

Appendix C

ENDEAVOUR HOUSE

11 APR 2011

6th April 2011

19 High Street
Ixworth
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2HH

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Attn: David White

Head of Legal Services
Suffolk County Council
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich
Suffolk IP1 2BX

Dear Mr. White,

**RE: OBJECTION TO - Proposed Traffic Regulation Order for a Disabled Bay,
High Street, Ixworth**

Further to your Karen Smith's letter dated 23rd March 2011 we strongly OBJECT to the above proposal.

Referring to the enclosed plan that you sent with your letter, the disabled bay/parking space will be directly in front of our house No. 19, and partially in front of No. 17 the cafe. Since we (No. 19) and No.15 High Street do not have any off road parking and parking is a continual problem in this part of Ixworth High Street, we invariably have to end up parking in the Pykerrell Inn or Village Hall car parks. As you can appreciate we are well aware of the people who park on the double yellow lines. We have rarely seen a blue badge holder park on the double yellow lines. Which raises the question why is it necessary? There is ample parking in the Village Hall car park and the Pykerrell Inn has ample parking for their clients as well as two allocated disabled parking spaces. This proposed additional parking restriction will only increase the existing parking problems in this part of the High Street. As residents of Ixworth are we expected to park in either the Village Hall or Pykerrell Inn car parks and not near our house?

More IMPORTANTLY, if the proposed disabled parking space is granted it will NOT alleviate the problem of cars not being able to view oncoming traffic in the High Street, as they try to come out of Commister Lane. People will still park on the double yellow lines as they 'pop into' the Post Office, café, shop or hairdressers. To alleviate this problem, money would be better spent assigning a traffic warden to patrol the High Street. Their salary would be more than made up by the parking tickets they could charge, especially at the weekends when parking on the double yellow lines is totally flaunted and abused.

Taking into account your concerns over the visibility of the FEW traffic exiting Commister Lane, the proposed 'Disability Parking Space' will do NOTHING to alleviate this problem unless a regular traffic warden patrol is assigned.

Since Ixworth High Street double yellow lines is a 'soft target' for any vehicle user, what you are proposing and offering to disabled 'Blue Badge' vehicle holders ie. 3 hours parking in an allocated spot, they are already entitled to! As the governmental website states:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/disabledpeople/motoringandtransport/dg_4001061

they are allowed and entitled to park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours anyway! So what you are proposing is totally pointless and a 'quango style' waste of money. People will still park in front of it on the double yellow lines. If there really is a specific need for a disabled parking space, why can't this be incorporated within the existing double yellow line restriction.

Alternatively, if it is not economically viable to employ a traffic warden full time for this purpose, then would it not be better to widen the footpath either side of the junction of Commister Lane and also incorporate a Disabled Parking Space between 19 and 21 High Street as proposed on the enclosed plan?

We feel that we have not been fairly treated or consulted on this matter, since apparently this has been discussed by yourselves and the Ixworth Parish Council for over two years. Your letter is the first notification we have received of this matter. As residents who would be directly affected by the proposal as the disabled parking space would be directly outside our house, we feel deeply insulted that the Ixworth Parish Council or Suffolk County Council could not contact and inform us of this proposal earlier. We would also point out that any reference to the disabled bay/parking space is referred to as 'opposite No. 36' as opposed to 'in front of No. 19' and that No. 19 is not even shown on the accompanying plan.

An example of this that we would like to point out is that the two notices that have been put up in the High Street are wrapped around lamp posts which are hard to read, one on the opposite side of the road next to No.36 and the other some 50 metres away outside No. 23! Why wasn't a notice placed this side of the road on the post between Nos. 19 and 21 High Street where the proposed location is supposed to be? People could then at least see it, read it and have opportunity to pass comment on the proposal that is referred to in the Notice.

We would also like to know exactly when and who initially put forward this proposal and their reasons why. Can you also let us know whether the proposer, or any of their friends or family, are registered disabled 'Blue Badge' vehicle holders so that we can better understand their reasoning and motives?

Can you also inform as to what happens and the procedures after the 15th April that is mentioned in your letter, with regards to our objection and any others? We are totally opposed to this proposal and

objection and any others? We are totally opposed to this proposal and hope it is overruled through common sense!

LASTLY, to judge whether there is a 'REAL' necessity for your proposal, please can you send us the following three lists in the next seven days:

1. How many car and pedestrian accidents have occurred caused by vehicles coming out of Commister Lane that have caused physical human injuries over the last ten years, taking into account it is a small, minor one way road?

