

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE

25 February 2013

Attendance:

Councillors:

Weston (Chairman) (P)

Humby (P)

Tait (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor E Berry, Collin and Nelmes

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Weir

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24 September 2012, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Eight members of the public spoke regarding various Reports on the agenda and their comments are summarised under the relevant Minute below.

3. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER PROGRAMME 2013/2014**
(Report CAB2442(TP) refers)

During the public participation period, Mrs J Marsh spoke regarding the petition requesting a new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Vernham Road, Weeke (as contained as Appendix B to the Report). In summary, she reiterated the request that yellow lines be extended on the north side of Vernham Road to restrict parking between the hours of 10am and 4pm. Residents believed this should be done as soon as possible to prevent the inconsiderate and potentially dangerous parking along the road that was currently taking place.

In response, the Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that Vernham Road was included as a scheme to be programmed, but others of a higher priority were to be undertaken in 2013/14. In addition, he advised that residents' were consulted in 2008 and, at that time, had declined the suggestion that further restrictions be introduced. However, he confirmed that the scheme's position on the programme could be reassessed should circumstances change.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors E Berry and Nelmes addressed the Committee and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor E Berry raised a number of concerns as a Member for St Barnabas Ward:

- Greenacres Close – difficulties caused by inconsiderate and dangerous parking. Councillor Berry stated that she had recently received a Police report raising concerns.
- Various concerns regarding inconsiderate parking in the Weeke area had caused damage to grass verges and potential dangers caused by parking on the corner of Taplings Road. She highlighted that the new Aldi supermarket was likely to increase traffic movements in the area. Councillor E Berry highlighted that she had previously suggested to officers that additional parking could be provided at the rear of Orchard Walk.

In response, the Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that Greenacres Close was a private road and the Council had only recently been made aware of difficulties in the area. As a result, white bar markings had been ordered in order to ensure the crossings were kept clear. He also advised the Committee that a consultation with Weeke residents regarding possible new traffic and parking measures had been undertaken in 2010.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure stated that he would discuss the issue raised regarding car parking on verges in the Weeke housing estate with the relevant Housing Services Officers and advise Councillor Berry accordingly.

Councillor Collin queried when the parking reviews in relation to Winnall and Highcliffe were likely to commence.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that unfortunately work on the reviews had been delayed due to other un-programmed and reactive work commitments. However, he hoped the informal consultation with Winnall residents would commence in March 2013.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the Traffic Regulation Order programme for 2013/2014 be approved as detailed in Appendix A.

4. **INVESTIGATION OF ACCESS ONLY ORDER – HYDE CHURCH LANE, WINCHESTER**
(Report CAB2443(TP) refer)

During the public participation period, Dr K Parker and Mrs M Robinson addressed the Committee and their comments are summarised below.

Dr Parker stated that residents had appreciated the reduction in traffic resulting from the previously introduced “No Entry” restriction from Worthy Lane. However, she still had serious concerns regarding the potential for accidents due to the continued shared use of the Lane by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. She emphasised the particular difficulties caused by the narrowness of the Lane and the fact that the front doors of some properties, including her own, opened directly onto the road. She therefore would welcome the introduction of an access-only order.

Mrs Robertson agreed with the points made by Dr Parker and requested that an “access only” restriction be trialled for one year. She stated that although only one accident had been reported, there were many “near misses”. She also highlighted that the Lane was used by taxis as a short cut.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Nelmes and Collin addressed the Committee and their comments are summarised below.

As a Ward Member, Councillor Nelmes supported the comments made by local residents at the meeting and highlighted that surveys had indicated that 600 pedestrians had walked along the Lane over the course of one day. She requested that an “access only” restriction be introduced.

As a County Councillor for the area, Councillor Collin suggested that the possibility of additional road markings be investigated to highlight the shared use of the Lane. He also stated that the possible introduction of 20mph speed limits throughout the Town area could help.

