

Panel of the General Licensing Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Services

Author: Sally Worsley, Street Naming and Numbering Officer

Telephone: 01235 422344

E-mail: sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk

To: Licensing Acts Panel

DATE: 25 November 2020

Proposal to change street name and number of 4 properties in Larch Drive, to Birch Close, DIDCOT

Recommendation(s)

Proposal to change the addresses of the 4 remaining properties addressed into Larch Drive, on the north side of the bus gate, to Birch Close. The proposal seeks to rectify direct vehicle access to the 4 addresses, for the convenience of the households and safety of households south of the bus gate whose drives have been blocked by delivery vehicles while deliveries are completed on foot to addresses on the north side of the bus gate.

Having reviewed all the evidence provided to the panel and taking into account: the duties of the street naming and numbering authority under Section 13 of the Oxfordshire Act 1985 and the General Licensing Committee procedure rules (3) of the Constitution of South Oxfordshire District Council.

The panel is requested to consider the recommendation by the street naming and numbering service to change the 4 addresses from Larch Drive to Birch Close

1. Purpose of report

To present a documented timeline of relevant activities that have culminated in the objection from one of the residents affected by the proposal; and enable the panel to make a judgement in the best interest of all residents affected.

2. Strategic objectives

The relevant strategic objective is that of 'build thriving communities'. The relevant corporate priority is that of 'providing services that reflect residents' needs' & 'Engage with residents on issues, services or projects which affect them, and consider their views in making decisions.'

3. Background Summary and Timeline

The district council is responsible for creating the first 2 lines of all addresses and Royal Mail are responsible for adding the locality, post town and post code. Each street may have one or many post codes associated with it. But a post code can only apply to one street. Post codes are used in satellite navigation devices, which guide drivers to their destination following a route that takes account of: *inter alia* one way streets, laden vehicle weights and non-passable obstructions such as bus gates.

Great Western Park straddles the parishes of Didcot and Harwell and was built in approximately 24 phases of between 56 and 324 properties at a time. A development of 154 dwellings directly accessed from Park Road was started by Bloor Homes in 2014 and is immediately adjacent to the southern edge of GWP. This adjoining phase SN03A of 56 dwellings was started by Taylor Wimpey in 2017. When SN03A was submitted to the street naming and numbering service for postal addresses there was no indication of any vehicle restriction on the plan that would prevent traffic flow between SN03A and the Bloor Homes site. It therefore seemed logical to continue the street name Larch Drive from the Bloor Homes site along what appeared to be a straight section of street with houses on both sides until it reached a 90 degree left hand bend (maps shown below **3.1** and **3.2**). Both postal address schemes were agreed by the respective developers with no mention of the proposed bus gate that would terminate the traffic flow from both directions.

In January 2020 the street naming and numbering service learned of a concrete boulder (placed in the position of the proposed bus gate) that was blocking off vehicular access to the last 9 properties in Larch Drive. A complaint had been received regarding abandoned delivery vehicles obstructing a driveway, whilst the drivers completed their journey on foot. It was immediately apparent that the established vehicular routing for the post code associated with the whole of Larch Drive was via Park Road, which now excluded the last 9 properties. The addresses of the 9 properties would need a new post code, or other existing street name and post code that would be associated with routing via Diamond Drive.

Investigations into the bus gate proposal only led to the understanding that there was going to be a bus gate in the position of the boulder. There was no suggestion that a subsequent county led consultation may influence its repositioning. On this basis a letter was written to the 9 affected properties with the three possible options for resolving the addressing issues at that time:

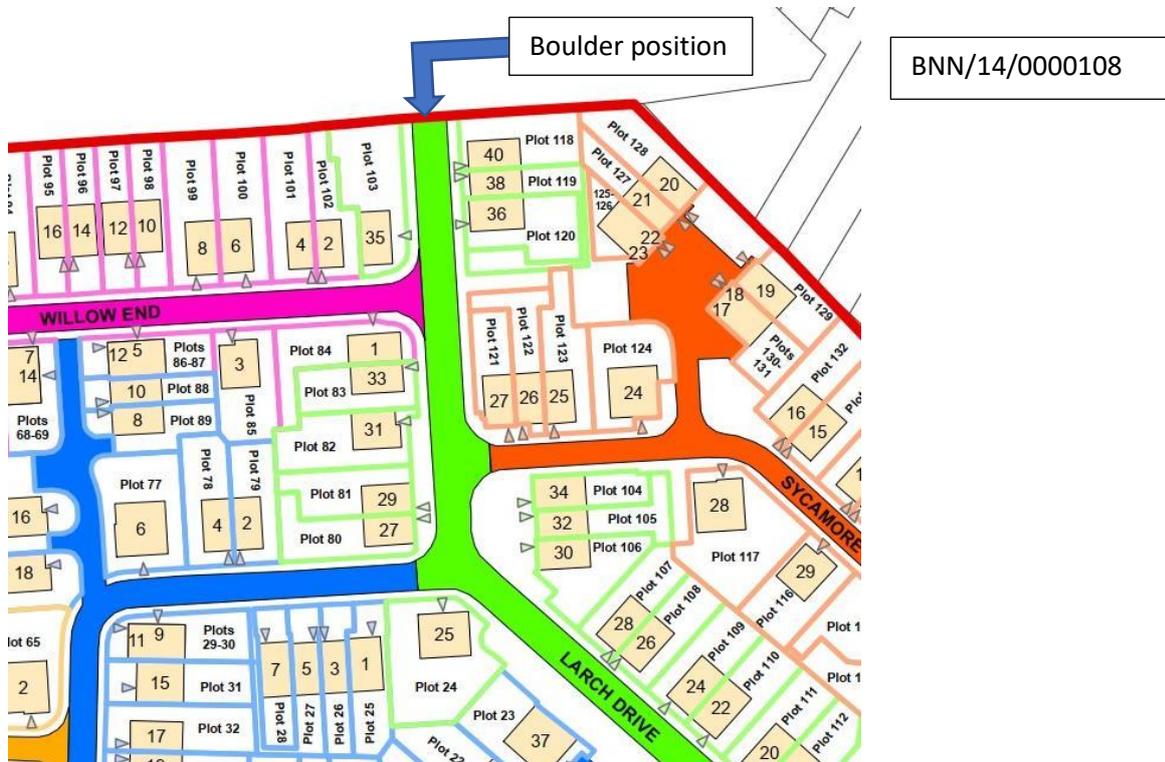
The three possible options were: 1. seek a change of post code from Royal Mail for the last 9 properties, 2. rename that section of Larch Drive as Diamond Drive, 3. Rename that section of Larch Drive as a new street name.

Only 5 out of the 9 affected properties were occupied at this time and the occupiers of these properties chose option 3. to rename the affected section of Larch Drive as Birch Close. However, before a street or part of a street can be formerly renamed the council must carry out a consultation as required under Section 13(2) of the Oxfordshire Act 1985. This was duly carried out and Mr MacDonald-Bradley who had since taken up occupation at 44 Larch Drive objected to the change.

At the end of the consultation (as according to the council's constitution) the Legal and Democratic Service was asked to convene a meeting of the General Licensing Panel in order for Mr MacDonald-Bradley's objection to be heard. However, in the meantime Mr MacDonald-Bradley had ascertained from Oxfordshire County Council that the outcome of a public consultation on the bus gate could cause its current proposed location to change. The delay meant all the affected Larch Drive properties were left in limbo. It was therefore suggested by the street naming and numbering's service manager to go ahead with renaming only the section of street serving Nos. 46 to 54 Larch Drive. These households had already agreed to the renaming, most were in occupation and would not be affected should the proposed location of the bus gate change.

Once the bus gate position had been confirmed in its original position, the remaining 4 property households in Larch Drive were again consulted as required under Section 13(2) of the Oxfordshire Act 1985. Three of the households agreed and Mr MacDonald-Bradley again objected.

3.1 24th June 2014 - Street naming and numbering confirmed by Bloor Homes for development of 154 dwellings off Park Road, Didcot. Scheme included: 1 to 40 (Excl. 13, 37 and 39) Larch Drive. Street Naming and Numbering reference BNN/14/0000108



3.2 23rd October 2017 – Street naming and numbering confirmed by Taylor Wimpey for development of 56 dwellings north of and adjoining the Bloor Homes development. Scheme included: 99 to 107 (Odds) and 90 to 114 (Evens) Diamond Drive and 37 & 39 (Odds) and 42 to 54 (Evens) Larch Drive, DIDCOT. No mention was made by Taylor Wimpey of a proposed bus gate. Street Naming and Numbering Reference: BNN/17/0000214



Timeline

Below is a timeline of documented events and associated supporting evidence.

3.3 7th January 2020 – Alerted by resident in vicinity of proposed bus gate (temporary concrete boulder), of delivery vehicles parking over their drive whilst delivering to Larch Drive residents on the north side of the boulder.

Route to Larch Drive addresses via Park Road had gradually been established over previous 5 year period. All traffic accessing Larch Drive will be via Park Road including those addresses north of the bus gate location. Unneighbourly parking issues for householders immediately south of bus gate will continue and increase as more residents move into the 9 properties in Larch Drive north of the bus gate position.

