ABSTRACT
This report relates to the making of a Roads Traffic Order for the purpose of varying the provisions of the current Traffic Order in respect of waiting restrictions at New Road and St James Road Forfar.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1 It is recommended that the committee notes the objections received during the consultation process and approves the making of the Order.

2 INTRODUCTION
2.1 Reference is made to Articles 20 of the minute of meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee held on 23 August 2011 instructing and authorising the preparation of an Order to vary the provisions of Traffic Orders relating to waiting restrictions in various burghs including New Road and St James Road Forfar.

3. CONSULTATION AND PUBLICATION
3.1 The proposed Order was advertised in the Courier and Advertiser on 1 September 2011. In response to the publication 2 letters of objection were received and have not been withdrawn.

3.2 In respect of those objections details of the proposed restrictions with reference to plans, the grounds for their objections and the response made on behalf of the Head of Roads are listed below. Copies of all correspondence in connection with outstanding objections are attached to the report for consideration (Appendix 1).

4 DETAILS
4.1 Additional 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions are proposed in New Road and St James Road as detailed on Plan No T.FORFARVARY/2011-01 (as provided in Appendix 2). This arose as a result of the new development for a retail food store on the site of the former St James House.

4.2 The redevelopment will result in alterations to the road layout in New Road and St James Road along with the introduction of new traffic signals and pedestrian crossings in these roads. The introduction of additional and alteration to existing waiting restrictions in the vicinity of the St James Road/New Road junction are considered necessary to prevent kerbside parking on the approaches to the traffic signals where such parking associated with queuing traffic at the signals would cause congestion and restrict free traffic flow on the major road.

4.3 Two letters of objection were received by residents of St James Road on the basis that they have no off street car parking, there is already a limited amount of kerbside car parking for residents in this area and to remove further spaces would make the current situation worse.

4.4 The Head of Roads appreciates that kerbside parking in the area is at a premium but considers that the proposed restrictions are necessary in order to permit the new road layout to operate efficiently and safely and to maintain free traffic flow for all road users.
4.5 One objector suggested that the council could permit residents to park in the nearby car park for the council offices at Ravenswood in New Road and both objectors raised the possibility of being permitted to park in the new retail store car park.

4.6 The granting of permission for local residents to park in the car park for the council offices at Ravenswood is primarily a matter for the Directors of Corporate Services and Neighbourhood Services respectively to consider from a corporate and operational perspective they have indicated that they would be very reluctant to give permission as it would set a precedent that could potentially have an adverse effect on council properties across the whole of Angus.

4.7 Angus Council is clearly not in a position to grant local residents the use of the private car park at the new retail store. ASDA as operators of the new retail were however contacted via their local agents to enquire whether they would be willing to permit overnight parking in their car park by local residents. Their response was that they were reluctant to give a firm decision at this stage but provided a contact within the organisation whom residents could approach to discuss the matter further.

5 RISK

5.1 This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The estimated cost of implementing the proposals is £200 which will be met from the 2011/2012 Infrastructure Services Roads Division (Traffic) Revenue Budget. Additional maintenance costs will amount to £40 per annum and this will require to be met from future years’ Roads Revenue Budgets.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no human rights implications arising from the proposals in this report.

8 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The issues contained within this report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration were consulted in the preparation of this report.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 Having taken into consideration the views expressed by those objecting to the proposals the Head of Roads considers that the terms of the draft Order are reasonable and appropriate and that the council should note the objections as lodged and proceed with the Order as currently drafted.

ERIC S LOWSON
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

NOTE:

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this Report:-

Report No 562/11 - Angus Council Infrastructure Services Committee - 23 August 2011

Roads/JG/DAM
Dear Ms Smith

THE ANGUS COUNCIL (NEW ROAD & ST JAMES ROAD FORFAR) (VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2011.

I refer to your letter dated 16 September 2011 in respect of the above to the Head of Law and Administration who forwarded a copy to me for direct comment on your objection.

As you may be aware, in association with the nearby ASDA supermarket development new traffic signals are to be introduced at the New Road/St James Road junction. The provision of these signals is a condition of the planning consent and is necessary to manage the additional traffic movements generated by the new store and provide safe pedestrian crossing of St James Road and New Road.