In response to questions, the Head of Access and Infrastructure emphasised that the County Council were not likely to support the introduction of an “Access Only” traffic order and the Police had indicated that they did not have the resources to enforce such an order. In addition, there were costs involved to the Council in introducing such an Order, whether on an experimental or permanent basis.

The Committee queried whether the possibility of additional road markings and/or bollards could be investigated further. The Head of Access and Infrastructure agreed to undertake further investigation.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the conclusions of the Report be endorsed and that further investigation be carried out into the possibility of additional road markings to highlight the shared use of Hyde Church Lane.

5. **GREAT MINSTER STREET ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS**
(Report CAB2444(TP) refer)

During the public participation period, five people spoke regarding this item and their comments are summarised below.

Ms C Turner (Winchester BID) spoke in support of the recommendations and confirmed that liaison on the proposals had taken place with local businesses in the area.

Mr P Grant, Mr M Lawrence, Mrs H Etherington and Mrs A Chrystal spoke as four local residents and raised concerns that a larger proportion of drivers were ignoring the "Access Only" restrictions. Mr Grant emphasised that residents should be regarded as an equal stakeholder in the area to local businesses. He requested that the Police be asked to enforce the restrictions and suggested some form of bollards might be appropriate to physically prevent vehicular access to non-residents. Mr Lawrence welcomed the proposals to introduce a six foot width restriction at the junction of Great Minster Street and Symonds Street, but emphasised that this should be signed at the junction with Southgate Street to prevent large vehicles attempting to access and consequentially having to turn round. Mrs Etherington reiterated the request for improved signage at the turning from Southgate Street and also mentioned the difficulties caused by "sat nav" systems directing traffic along the route. Mrs Chrystal thanked officers for their work to date and highlighted the environmental benefits that would be generated if traffic levels could be reduced.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Collin also thanked officers for the work undertaken to date but noted that there were a number of matters still outstanding and the situation would be kept under review. With regard to enforcement of the "Access Only" restrictions, he suggested that the possibility of CCTV monitoring of car number plates be investigated.

In response to questions and comments made above, the Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that the Police had indicated they were aiming to undertake some enforcement of the "Access Only" restrictions. The suggestion of "informal" CCTV monitoring of drivers using the route was noted for possible further investigation, although some concerns were raised as to potential costs and legality. A number of improvements to the signage had already been made, and the situation was being monitored to ascertain whether further adjustments were required. It was not proposed at the current

time to introduce any form of physical barrier to enforce the new width restrictions, but the situation would be monitored over the next 18 months. The Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that Mr Grant and other residents would be kept fully informed of any future developments.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the introduction of Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders be authorised to introduce a 6' width restriction (with no access exemptions) at the junction of Great Minster Street and Symonds Street and two way traffic working on Market Lane from St Maurice's Covert to the junction with Market Street.

2. That a further report be brought to Committee within 18 months with an evaluation of these experimental arrangements and to determine whether they should be made permanent and if any amendments should be made.

6. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER: 20MPH SPEED LIMIT, WINNALL & HIGHCLIFFE**

(Report CAB2452(TP) refer)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Collin addressed the Committee as Chairman of the Winchester Town Forum, County Councillor and a Member for St John & All Saints Ward. He welcomed the proposals and emphasised that they were also widely supported by local residents groups. He mentioned that a number of representations had been received requesting that the area covered by the speed limit be extended, for example to include Quarry Road and other roads around the St Giles Hill area.

In response to questions, the Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that traffic surveys had been carried out to ascertain vehicle speeds before the speed limits were introduced.

One Member queried whether other parts of the City Centre and in particular, the lower High Street, would be included in future schemes. The Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that other schemes would be considered.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to advertise a proposed order under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to implement a 20mph speed limit for Winnall and Highcliffe, as detailed in the report.

2. That subject to no objections being made, the Head of Legal Services be authorised to make the said order.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.50am

Chairman