- Colleague visited site and took photos from the north **(3.4)** and south **(3.5)** of the boulder.
- Investigated facts through various sources regarding the bus gate: South planning team, OCC, Taylor Wimpey. Established that a bus gate was proposed, but there was no mention of the bus gate not being installed in the position marked by the boulder.
- Discovered revised plans for parking spaces for Nos. 37, 39 and one visitors space that were originally to the front of the properties and then moved to the rear via Diamond Drive. Also, the parking space and garage for No. 42 Larch Drive was originally between Nos. 42 and 44 then moved to the rear of No. 44. Please see original and revised parking plans

Appendix 1

- Wrote letters to all 9 affected households, owners and letting agencies explaining situation and giving affected households the options for potential changes of address, please see Appendix 2. Only properties 42, 46, 48, 50 and 54 were occupied at this time.

3.4 Photo taken from position A - North looking south on 07/01/2020

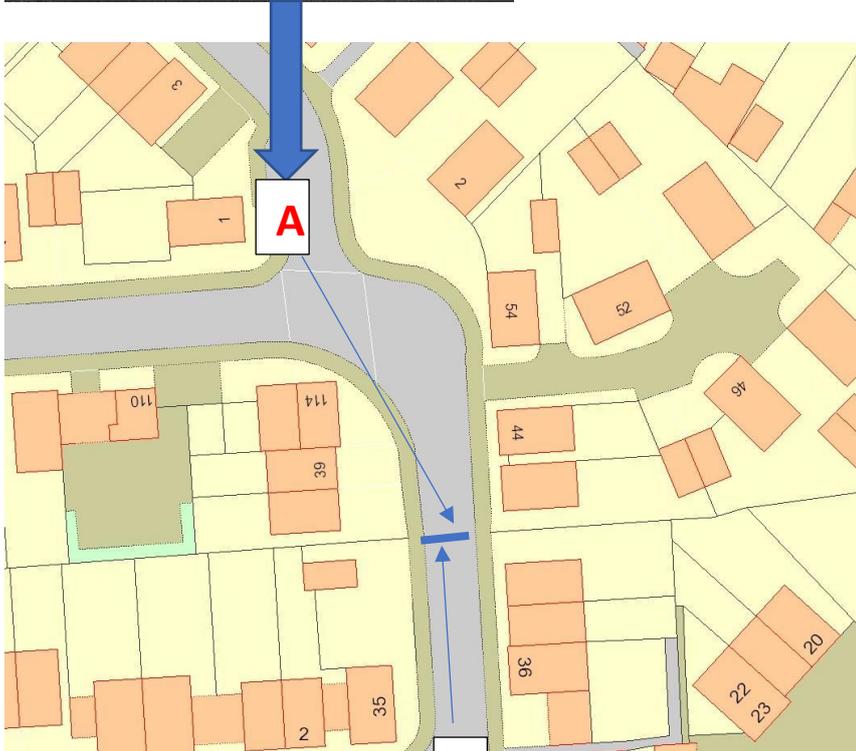
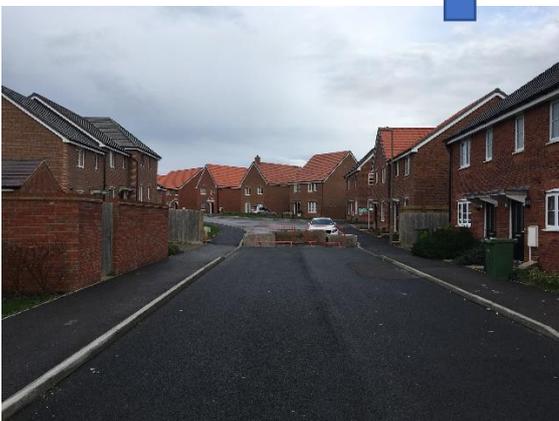


Photo taken from position B

- South looking north on 07/01/2020



3.5 30th January 2020 – The residents of 46, 48, 50 and 54 decided they preferred a new street name and had settled on Birch Close.

3.6 31st January 2020 – Began consultation under Section 13(1)(2 a, b, c) of the Oxfordshire Act 1985

13.-(1) Subject to subsection (2) below a district council may name any street or any part of a street in their district which is without a name or which bears two names and may from time to time alter the name of any street or of any part of a street in their district.

(2)(a) Where the district council propose to alter the name of a street or part of a street they shall-

(i) post notice of the proposal in a conspicuous position at each end of the street or part to which it relates; and

(ii) serve a copy of the notice on the owner or occupier of every dwelling-house in that street or part.

2(b) The notice under paragraph (a) above shall state the new name proposed and that objections to the proposal may be made in writing to the district council before a day, specified in the notice, not earlier than 28 days after the district council have complied with paragraph (a) above

(2)(c) Before determining any alteration of name in accordance with a proposal to which this subsection applies, the district council shall consider all objections made as provided in paragraph (b) above and , in the case of an objection by the owner or occupier of any dwelling-house in the street, give to the objector an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a panel or sub-panel of the council.

Please see [Appendix 3](#) for covering letter and notice – Notice to be displayed from 31st January 2020 to 2nd March 2020.

3.7 10th February 2020 – Received email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley on the day he moved into 44 Larch Drive objecting to the change of address. I duly responded. Please see

[Appendix 4](#)

3.8 11th February 2020 (21:33)– Received email from Mr Mac-Donald Bradley having just seen the public notice board. He repeated his objection and asked questions about the nature of the bus restriction. I responded on 12th February (09:33). Please see [Appendix 5](#)

3.9 12th February 2020 (10:52)– Received email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley asking if we had considered relocating the traffic restriction as it had not yet been installed. I responded on 12th February (11:21). Pointing out that the bus gate position would be down to the county council and Taylor Wimpey. Please see [Appendix 6](#)

3.10 12th February 2020 (11:28)– Received email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley asking for contacts so he could try and coordinate us, as there seemed to be a lack of communication between us. I responded on 12th February (11:40) to confirm I had no specific contact at either. Please see [Appendix 7](#)

3.11 17th February 2020 (13:23)– Received email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley asking how to make a formal complaint on the following points:

- 1) you should have proper contact with the council,
- 2) you should have queried the bus restriction arrangements immediately after you found out about the anomaly rather than get everyone to change their addresses.

[Appendix 8](#)

3.12 6th March 2020 – Started arrangements for hearing Mr MacDonald-Bradley’s objection at the General Licencing Panel.

3.13 Between 6th March and 11th March – a decision was made by the district council to rename part of Larch Drive serving 5 of the 9 affected Larch Drive properties based on an email dialogue between Mr MacDonald-Bradley and Ryan Moore (Senior Engineer) at Oxfordshire County Council. The email exchange began on 17th February and concluded on 2nd March and contained a suggestion that there was a possibility that the bus gate position could be moved as a result of the public consultation that was yet to take place. Please see [Appendix 9](#)

3.14 11th March 2020 – On the strength of the above decision we terminated the General Licencing Panel arrangements and administered the change of address for Nos. 46, 48, 50, 52 and 54 Larch Drive to Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 Birch Close and wrote to all affected households to explain.

Please see [Appendix 10](#)

3.15 **16th July 2020** – Bus gate approved

3.16 **23rd July 2020** Preparations made to change street name for remaining 4 properties in Larch Drive north of the position of the bus gate. Notice and covering letter delivered to Nos. 37, 39, 42 and 44 Larch Drive. Public notice board erected and notice displayed.

Please see [Appendix 11](#)

3.17 **25th July 2020** Received email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley asking for the latest consultation to be stopped and seeking to make a formal complaint. Plus, an attachment showing a drawing of the bus gate, aerial photo and Google map extract.

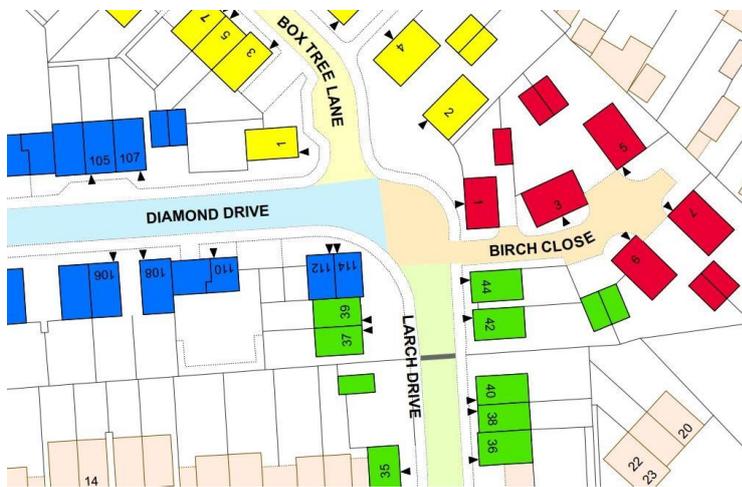
Please see [Appendix 12](#)

3.18 **21st August 2020** Received email objection from Mr MacDonald-Bradley.

Please see [Appendix 13](#)

3.19 Reason for decision to address Nos. 37, 39, 42 and 44 Larch Drive into Birch Close

Birch Close now intersects Diamond Drive and Larch Drive - Once Nos. 46 to 54 Larch Drive had been changed to Nos. 1 to 9 (Odds) Birch Close, we had, as a consequence created a division between Diamond Drive and Larch Drive. No. 1 Birch Close faces outwards towards Diamond Drive and therefore the street to the front of the property needs to be Birch Close. To continue Diamond Drive after the intersection with Birch Close would cause confusion .