It is important in terms of the efficiency of the signalised junction and maintaining free traffic flow on the road network that all approaches to these signals are kept clear of parked vehicles. It is therefore considered necessary to introduce additional waiting restrictions in the vicinity of the junction as indicated on the plan posted to you.

I appreciate that these proposals will inconvenience you in that you will be unable to park your vehicle outside your property and that there is limited availability for kerbside parking in the area however my first concern must be to pedestrian and traffic safety and free traffic flow.

With regards to your suggestion that car parking provision be made for you in the nearby Council owned Ravenswood campus I regret that I cannot grant you permission as this would set a precedent that could have affect across the whole of Angus.

As you will appreciate I am not in a position to offer you use of the private ASDA car park for overnight parking however I have enquired with their representatives on the matter. They were reluctant to give a firm answer at this stage however they have suggested that if you wished to discuss this further then you should contact Mr Bob Cairns on 07713 316 119.

I trust the above clarifies the reasons for the proposed restrictions and as a result consider whether you are willing to withdraw your objection to the proposed Order.
In the meantime should you have any further queries please contact Daniel Munro on 01307 473395.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Graham Harris
Traffic Manager.

cc
Head of Law and Administration
Head of Environmental Management (for information)
Director of Neighbourhood Services (for information)
Eric Lowson Director of Infrastructure Services
Jeff Green Head of Roads
Head of Law and Administration,
Angus House,
Orchardbank Business Park,
FORFAR,
DD8 1AN.

The Angus Council (New Road & St James Road, Forfar)
Variation of Waiting Restrictions Order 2011

Dear Ms Sheona Craig Hunter,

With reference to the above I would like to lodge my concerns about this most recent 'Asda related' development proposal.

As a resident of St James Road I have from the outset had consistent concerns about this project, not least when the Councilors involved in accepting Asda as a viable proposition for Forfar did so without due consideration, discussion or debate - the process took them less than 10 minutes. Allowing any building of the proportions and function of a store like Asda was and is, in my opinion, foolhardy at best. What was agreed to then bore little resemblance to that offered during the 2 day Public Consultation period. This process I fear is another of the same, a paper exercise, ticking the appropriate boxes.

In allowing a building of such proportions to proceed means that the damage has already been done. Anyone with a modicum of intelligence could work out the difficulties related to the road network and my objections (then and now) stem from the apparent lack of interest in public safety demonstrated by the Councilors. At the meeting no cognisance was given by them towards the Primary School children, indeed quite the reverse by agreeing to move the bus stop for the school to the opposite side of the road away from a Primary school, the residents, the public at large or the needs of emergency vehicles. This current proposal, first muted by Asda,
later withdrawn and now presented by the Council was predictable with an equally predictable outcome - speed and road rage.

The Council, supported by the Community Council has successfully inflicted the local community to endless noise pollution, litter and now increasing levels of intolerable danger most notably in the immediate vicinities of the junction on what they describe as 'an already busy road' without the element of control currently offered by the existing road arrangement. The personnel involved overlooked (if they troubled to find out) the fact that the residents had respite during the evening, overnight and school holidays. Now in an additional insult Asda are demanding their delivery times be extended to the hours of 0700hrs until 2300hrs, seven days per week with no respite at any time. In their impotence the Council will of course also sanction that and the residents of the locality once more will be forced to accept the inevitable.

When (if) the yellow lines are painted as your OS Licence No. 100023404 illustrates I believe the reasons given, '...... to maintain free flowing traffic to premises in New Road', is a lovely piece of fiction and totally devoid of reality and serving only to increase danger. Traffic Lights at a 'T' junction for the purposes identified lead to road rage in an effort to escape the delays generated by the 'Red' light. Add to this the idea of yellow lines where they currently do not exist does not widen the road, it only accentuate problems further along St James Road and will certainly not encourage free flowing traffic if the traffic lights are adhered too.