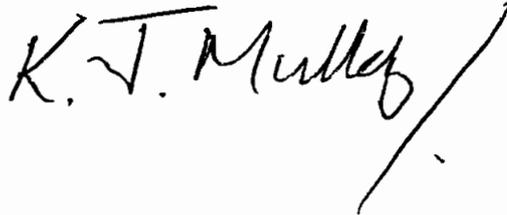
2. How many disabled 'Blue Badge' vehicle holders have SPECIFICALLY requested a need for a disabled parking space in Ixworth High Street, taking into account there are two disabled parking spaces allocated in the Pykerrell Inn car park, directly opposite. If there have been any requests, we would also like to know their reasons why?

Ixworth High Street is very busy during the day with passing traffic. Allocating a disabled parking space in Ixworth High Street would increase the risk of accidents to the disabled drivers themselves as they 'struggle' to get out of the driver's seat and car which takes a lot longer than any abled person.

3. Names of other villages within a 10 mile radius of Ixworth that have an allocated disabled parking space in their main High Street?

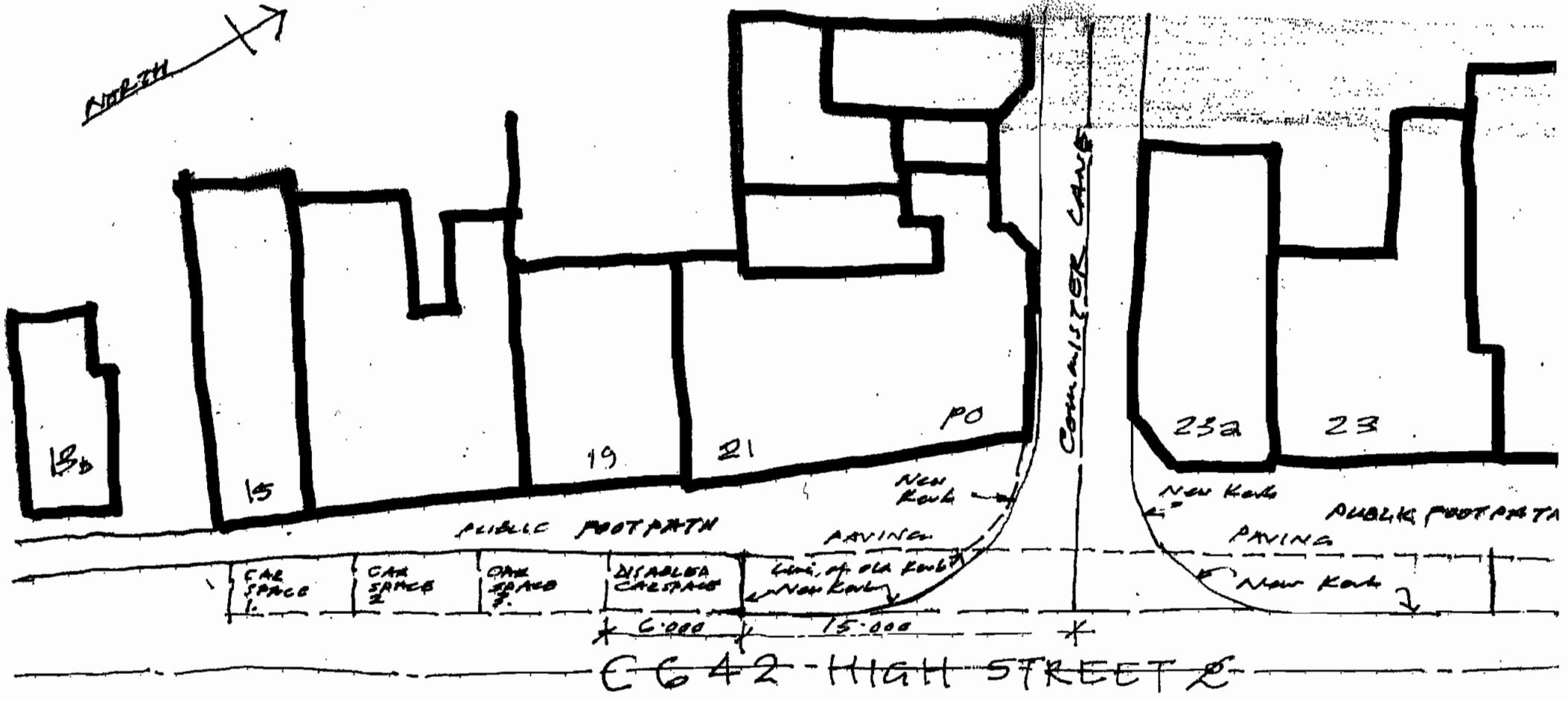
We await hearing your response and comments on our proposals.