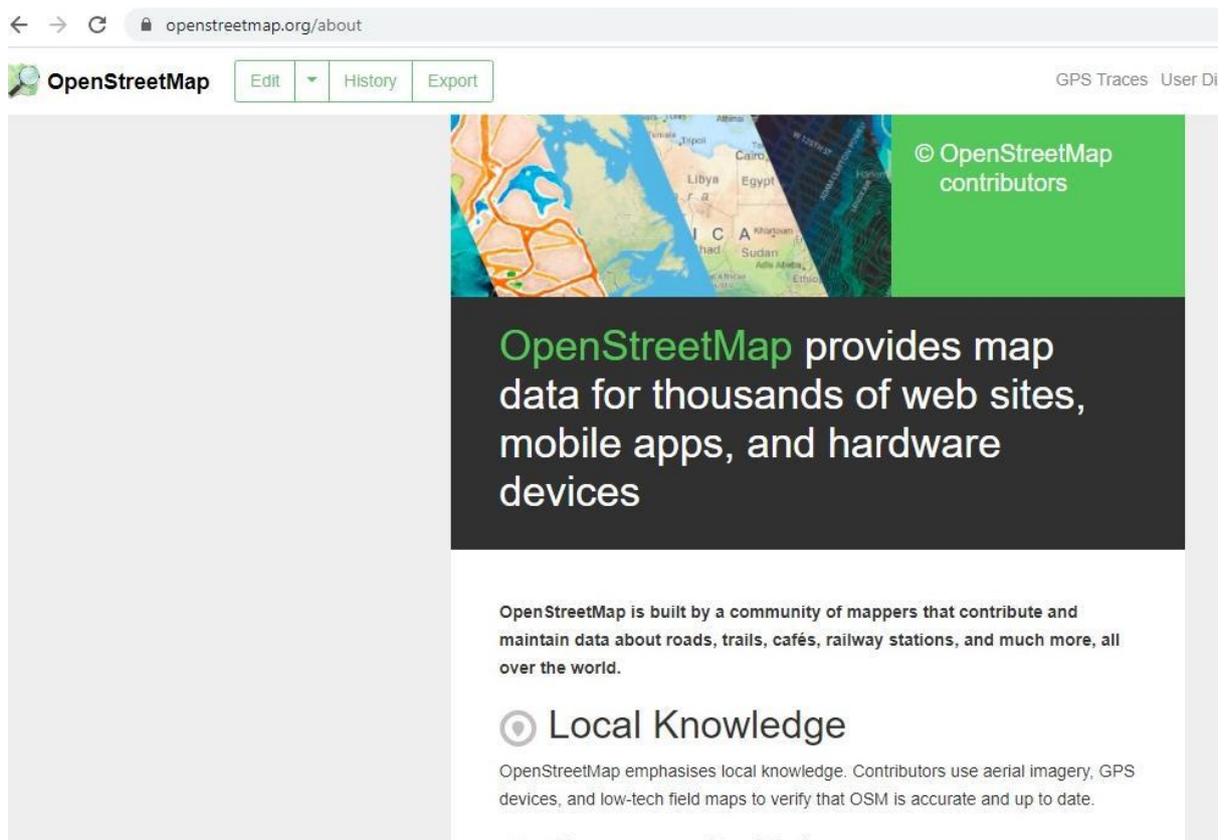
Please see [Appendix 14](#)

3.20 Supporters of the change to Birch Close - Once the consultation on the bus gate was complete and the original position of the bus gate was finally fixed, it was then necessary to change the addresses of the 4 remaining Larch Drive properties. The second street name change consultation then went ahead and only one objection was received, which was from Mr MacDonald-Bradley. This meant the 3 other occupiers, SOHA who part own Nos. 37 and 39 and the owners of Nos. 42 and 44 were all in agreement with the change of name to Birch Close.

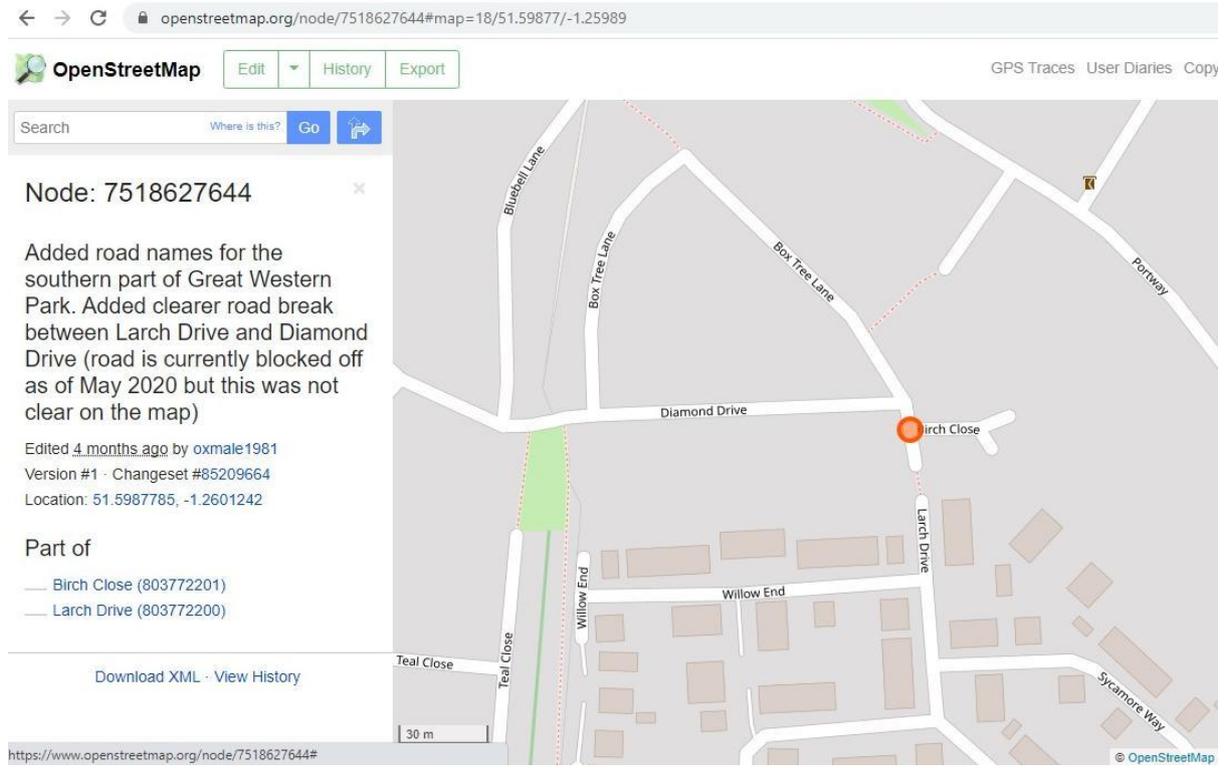
3.21 Parking for all 4 properties including visitor parking is only accessible from the north side (Diamond Drive/Birch Close) of the bus gate (Appendix 1). This means there is no parking allocated for these properties on the south side of the bus gate in Larch Drive. Delivery drivers encouraged to deliver to any of the 4 properties from the south side of the bus gate would have to continue to abandon their vehicles to complete their journey on foot. This would cause an ongoing problem for Larch Drive residents south of the bus gate where delivery vans are left parked across their drive.

3.22 From the safety point of view, any vehicles abandoned on the south side of the bus gate would become an obstacle to buses and the emergency services should they be summoned.

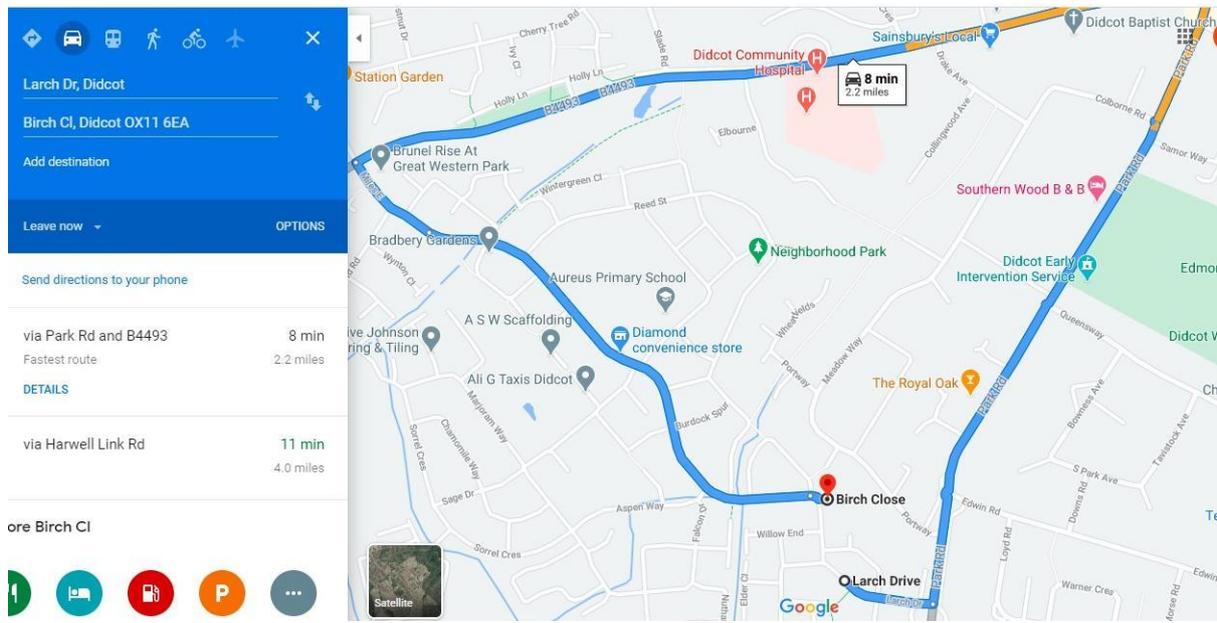
3.23 Open Street Map is a source of mapping and routing data for thousands of web sites mobile apps and hardware devices. See home page below.