I believe the Councilors involved should experience traffic and study methods adopted in other areas. I find it interesting for example; in Dundee the section of Forfar Road north of the Kingsway allows parking in a residential area on both sides of the road - no yellow lines - in an area with a constant flow of traffic, including several bus routes, 24 hours per day and where the road width is comparable. This fact of course is meaningless to the decision makers and I can only hope that the 'good' from this preposterous situation will be that the roads department actually clear the road in the Winter months unlike recent times when the vehicle 'hoppers' though set to scatter did not release any salt or grit and the men parked their vehicles in Reid Park Road to chat and enjoy their cigarettes.
Having personally concluded through experience that offering any differing opinion to that of the Council is futile I wonder if you would be good enough to provide a solution to the problems generated by this decision on the local residents who have no alternative parking arrangements. Will you secure safe parking in the Asda metropolis for those affected by this? Will you provide garages or will it simply be a case of shrugging your shoulders as usual claiming it is not your problem? I am not ignorant of the fact that although I have been parking outside my house since 1974, initially when my parents resided there and in the subsequent years since my ownership I have no given rights albeit custom and practice. In previous correspondence I have stated that Shopping will take on a whole new meaning for me as I already have skeletal problems. I will no longer be able to park my car outside my door and having explored the option of off-street parking at the front of my property find my application would be rejected. I like others, will have to carry shopping an undetermined distance to my house - soon to be an expedition out with Forfar as shopping in Asda is not an option.

As I have already expressed my comments will not alter your decision but please find something in your conscience to give thought to the children, they deserve more than what is currently on offer.

Yours very distressed and devoid of hope,

Miss Linda Robbie
Dear Miss Robbie

THE ANGUS COUNCIL (NEW ROAD & ST JAMES ROAD FORFAR) (VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 201X.

I refer to your letter dated 18 September 2011 in respect of the above to the Head of Law and Administration who forwarded a copy to me for direct comment on your objection.

As you may be aware, in association with the nearby ASDA supermarket development new traffic signals are to be introduced at the New Road/St James Road junction. The provision of these signals is a condition of the planning consent and is necessary to manage the additional traffic movements generated by the new store and provide safe pedestrian crossing of St James Road and New Road.

It is important in terms of the efficient operation of the signalised junction and to avoid congestion that the approaches to and exits from the signals are kept clear of parked vehicles. It is therefore considered necessary to introduce additional waiting restrictions in the vicinity of the junction as indicated on the plan posied to you.

I appreciate that these proposals will inconvenience you in that you will be unable to park your vehicle outside your property and that there is limited availability for kerbside parking in the area however my first concern must be to pedestrian and traffic safety and free traffic flow.

The provision within the traffic signal layout of pedestrian only phases will improve the safety for children and parents crossing St James Road to and from the nearby Primary School. A further signalised pedestrian crossing is to be provided on St James Road rearer to Lour Road which will assist pedestrians from the Lour Road area crossing to and from the town centre.

As you will appreciate I am not in a position to offer you use of the private ASDA car park for parking however I have enquired with their representatives on the matter. They were reluctant to give a firm answer at this stage however they have suggested that if you wished to discuss this further then you should contact Mr Bob Gainns on 07713 316 119.

I trust the above clarifies the reasons for the proposed restrictions and as a result consider whether you are willing to withdraw your objection to the proposed Order.
In the meantime should you have any further queries please contact Daniel Munro on 01307 473395.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Graham Harris
Traffic Manager.

cc    Head of Law and Administration
      Head of Environmental Management   (for information)
      Director of Neighbourhood Services   (for information)
      Eric Lowson Director of Infrastructure Services
      Jeff Green Head of Roads
12LG St. James Road
FORS FAR DD8

16 September 2011

Sheona C Hunter
Head of Law & Administration
Angus Council
Angus House
Orchardbank Business Park
FORS FAR DD8 1AN

Dear Mrs Hunter

THE ANGUS COUNCIL (NEW ROAD & ST JAMES ROAD, FORFAR (VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 201X

I refer to proposals contained in the above, and write to express concern about the effect they will have on me personally.

Let me say immediately that I welcome the presence of Asda in Forfar, and also understand perfectly the Council's desire to relieve general congestion and maintain free traffic flow in New Road and St James Road.

However, that said, the proposals if implemented will disadvantage me significantly.

I purchased no 12LG, St James Road 10 years ago. One of the factors which made the property attractive to me was the fact that I could park my car at the door from 4.30pm - 8.00am, which was a major convenience for me as I drive to work in Letham every morning, leaving the house at about 8.00am and returning about 5.30 pm.