Yours Sincerely

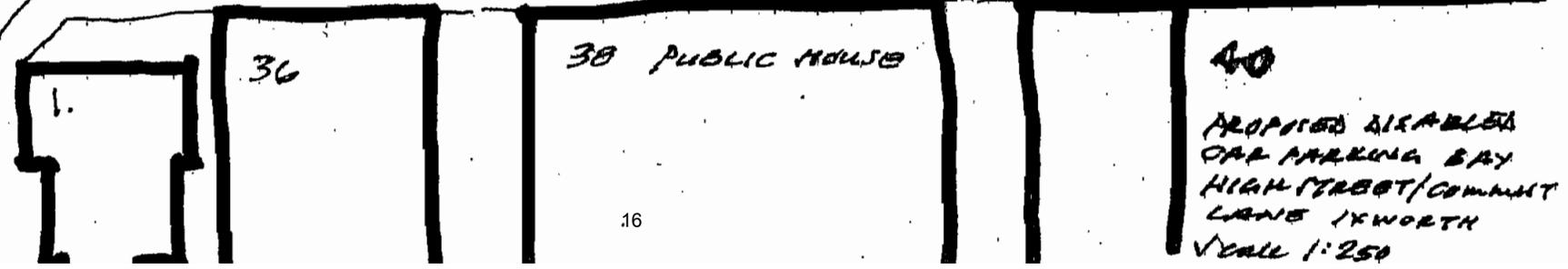
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. J. Mulley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long, diagonal slash mark.

Linda Munday & Keith Mulley

NORTH ↗



SADDLERS YARD



Mrs Linda Munday and Keith Mulley
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IP31 2HH

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Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 19 April 2011

Dear Linda Munday and Keith Mulley

Objection to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order for a Disabled Bay, High Street, Ixworth

I refer to your letter dated 6 April 2011 objecting to the proposed Disabled Bay outside your property, No 19 High Street

Your main concerns are :-

1. 'There is already a lack of parking and you often have to park in the Pykerrell Inn or the car park near the village hall.'

No person has a right to park on the highway but may do so if they are not causing an obstruction and there is no Traffic Regulation Order in place. The proposed Disabled parking applies Mon – Sat 8am – 6pm and will not impact on general parking outside of those times.

- 2 'That even if the Disabled bay is implemented vehicles will still park on the double yellow lines obstructing visibility '

Loading and Unloading by drivers and parking by Blue Badge Holders on double yellow lines is only allowed if they are not causing an obstruction. As part of the consultations, discussions have been undertaken with the Police and if the disabled bay is implemented they will be carrying out regular enforcement to ensure that vehicles are not causing an obstruction.

- 3 To widen the footpath either side of the junction of Commister Lane to incorporate parking

This has previously been investigated, it was concluded there is inadequate road space available for turning traffic to manoeuvre if a build out was implemented but it would also require removal of more existing parking, even if the give way was moved forward, due to the alignment of the road. This is why the option did not progress due to additional loss of parking.

4 Why were you not contacted earlier? Why was a notice not put were the disabled parking bay was proposed

Within Suffolk County Council consultation criteria the public are consulted during the advertisement period. Prior to those statutory consultations are undertaken with Parish Council, District Council and the Police. During the advertisement period notices are put on street in the vicinity of the proposal and letters delivered to those properties directly affected. From receiving your letter, you are aware of the proposal.

5 Recorded injury accidents

There are no recorded injury accidents at this location. However the request comes from the Parish Council and residents who have reported a number of near misses, on a regular basis due to parked vehicles when exiting from Commister Lane, The problem reported was because of poor visibility due to parked vehicles on the existing double yellow lines.

6 How many disabled Blue Badge holders have requested a Disabled Parking space

No Blue Badge holders have requested a space, but a number regular park on the Double yellow lines blocking visibility, which has identified the need.

7 Number of other villages within a 10 mile radius of Ixworth that have a disabled parking space in the High street

The majority of villages within a 10 mile radius do not have the level of reported parking problems which occurs in Ixworth due to the popularity of the shops and the Post Office which is causing the level of parking along with no parking off street for residents.

The level of reported parking problems is greater within Ixworth, than other villages within a 10 mile radius. The parking issues relates to a combination of parking associated with popular shops and a lack of off street parking for residents in this area

I trust I have answered all the issues you have raised. Your objection to this proposal will be reported to our June Committee for them to consider whether this Traffic Regulation Order should be approved.

Yours sincerely

Karen Smith
Senior Engineer, Highway Network Improvement