Open Street Map version of mapping showing Larch Drive, Diamond Drive and Birch Close shows the break between Larch Drive and Diamond Drive/Birch Close.



Google Maps vehicle route between Larch Drive and Birch Close



Legislation

4.0 The Oxfordshire Act 1985 has been adopted by all Oxfordshire district councils and Sections 13 and 14 of the Act have superseded all previous legislation regarding street naming and numbering.

Section 13(5) The following enactments shall cease to have effect in the county:-

Section 13(5)(c) section 21 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907; and

(d) sections 17 to 19 of the Public Health Act 1925.

Financial Implications

5.0

Legal Implications

6.0 If the objector remains unhappy and wishes to further complain against the decision of the council. The council would usually suggest they should first seek to do so through the Council's official complaints procedure. Then they would have a right to seek redress through the Local Government Ombudsman.

Risks

7.0 If the Panel decide against the decision of the street naming and numbering service there is a risk to the council's reputation as it has already taken 10 months to carry out the process of renaming a section of existing named street.

Summary

8.0 In considering the proposal to rename a further section of Larch Drive as Birch Close the panel must have regard to:

- the current layout of Birch Close which now intercepts Diamond Drive due to the orientation of 1 Birch Close not facing into the spur.
- naming all 9 properties into Birch Close completely separates Diamond Drive from Larch Drive and introduces a firmer buffer indicating a 'No Through Road'.
- the suggestion of changing the remaining 4 property addresses to Birch Close has been constant since the end of January. The residents of the other 3 properties have accepted the change. As did the owners (SOHA) of Nos. 37 and 39 and LSL Property Services on behalf of the owners of Nos. 42 and 44 the first time they were consulted and are now waiting for the change to be formalised.

Conclusion

9.0 The street naming and numbering service has attempted to find a suitable solution to an addressing situation that seems to be causing difficulties for many households in the vicinity of the bus gate. The change of street name and number from Larch Drive to Birch Close has been accepted by 8 out of 9 of the original consultees and 3 out of 4 of the later consultees. It's 10 months since the addressing situation was first discovered and the street naming and numbering service has consistently followed council procedure in seeking a solution at the earliest opportunity. Unfortunately, 3 households are still in limbo waiting for an outcome to a solution they had already accepted. If no action is taken:

(a) occupiers of property closest to the southern side of the bus gate will continue to have vehicles blocking their drive while the occupants complete their journeys on foot to properties north of the bus gate. It's a 2.24 mile journey from one side of the bus gate to the other, therefore delivery drivers will be reluctant to make that journey if they can complete their delivery on foot. Vehicles abandoned across driveways is inconvenient and raises a safety issue. A resident has already been late for a hospital appointment because the driver of a delivery vehicle (delivering north of the bus gate) parked across his drive refused to move.

(b) occupiers of property on the northern side of the bus gate, but still addressed into Larch Drive will not receive deliveries directly to their doors. They will have to use the Birch Close or Diamond Drive post code in order to receive doorstep deliveries.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Parking spaces on plan sent to me for street naming and numbering purposes in 2017 by Taylor Wimpey and plan of same area from 2018 planning application showing change to parking spaces.

Appendix 2 – Letter from council to all 9 affected properties on first learning of vehicles obstructing driveways south of boulder.

Appendix 3 – Letter and notice to commence first consultation to change name of part of Larch Drive under Section 13 of Oxfordshire Act 1985

Appendix 4 – Email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley objecting to the street name change

Appendix 5 – Email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley confirming his objection to the street name change

Appendix 6 – Email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley asking if any consideration had been given to moving the bus gate.

Appendix 7 – Email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley asking for contacts at OCC and Taylor Wimpey

Appendix 8 – Email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley asking about the council's complaints procedure

Appendix 9 – Email exchange between Mr MacDonald-Bradley and Ryan Moore of OCC regarding the bus gate

Appendix 10 – Letter from council to all 9 affected properties explaining that there had been an objection to the street name change and that we would change 5 of the addresses that wouldn't be directly affected by the bus gate at this point in time.

Appendix 11 – Letter and notice to commence second consultation to change name of the remaining part of Larch Drive, north of the bus gate under Section 13 of Oxfordshire Act 1985

Appendix 12 – Email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley asking for the second consultation to be stopped.

Appendix 13 – Objection email from Mr MacDonald-Bradley regarding the second consultation.

Appendix 14 – Plan of council's proposal.

APPENDIX 1

Extract of plan sent on 12th October 2017 by Taylor Wimpey for street naming and numbering of Phase 27 Parcel SN03A showing original parking spaces for Nos. 37, 39 and 42 Larch Drive



Planning permission **P18/S1779/NM** for Phase 27 Parcel SN03A showing revised parking spaces for Nos. 37, 39 and 42 Larch Drive



APPENDIX 2



Listening Learning Leading

Corporate Services

HEAD OF SERVICE: **Adrianna Partridge**

The Owner/Occupier
44 Larch Drive
DIDCOT
OX11 6DX

CONTACT OFFICER: **Sally Worsley**
Sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk
Tel: 01235 422344

South Oxfordshire District Council
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Milton
ABINGDON OX14 4SB

Our Ref: BNN/17/0000214

07 January 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Bus Route Only division of Larch Drive causing issues for Larch Drive residents living either side of division.

I am writing to ascertain your views regarding the Bus Route Only division in Larch Drive, how it is affecting you personally and what you would consider to be a possible solution?

The council had not been warned of this peculiarity during the street naming and numbering process, but has now been contacted by an affected resident. We would therefore like to try and resolve the problem via one of the following options:

1. Renumbering Nos. 37 and 39 and 42 to 54 (Evens) **Larch Drive** as: Nos. 118 and 116 and 123 to 109 respectively **Diamond Drive**.
2. Renumbering: Nos. 37 and 39 and 42 to 54 (Evens) **Larch Drive** as: Nos. 4 and 2 and 15 to 1 respectively **New Road name**.
3. As already agreed with Royal Mail, retain the same street name and house numbers, but change the post code, so that sat navs will eventually guide visitors and deliveries via Diamond Drive.

I've attached a copy of the original street naming and numbering plan along with copies of options 1 and 2. Both these options would involve a change of post code to either OX11 6HR for Diamond Drive or, a new post code to go with the new street name.

Another less drastic solution would be to try and deal with the problem with signage. Please let me know your views at your earliest opportunity and before 28th January 2020.

Contact details overleaf.

APPENDIX 3



Corporate Services

HEAD OF SERVICE: Adrianna Partridge

The Owner/Occupier
44 Larch Drive
DIDCOT
OX11 6DX

CONTACT OFFICER: **Sally Worsley**
Sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk
Tel: 01235 422344

South Oxfordshire District Council
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Milton
ABINGDON OX14 4SB

Our Ref: BNN/20/0000030

31st January 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Bus Route Only division of Larch Drive causing issues for Larch Drive residents living either side of division.

The general agreement of the current occupiers, from within the 9 affected properties in Larch Drive, is to choose a new name for this isolated part of the street. The new name chosen is Birch Close, which is in line with the street naming theme for Great Western Park. This means No. 44 Larch Drive, DIDCOT OX11 6DX will become No. 11 Birch Close, DIDCOT (new post code as provided by Royal Mail).

I've enclosed a plan showing the change and a copy of the public notice explaining how to comment or object.

If the address change goes ahead, the council will provide new signage to direct visitors accordingly.

Kind regards

SALLY WORSLEY
GIS Team Leader &
Street Naming and Numbering Officer

Email: sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk

Direct telephone: 01235 422344



PUBLIC NOTICE

**SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
PROPOSE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF PART OF
LARCH DRIVE
FROM THE JUNCTION WITH BOX TREE LANE TO
THE PROPOSED BUS GATE AND TO INCLUDE
HOUSE Nos: 37, 39, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52 & 54**

TO:

**BIRCH CLOSE
WITH REVISED NUMBERING**

**AND TO ERECT STREET NAME PLATES AT THE
EXTREMITIES**

**OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL MAY BE MADE IN
WRITING TO THE ADDRESS GIVEN BELOW BEFORE Monday
2 MARCH 2020**

**STREETNAMING & NUMBERING, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT
COUNCIL, 135 EASTERN AVENUE, MILTON PARK, MILTON,
ABINGDON, OX14 4SB**

Or, by email bissnn@southoxon.gov.uk

APPENDIX 4

From: Worsley, Sally-Anne <sally-anne.worslev@southandvale.gov.uk>
To: chris bradley
Sent: Monday, 10 February 2020, 15:05:12 GMT
Subject: Re: Larch Drive renaming.

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your feedback.

Your email is sufficient for now. I'll let you know if more is required at a later date.

Kind regards
Sally Worsley

Direct number: 01235 422344
Email: sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk

GIS Team Leader &
Street Naming and Numbering Officer
FAO Street Naming and Numbering
South Oxfordshire District Council,
135 Eastern Avenue,
Milton Park,
Milton,
ABINGDON OX14 4SB

From: chris bradley
Sent: 10 February 2020 14:52
To: Worsley, Sally-Anne <Sally-Anne.Worsley@southandvale.gov.uk>
Subject: Larch Drive renaming.