To remove that facility from me is therefore a major blow, since it would appear that I would have to leave the car some considerable distance from the house, where it would be out of view.

Also, the lack of availability of nearby parking is likely to have a substantial effect on the value of my house if I were to choose to move.

The disadvantages to me are, I would submit, very clear, and I wonder whether in recognition of that, and as a goodwill gesture, the Council or Asda would be prepared to give me permission to park my car overnight either in the Council Office car park at Ravenswood, or in the main Asda car park.

I should be grateful if this could be considered and if you could let me know before the closing date for formal objections. I can be contacted on 07931 958 943

Yours sincerely

Gail Smith
Dear Mr. Harris,

Thank you for your letter (GH/DM/KM T02.2) dated 26th September 2011 regarding the above.

It is rather unfortunate that my experience to date of both Angus Council (over a number of years and different issues) and some Asda personnel involved in the St James Road development (most notably their Roads/Transport Representative) has been met with a wall of rudeness, dismissive and near slanderous accusations. How different your letter is and I do appreciate the effort you have made in making enquiry on my behalf to Asda regarding parking.

I am sure you are aware I have expressed my concerns at every available opportunity against this disastrous Asda project because of the inevitable consequences. From the outset Angus Council and their supporters - the Community Council - have described St James Road as a busy road but by creating additional challenges particularly in the close vicinity of a Primary School is reckless. What you have recorded offers a reasoned and balanced explanation for the above proposal but much as I would like to comply with your wishes I remain extremely anxious about pedestrian and road user safety and do not see the creation of a race track a solution to the problem. I therefore find I am unable to withdraw my objection.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Linda Robbie.
Dear Miss Robbie

The Angus Council (Variation of Waiting Restrictions) Order 201x

I thank you for your letter dated 27 September 2011 and I understand that you have not withdrawn your objection in respect of the proposed waiting restrictions in St James Road, Forfar.

I appreciate that you have expressed your concerns about certain aspects of the new development from the outset. However, the development has been granted planning consent with the provision of traffic signals at St James Road/New Road in order to manage the traffic at this junction and assist pedestrians crossing these roads.

Clearly there will at times be queuing vehicles at the traffic signals and the possibility of a parked vehicle opposite such a queue, such as outside your property, will potentially block the road completely. The restrictions which are proposed are it is felt the minimum that is required to maintain free traffic flow in the vicinity of the traffic signals.

Please note that a decision upon the matter will be made at the meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee to be held on Tuesday 22 November 2011. A report, which includes the nature of your concerns, will be considered by Members, who will also have access to copy correspondence between you and Angus Council in advance of the meeting.

Please find enclosed an information leaflet that may be of interest to you.

If calling or telephoning relating to roads matters please ask for Daniel Munro on (01307) 473395 (MunroDA@angus.gov.uk) or if calling or telephoning relating to attending/addressing the Committee please ask for Nicola Fordyce on (01307) 476239 (FordyceN@angus.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Graham Harris
Traffic Manager

Encl

cc Head of Law and Administration (to: Nicola Fordyce)

Chief Executive
Richard Stiff
11 October 2011

Gail Smith
12LG St James Road
FORFAR
DD8 1LD

Dear Ms Smith

The Angus Council (Variation of Waiting Restrictions) Order 201X

Further to my letter dated 22 September 2011 I understand that you have not withdrawn your objection in respect of the proposed waiting restrictions in St James Road, Forfar.

I appreciate your concerns however the development has been granted planning consent with the provision of traffic signals at St James Road/New Road in order to manage the traffic at this junction and assist pedestrians crossing these roads.

Clearly there will at times be queuing vehicles at the traffic signals and the possibility of a parked vehicle in close proximity to the signals will cause potentially serious congestion. The restrictions which are proposed are it is felt the minimum that is required to maintain free traffic flow in the vicinity of the traffic signals.

Please note that a decision upon the matter will be made at the meeting of the Infrastructure Services Committee to be held on Tuesday 22 November 2011. A report, which includes the nature of your concerns, will be considered by Members, who will also have access to copy correspondence between you and Angus Council in advance of the meeting.

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Yours sincerely

Graham Harris
Traffic Manager

Encl

cc Head of Law and Administration (fao Nicola Fordyce)