and the strong feelings of some residents. We have sought to find a compromise that is broadly acceptable within the estate and fair to the residents of neighbouring streets.

Many residents who responded to the consultation pointed out the urgency of getting a double yellow line scheme in place and my own hope is that we can now move forward quickly to finalise this matter.

I will write to you again to let you know the outcome of this process.

Yours sincerely
Nichola Harrison

CONTACT DETAILS:

County Councillor

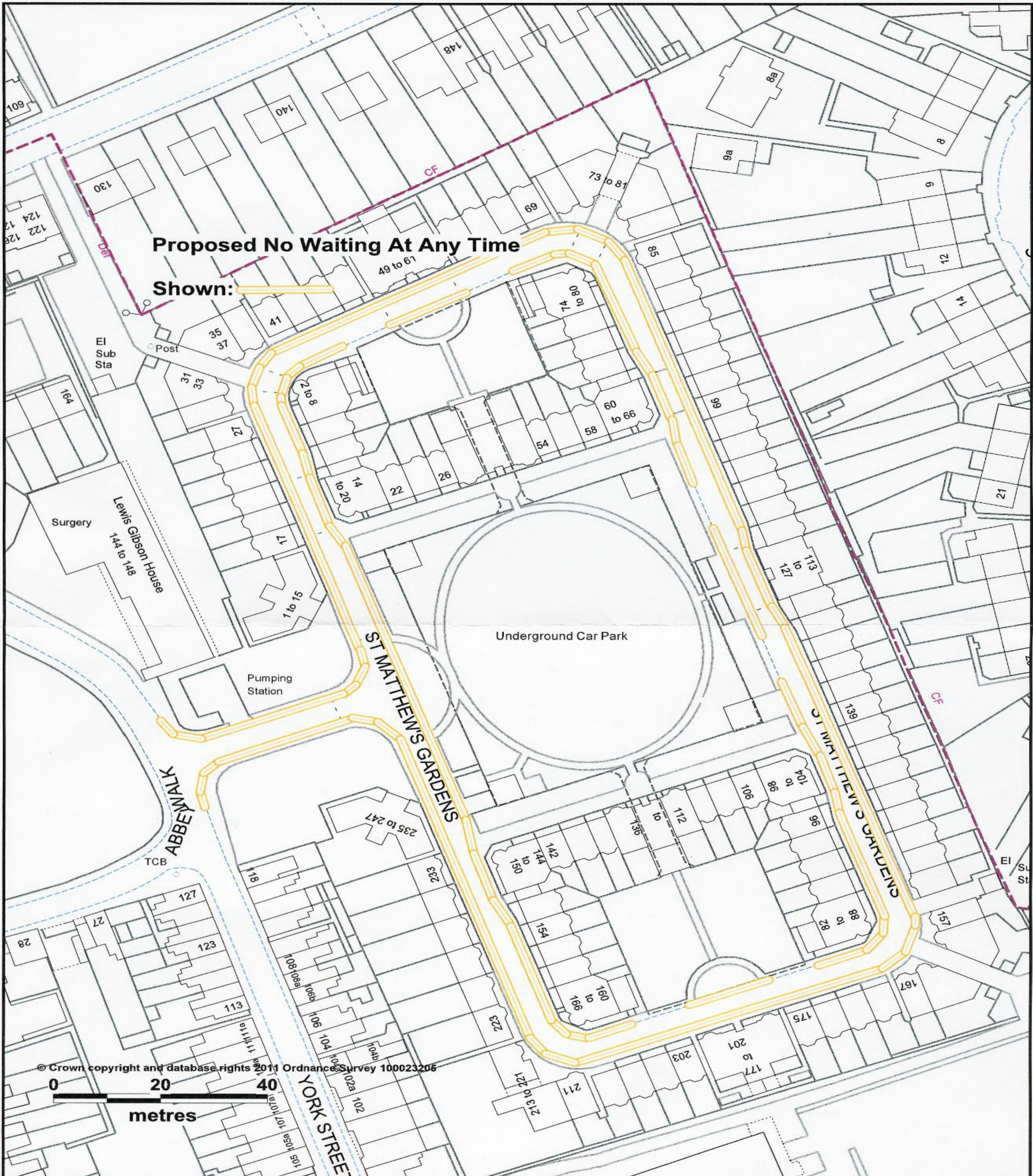
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Proposed No Waiting At Any Time

Shown:

TITLE: Proposed No Waiting At Any Time - St. Matthew's Gardens				 working for  Cambridgeshire County Council	
PROJECT: TRO	DRAWING NUMBER: Plan 3	Scale (at A4): 1:1000	REVISION:		