Hello,

I have, today, moved into 44 Larch Drive and note your letter dated 31 Jan 2020 expressing an agreement to choose a new name.

I have already undertaken various administrative steps using '44 Larch Drive' as the address detail, and would like the addresses to remain as they are.

Out of simple preference I think I prefer my existing address anyway.

Therefore, for the record, I do not agree to the address change.

Please let me know if there is more that I would need to do to register this comment/objection, or if this email is sufficient.

Thanks.

Chris Bradley.

APPENDIX 5

BISSNN

Wed 12/02/2020 09:33

To: chris bradley <

Dear Chris,

The bus gate will be retracting bollards for buses only (similar to Station Road, Didcot). There will be no access for any other vehicle and that's why we're proposing the change as it leaves 9 properties in Larch Drive isolated. Currently, delivery drivers are parking their vehicles across the drives of households on the main Larch Drive side and then completing their journey on foot. It's important to understand this total restriction to traffic entering Larch Drive from Park Road will not be able to access the 9 properties mentioned in my letter and on the notice.

I have noted your objection and the reasons will be taken into account when the decision is considered.

Kind regards

Sally Worsley

Direct number: 01235 422344

Email: sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk

GIS Team Leader &
Street Naming and Numbering Officer

chris bradley <

Tue 11/02/2020 21:33

To: BISSNN

Hello,

I have just had sight of a further 'public notice' regarding the proposed name change for certain Larch Drive properties.

As noted below, please see my email at the bottom, I am putting in an objection. I don't want the name change, thanks.

For information, what will the nature of the bus restriction be? Will it be just by signage or by active bollards, or other?

APPENDIX 6

BISSNN

Wed 12/02/2020 11:21

To: chris_macdonaldbradley@

Dear Chris,

I'm afraid that's outside our control and between Oxfordshire County Council and the developers Taylor Wimpey.

Kind regards

Sally Worsley

Direct number: 01235 422344

Email: sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk

GIS Team Leader &
Street Naming and Numbering Officer

chris_macdonaldbradley@

Wed 12/02/2020 10:52

To: BISSNN

Have you considered relocating the traffic restriction? It is not installed yet, why not move that?

APPENDIX 7

BISSNN

Wed 12/02/2020 11:40

To: chris_macdonaldbradley@

Dear Chris,

No, sorry. I have no contact with either.

Kind regards

Sally Worsley

Direct number: 01235 422344

Email: sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk

GIS Team Leader &
Street Naming and Numbering Officer

chris_macdonaldbradley@

Wed 12/02/2020 11:28

To: BISSNN

OK, so do you have a contact so I can try to coordinate you both, as there seems to be a lack of communication between you?

APPENDIX 8

chris_macdonaldbradley

Mon 17/02/2020 13:23

To: BISSNN

Hello. Just been on the phone again to county council, another long call, again noone can find anyone else.

I am afraid I feel a need to make a formal complaint that you don't know who to talk to and have no formal contact on such matters to the county council. It seems to me that you should have taken the steps of querying the location of this bus restriction as and when you discovered this anomaly.

Please let me know about your complaints process and what more I need to do at this stage. Complaint is;

- 1) you should have proper contact with the council,
- 2) you should have queried the bus restriction arrangements immediately after you found out about the anomaly rath than get everyone to change their addresses.

Thanks,

Sincerely

Chris Bradley.

APPENDIX 9

chris bradley <

Mon 02/03/2020 14:50

To: Moore, Ryan - Communities <Ryan.Moore@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Cc: BISSNN

Thank you for your clarifications, which have addressed my immediate questions regarding timing. This was all I was asking.

The two further aspects to ask, then, are;

- whether there is any intention to complete the street name change BEFORE the agreement on where to place the bus restriction,
- whether the unmade road in front of this property will be tarmac'd before the plan has been agreed? (my urgency was the apparent readiness of the road crews who are acting as if to complete this road, thus by inference the bus restriction).

It should be obvious that changing the street name is therefore "not yet a question", until the bus restriction has been decided on.

The street name change cannot/should not therefore go ahead until the bus restriction plans have been approved. Is this correct? (I ask this question directly for the benefit of the local Council, cc'd, with whom you don't seem to be having a direct dialogue?)

Sincerely,

Chris Bradley.

On Monday, 2 March 2020, 14:16:27 GMT, Moore, Ryan - Communities <ryan.moore@oxfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Chris,

I apologise for not providing the requested information but I was advised this had to go through our formal FOI request procedure. However, after speaking to my manager I can provide you with some of the information you have requested below.

As mentioned previously the provision of the bus gate was secured in the outline planning approval which was granted in the early 2000s. The detailed design of which is subject to a discharge of condition application further to condition 4 of planning approval - P15/S3338/RM, which is dealt with by South Oxfordshire District Council and not Oxfordshire County Council.

The road renaming is being dealt with by South Oxfordshire District Council and it's the function of that authority to consider that application.

I can confirm that the Road Agreements Team are unable to release development drawings/documentation as the developer owns the rights to these, they do not form part of a public document until they are included in the relevant Highway agreement, which they currently do

not.

I have since sought consent from Taylor Wimpey to release the drawings and I can confirm they are happy for me to do so, but with the following caveat: “The attached drawings are provided only for information. The drawings are not yet approved and therefore subject to change, which the public would not get an opportunity to provide comments on or consulted on until the drawings form part of the formal condition discharge application. Which, Taylor Wimpey will make to the Planning Authority once Oxfordshire County Council have approved the design”.

As part of the approval of the physical restraint Oxfordshire County Council will carry out a public consultation once the details on the bus gate are agreed, this will provide an opportunity for members of the public, bus operators and emergency services etc. to provide their comments on the proposals and respond to it with an objection, support or no comment. The consultation will run for one month, and any objections received will be reported to our cabinet member for transport to determine a final decision on the bus gate, at a public meeting which members of the public can apply to address. Please be assured that just because Oxfordshire County Council officers have approved a design this does not preclude the outcome of the public consultation.

The timescales of this public consultation depends on different factors, i.e. when Taylor Wimpey submit the revised bus gate design & when OCC approves it. Therefore unfortunately I am unable to provide timescales at this time. A letter will be delivered to the residents directly affected and a notice is put on the Councils website once the consultation has begun - <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/about-your-council/have-your-say-about-council-services/consultation>

Again the timescales for the delivery of this project is dependent on Taylor Wimpey’s programme, which unfortunately I do not have sight of. My understanding is that Taylor Wimpey wants the bus gate installed as soon as possible. The current status of this project is I am waiting for Taylor Wimpey to resubmit the bus gate design following comments I made on the proposals.

Please be aware some of this information might be repeated in the FOI response.

Kind Regards,

Ryan Moore – Senior Engineer – South & Vale – 07557 082568 – 0345 310 11 11
Oxfordshire County Council – Road Agreements, Growth & Place, Communities, County Hall,
New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

-----Original Message-----

From: [chris bradley](#) <

Sent: 02 March 2020 10:50

To: [Moore, Ryan - Communities](#) Ryan.Moore@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Cc: FOI - E&E <FOI-E&E@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: bus restriction Larch Drive Didcot.

Hello,

I require a response today for item 3, which is not an FoI request.

It is unacceptable that you would seek to delay telling me what the routes and time periods for laying objections are to a present and immediate matter.

This is absolutely totally undemocratic and not how the process is to take place, nor meets your professional responsibilities as a public servant.

I will be lodging a formal complaint about this. In the mean time any further delays will require you to explain why there was a *necessary* delay in providing all the information requested.

I will also be raising a complaint with the IPO that you are unnecessarily extending the period of response to 20 days 'just because you can'. You will have to have a reason why it took "X" days rather than responding 'promptly' as the legal requirement actually is when that information must already be sitting in front of you as you are currently working on this issue.

Sincerely,

[Chris Bradley](#).

On Tuesday, 18 February 2020, 18:06:28 GMT, [chris bradley](#)

<chris_macdonaldbradley>

Actually, considering, the item (3) is not a FoI request and begs for a timely response. Thanks.

On Tuesday, 18 February 2020, 16:46:39 GMT, **Moore, Ryan - Communities** <ryan.moore@oxfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Chris,

Due to the nature of the information you have requested, this will be dealt with under a freedom of information (FOI) request.

I have copied in our FOI team who will be able to provide you with timescales and updates on your request.

Kind Regards,

Ryan Moore – Senior Engineer – South & Vale – 07557 082568 – 0345 310 11 11 Oxfordshire County Council – Road Agreements, Growth & Place, Communities, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

-----Original Message-----

From: **chris bradley** <chris.bradley@oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 18 February 2020 08:05

To: **Moore, Ryan - Communities** <Ryan.Moore@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: bus restriction Larch Drive Didcot.

I am not sure what is wrong between the communications here, but it is really bad. No-one seems to know anything or understand anything collectively.

Can you please send me, promptly;-

- 1) the engineers report evidencing the points you've just claimed about the need for specific placement of the restriction,
- 2) the timing of this when the County Council informed the local District council about this new feature/requirement (in fact, please release to me the communication first discussing this between you two),
- 3) the current timeline of this project of work and the opportunity for objections to be placed.

You have to share with me the existing plans as they are today. I require it. I don't know what exemption you are claiming to say "I cannot share the plans...", please state your exemption if there is one, or share the plans with me.

thanks

Chris Bradley.

On Tuesday, 18 February 2020, 07:56:47 GMT, **Moore, Ryan - Communities** <ryan.moore@oxfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Chris,

I understand a consultation is currently live with the District Council for a new street name and renumbering of some of the properties regarding this. I am afraid I do not the exact details of this so can I ask you please to contact SODC to discuss this point further.

Regarding the position, unfortunately I cannot share the plans with you at this moment but there will be a public consultation in the near future. The location of the bus gate is optimised for the safe operation of the bus gate, this includes the visibility requirements, drainage, advance signage & location of the equipment required for the bus gate operation.

Kind Regards,

Ryan Moore – Senior Engineer – South & Vale – 07557 082568 – 0345 310 11 11

Oxfordshire County Council – Road Agreements, Growth & Place, Communities, County Hall,
New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

From: **chris_macdonaldbradley**

Sent: 17 February 2020 17:19 To: **Moore, Ryan - Communities** <Ryan.Moore@Oxfordshire.gov.uk> Subject: Re: bus restriction Larch Drive Didcot.

Hello, no, I would like to ask if it can be moved to the end of Larch Drive so that the addresses don't have to be altered, if not why wasn't that figured out before.

What would the difficulties of relocating it 50 yards up the road be?

Something is going to have to be changed, and I see no reason to alter something that is already a reality for something that simply needs to be reapproved for a new location.

Please let me know/assist with this request.

regards

Chris Bradley.

On Monday, 17 February 2020, 16:46:06 GMT, **Moore, Ryan** - Communities <ryan.moore@oxfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Chris,

The bus gate requirement is secured in the Great Western Park (GWP) development outline planning consent. The detailed design is subject to discharging of planning condition 4 which is part of the P15/S3338/RM (phase SN03A) which is currently being determined by South Oxfordshire District (SODC) - Cathie Scotting is the case officer for GWP at SODC who might be able to clarify the current position regarding this application. I am involved with the detailed design, therefore if you have any particular concerns surrounding the mechanism or how this will work, then please let me and I will be happy to assist. If your query relates to the requirement or why it is being provided, then I'm afraid I cannot help in this respect as this relates to the planning consent, my involvement is predominantly with the detailed design and delivery. I hope this helps.

Kind Regards,

Ryan Moore – Senior Engineer – South & Vale – 07557 082568 – 0345 310 11 11 Oxfordshire County Council – Road Agreements,

-----Original Message-----

From: chris_macdonaldbradley

Sent: 17 February 2020 16:08

To: **Moore, Ryan - Communities** Ryan.Moore@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Subject: bus restriction Larch Drive Didcot.

Hello, I have been bounced around between District and County council each denying involvement in the bus access-only route issues in Larch drive, Didcot. As a matter of urgency, as it's been a week already just waiting to find out who is willing to accept responsibility for this, please can you contact me to discuss this as soon as possible.

Thanks. Chris Bradley

tel 07443221887

APPENDIX 10



Listening Learning Leading

Corporate Services

HEAD OF SERVICE: **Adrianna Partridge**

Mr C Bradley
44 Larch Drive
DIDCOT
OX11 6DX

CONTACT OFFICER: **Sally Worsley**
Sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk
Tel: 01235 422344

South Oxfordshire District Council
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Milton
ABINGDON OX14 4SB

Our Ref: BNN/20/0000030

26 November 2020

Dear Mr Bradley,

RE: Bus Route Only division of Larch Drive causing issues for Larch Drive residents living either side of division.

As we are unable to obtain a conclusion to the final position of the bus gate and as we have received an objection to the street name change, we've decided to go ahead with changing the addresses of only 5 properties out of the 9 (Nos. 46, 48, 50, 52 and 54).

There may be an opportunity in the future to include the other properties (37, 39, 42 and 44) into Birch Close once the bus gate location has finally been decided. Or, the properties may be more easily addressed into Diamond Drive. We'll have to review the situation once all the road works have been carried out.

I've attached the notification for the street name change mentioned above, just so you can be sure we've not included No. 44 Larch Drive.

Kind regards

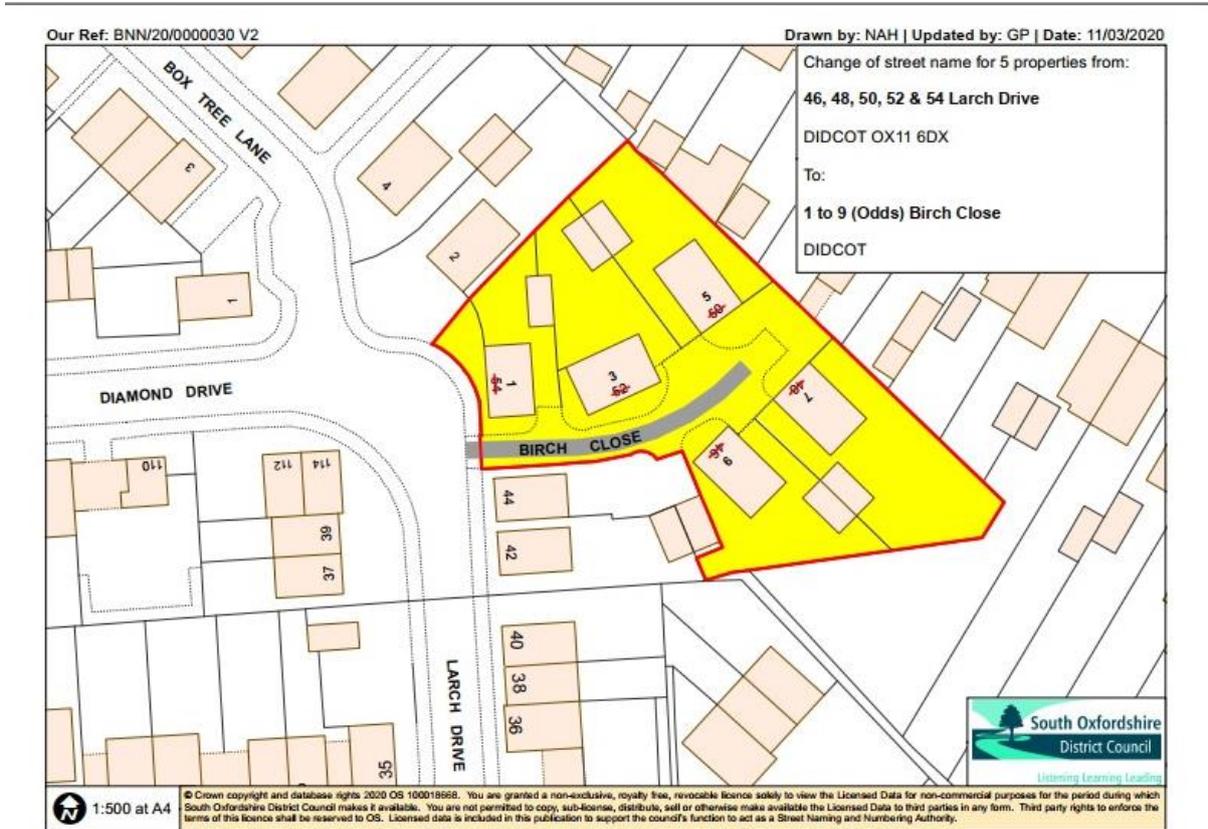
SALLY WORSLEY

GIS Team Leader & Street Naming and Numbering Officer

Email: sally-anne.worsley@southandvale.gov.uk

Direct telephone: 01235 422344

Plan enclosed with letter





Listening Learning Leading

APPENDIX 11

Corporate Services

HEAD OF SERVICE: **Adrianna Partridge**

Mr C Bradley
44 Larch Drive
DIDCOT
OX11 6DX

CONTACT OFFICER: **Sally Worsley**
Sally-anne.worsley@southoxon.gov.uk
Tel: 01235 422344

South Oxfordshire District Council
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Milton
ABINGDON OX14 4SB

Our Ref: BNN/20/0000127

23 July 2020

Dear Mr Bradley

RE: Change of street name, number and post code for 4 properties currently known as: 37, 39, 42 and 44 Larch Drive, DIDCOT OX11 6DX, to: 4, 2, 15 and 11 (respectively) Birch Close, DIDCOT OX11 6JW

The highway authority Oxfordshire County Council has now confirmed that the proposed bus gate for Larch Drive/ Diamond Drive will now go ahead in its original location just north of Nos. 35 and 40 Larch Drive. The consequence of this is that Nos. 37, 39, 42 and 44 Larch Drive do not now officially have direct vehicular access via the established route to the rest of Larch Drive.

It is therefore unsafe and inconvenient for the occupiers of 37, 39, 42 and 44 Larch Drive to continue to use these addresses. The district council as street naming and numbering authority propose to change the addresses to 4, 2, 15 and 11 (respectively) Birch Close. The district council is not responsible for post codes, but the post code will also change in accordance with the current 1 to 9 (Odds) Birch Close, DIDCOT OX11 6JW.

The district council is required under Section 13 of the Oxfordshire Act 1985 to carry out a 28 day public consultation when changing a road name or changing the name of part of a road. The consultation will begin on Friday 24th July 2020 and will continue until Friday 21st August 2020. Objections may be made in writing to BISSNN@southoxon.gov.uk

If you are unable to contact the council via the above email address please call me on 01235 422344 for an alternative method, or if you have any questions regarding this proposal.

Kind regards

SALLY WORSLEY
GIS Team Leader &
Street Naming and Numbering Officer



STREET NAMING & NUMBERING,
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 135
EASTERN AVENUE, MILTON PARK, MILTON,
ABINGDON, OX14 4SB

PUBLIC NOTICE

**SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
PROPOSE TO REName A SECTION OF**

LARCH DRIVE

**CONTAINING PROPERTY NOS. 37, 39 42 and 44
AS**

BIRCH CLOSE

**AND RENUMBER THE PROPERTIES 4, 2, 15, 11
RESPECTIVELY:**

**OBJECTIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING VIA THE EMAIL
ADDRESS BELOW BEFORE:**

Saturday 22nd August 2020

Email: bissnn@southoxon.gov.uk

APPENDIX 12



Request to STOP a consultation, and a formal complaint about renaming¹⁹ and other matters in regards Larch Drive Didcot.

Chris Bradley

>

Sat 25/07/2020 15:38

To: Complaints

Cc: Khan, Mocky; MacDonald, Axel; Wilson, Celia; Worsley, Sally-Anne; BISSNN

Hello,

I am resident of 44 Larch Drive, the only and singular resident affected, to date, by a particular campaign to have street name changes implemented in Larch Drive.

I would like to formally complain that this seems to have been a singularly minded campaign by a, or various, Council officials to force through some agenda of their own, irrespective of the prevailing logic.

I received this week a paper letter stating 'yet another' consultation on these addresses. I note that it contains fundamental misinformation and is wrong, and as such the consultation should stop immediately.

I do not understand what the motivation has been for driving through, without care or thought, on a particular plan that someone has had in mind for us here.

The issue surrounds the location of a 'bus gate' to be located between Larch Drive and Diamond Drive:- When I moved in to 44 Larch Drive in February, I received such a letter stating that my address was to be one to be changed. I made enquiries and quickly realised;

- 1) There is and has been no communication between the local council and the county council, this is a first point of the complaint, and simply adds to the total dis-functionality I have been witness to
- 2) The County council had not even received the application for the bus gate so was unable to confirm anything about it, but you guys were already consulting on the address change 'assuming' it was going to go ahead, rather than waiting for the 'right' moment.
- 3) Sally Worsley seemed quite indignant when I objected and explained that the plans, and the gate's location, hadn't even been approved so it would be premature to change the names.

After some heated correspondence between us, she moved forward with renaming some of the houses which are, effectively, in their own 'side-road' leaving 4 addresses without address changes for the time being.

I said that this was 'entirely' sensible and logical, and was the right thing to have done in the first place, those houses are clearly set back from the main road that forms Larch Drive + Diamond Drive, and they should have gained an independent address from the outset.

Sally also agreed, in line with my previous propositions, that once the gate was placed, that these 4 houses would, logically, become either Larch Drive or Diamond Drive, and it's pretty obvious why that should be the case if you look at the map.

Roll on this week, I receive this letter which states; "Nos. 37, 39, 42 and 44" to be renamed Birch Close because "The consequences [of the bus gate] is that Nos. 37, 39, 42 and 44 Larch Drive do not now officially have direct vehicular access via the established route to the rest of Larch Drive. It is therefore unsafe and inconvenient.. etc"

This statement is simply false, and on the basis that it is wrong, I call for the consultation to be immediately suspended. A consultation cannot proceed if it is wrong, that would be silly.

I put here a map, as an image, if it doesn't show up, or if you have doubts it is accurate, please take a look at the application.

You will see that the line "A-A" depicts the bus gate, and I will explain to you that Nos 42 and 37 lie CLOSER to Larch Drive than Diamond Drive. They are MORE on the Larch Drive than the other.

Therefore, to say these addresses don't have vehicular access (such as ambulance and fire) is exactly false, and a vehicle driving up towards these properties will get CLOSER to them via Larch Drive than via Diamond Drive.

For this reason, the consultation letter is clearly wrong and should be withdrawn. This issue is of no concern to Nos 42 and 37, now that the bus gate positioning plans are clear.

So the only properties this 'consultation' refers to is my address, 44, and no 39, which is unoccupied.

Sally Worsley seems to me to have set aside a specific and dedicated effort to force through what she wants, and I would suggest she is doing this because I objected to her plan and showed her why it was wrong.

Sally Worsley has already confirmed that my proposal is the logical outcome (that it would be logical for these houses, if at all, to be renamed Diamond Drive, if anything) but she seems to have had a change of heart since she sent around people to erect signs on 'this' property, No 44, without any warning or consultation, and I sent them away.

She wasted tax payers money by sending these sign makers to this location to erect signs,

without such forward planning, and I will add the signs were wrong anyway and had to be remade, so it would have been a wasted trip anyway, whether or not I sent them away. Presumably remaking the signs was also a waste of tax payers money. Maybe you could look at that too and let me know how much that cost us. (Let's call that an Fol request.)

I think she has taken umbrage at this and has reverted to her original plan to force through her original scheme to rename everything 'Birch Close'.

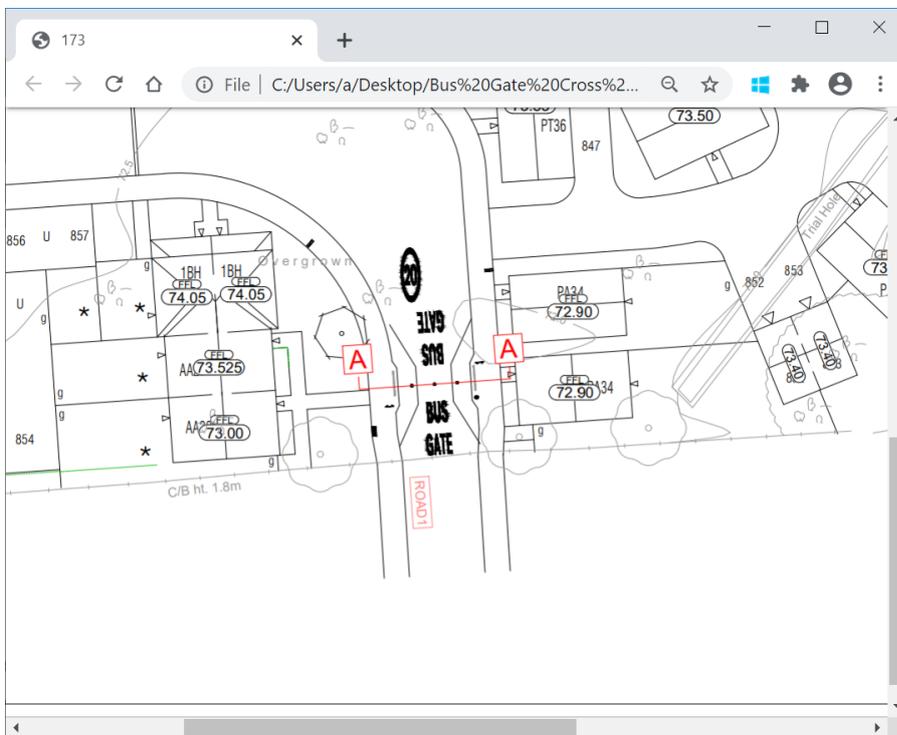
My complaint, with the detail above, evidences an abuse of position, a waste of money, and a single minded determination to implement an illogical outcome. Whether Sally is the sole instigator of that or not, I can't say but I am sure you can figure that out in your investigation.

One way or the other, the consultation should be suspended in the circumstances.

I would also propose that you start, as an organisation, figuring out how you actually talk with County Council, because for a few weeks there in March, the only person in Oxfordshire that actually knew everything that was happening about this bus gate was me, and really it shouldn't be like that.

Sincerely,

CJ Macdonald-Bradley.



APPENDIX 13

Please find attached my response to this consultation.

It is an objection for the reasons stated.

The Exhibits mentioned below are included in the attached correspondence.

44 Larch Drive

21st August 2020.

I object to the proposed renaming of the part section of Larch Drive, per notice of July 2020.

I object for two reasons;

1)

It is self-evident from any inspection of a map (see Exhibits 1 & 2) that Larch Drive is a contiguous, un-broken, un-branched and un-diverted road with respect to Diamond Drive.

The 4 houses that are the subject of this proposal face Larch Drive directly. The houses already renamed as 'Birch Close' do not face Larch Drive and exist on a side branch off the Diamond Drive/Larch Drive thoroughfare. It is, and always was, logical for these to carry a different name.

Where a natural or artificial break occurs along such a road as the Diamond Drive/Larch Drive thoroughfare, it would be the norm for houses to convert from being called one such road to one side of that break, or to the other. It is wholly illogical to invent a third naming convention for a new, third, section that is invented just to add a name to it.

I hold it as self evident that these 4 houses should be addressed as either Diamond Drive or Larch Drive.

As such, renaming it 'Birch Close', when it is not a close, is hardly going to help people find it when they are looking for a 'Close', and on that basis, renaming to 'Birch Close' is objectionable.

2)

It was originally claimed, in the first consultation in February, that the reason the renaming was necessary was because of access for emergency services.

It is difficult to tell if this is still the objective, or if there is some ulterior motive on behalf of Council officials who are prepared to distort the facts, because, following installation of the bus gate, two of the four houses will be closer to Larch Drive than to either Birch Close or Diamond Drive so this does not apply to them.

At the moment, the road block sits on the grey line labelled 'CB ht 1.8m' as depicted in Exhibit 3, included in this correspondence. An inspection on-site, in-person, one might currently (but wrongly) conclude that this is where the bus gate is due to go.

In fact, the residents of Nos 42 and 37 Larch Drive have received wrong information from the Council. I say they have knowingly been sent misinformation in this consultation, because I have already advised the Council of this error, and they have made no effort to amend it.

As shown in Exhibit 3, Nos 42 and 37 will lie on the Larch Drive side of the bus gate, once installed, not on the Diamond Drive/Birch Close side.

If the renaming is for emergency access, as originally claimed for Birch Close, then the emergency services will find themselves *further away* from Nos 42 and 37 if they approach along Diamond Drive towards Birch Close.

It is therefore completely irrational to rename it for emergency services purposes.

I have been told that 'there is a problem' in that the access to the car parking spaces for Nos 42 and 37 will be on the Birch Close side of the bus gate, as well they might be. But the fire brigade or ambulance services want access to these people's houses, not their car parking spaces! It can be reasonably expected that the owners of these houses *will* be able to remember how to find their parking spaces, even if their houses remain 'Larch Drive'.

Finally, this leaves my house, 44 Larch Drive, and 39 Larch Drive as being the only applicable houses to which this notice of change is relevant.

I draw your attention to the legal powers conferred by the various Acts which apply to street naming, and in this case I mention Section 21 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907. "Powers to alter names of streets" requires a 2/3rds majority to agree a street name change. As this is only properly applicable to two houses, and mine is one of them, this should have a bearing on the case.

I cannot offer you an agreement to change this address to "Diamond Drive", as would be logical, because that is not the proposition to agree or object to.

Sincerely,
CJ Macdonald-Bradley.
44 Larch Drive

Exhibit 1.

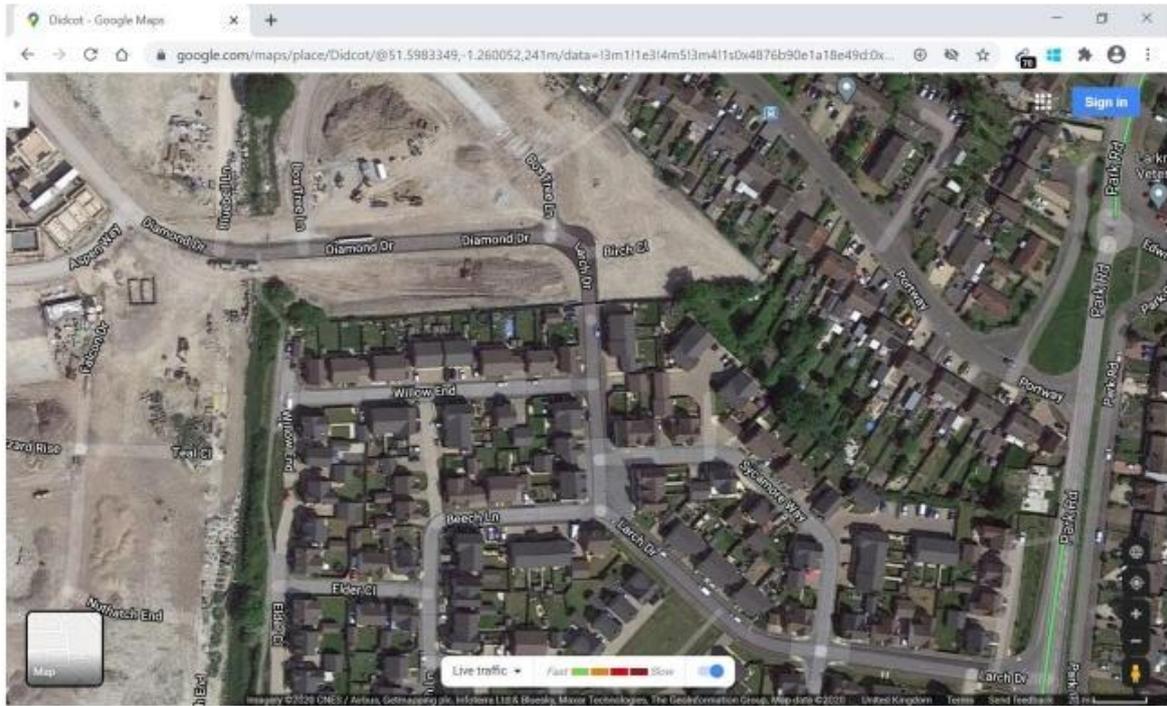


Exhibit 2.

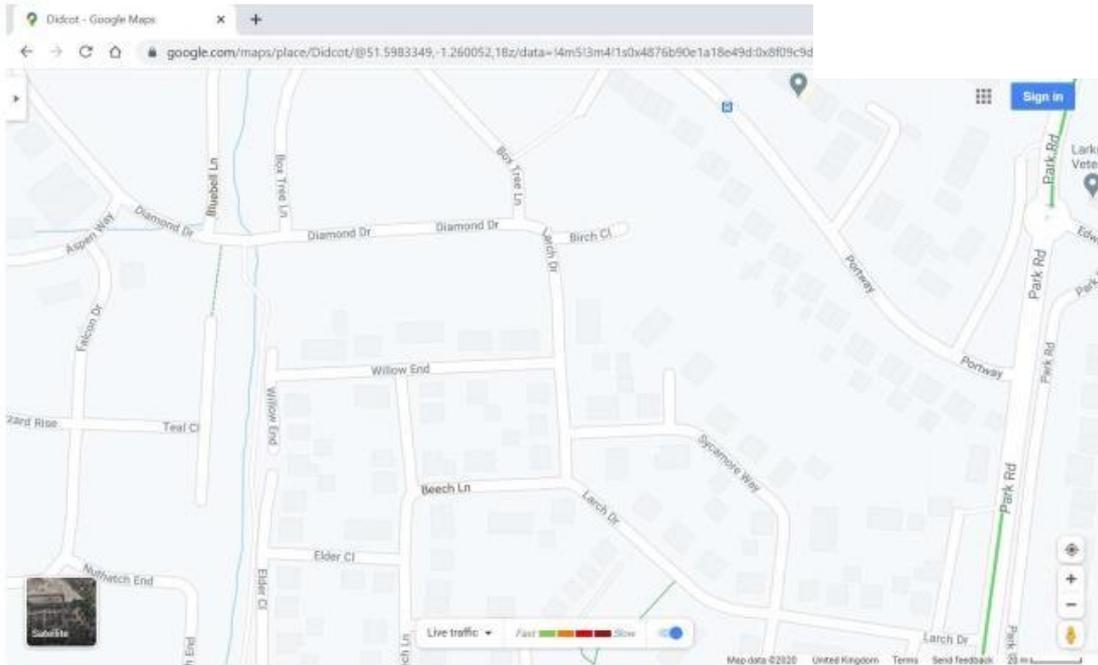
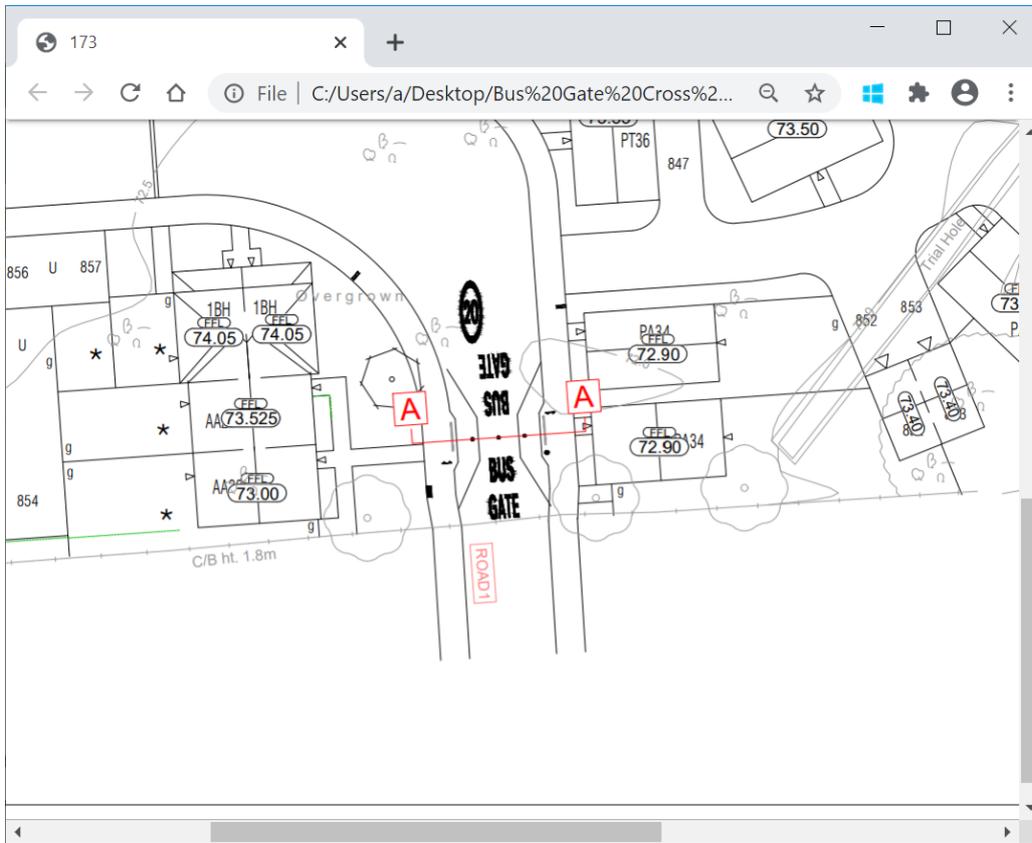


Exhibit 3.



APPENDIX 14

Council's proposed plan:

