

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES - 15 JANUARY 2015

Present: Councillors Page (Chair), D.L. Absolom, Ayub, Davies, Duveen, Hacker, Hopper, Jones, Terry and Whitham

Apologies: Councillor Willis

Also in attendance: Councillor White (for items 63 to 65), Councillors Hoskin and Vickers (for items 63 to 66), Councillor Rodda (for items 63 to 67) and Councillor Ballsdon (for items 64 to 68)

63. FORMER TRANSPORT USERS' FORUM - CONSULTATIVE ITEM

(1) Questions

A Question on the following matter was submitted, and answered by the Chair:

Questioner	Subject
Cllr White	Intercity Express Programme

(The full text of the question and reply was made available on the Reading Borough Council website).

(2) Presentation - Connectivity is 'King' - Reading UK CIC

Nigel Horton-Baker, Executive Director of Reading UK Community Interest Company (CIC), updated the Sub-Committee on the role of the CIC in supporting businesses and in marketing Reading. He explained that the current success of Reading as an attractive venue for business and investment was largely attributed to the rail infrastructure which made the town very accessible. The future plans for investment in Smart Motorways, which would increase the number of lanes on the M4, and for the arrival of Crossrail in 2019 would continue to support the growth of Reading as a thriving centre for business.

Resolved: That Nigel Horton-Baker be thanked for his presentation.

64. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 4 November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

65. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no questions submitted in accordance with the Panel's Terms of Reference.

66. PETITIONS

(a) English Martyrs Catholic Primary School - Petition for a controlled crossing

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the receipt of a petition with 900 signatures asking the Council to install a zebra crossing outside English Martyrs Catholic Primary School.

The petition read as follows:

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“KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE - Objective: - to make a safer, accessible, child friendly road to ensure the safety of our children! When crossing a VERY busy road to access our school, whilst the road is currently 20mph, drivers go excessively faster than this causing frequent near misses.

It is of great concern that one day a child, parent or pedestrian will be seriously hurt.

Aim:- For a zebra crossing to be installed outside English Martyrs School.”

The report stated that the issues raised within the petition were to be fully investigated and a future report submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

At the invitation of the Chair, lead petitioner Mrs Simpson-Holland and Councillors Hoskin and Vickers addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the issue be investigated and a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee for consideration;
- (3) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

(b) Amersham Road Estate, Caversham - Petition for a 20mph zone

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the receipt of a petition with over 200 signatures asking the Council to introduce a 20mph zone in part of the Amersham Road Estate to improve road safety.

The petition read as follows:

“We the undersigned request that Reading Borough Council improve road safety on our streets by implementing a 20mph zone in the Amersham Road estate from the junction with Star Road and Amersham Road, covering Dickens Close, Mead Close, Meadow Way, Amersham Road, Clonmel Close, Charles Evans Way, Ian Mikardo Way, Rhine Close, Nire Road, Honey Meadow Way and Managua Close.”

The report stated that the issues raised within the petition were to be fully investigated and a future report submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

At the invitation of the Chair, lead petitioner Mrs H Simmonds addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the issue be investigated and a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee for consideration;
- (3) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

67. RESIDENT'S PARKING REVIEW PHASE 2 - OBJECTIONS TO ADVERTISED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS AND INFORMAL CONSULTATION REQUESTS FROM WALDECK STREET AND SWAINSTONE ROAD

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the responses received from residents regarding the advertised Resident Parking (No 2) 2014 Traffic Regulation Order. The advertised drawings were attached to the report at Appendix 1 and the responses received were attached at Appendix 2.

The report stated that the residents of Barry Place had objected to the proposals initially advertised as part of Phase 1, but had submitted an alternative plan for parking restrictions. This revised proposal had been taken to statutory consultation and no responses had been received.

The report also stated that following a campaign by the residents of the terraced housing within Patrick Road, a shared use resident parking scheme had been advertised. Comments from residents received during the statutory consultation were attached to the report in Appendix 2. As there were different parking issues in different parts of Patrick Road, as some of the houses had off street parking, it was proposed that the advertised parking restrictions be implemented but that a statutory consultation for no waiting restrictions in the middle section of Patrick Road be carried out. Details of the proposed and existing restrictions within Patrick Road were attached at Appendix 3.

The report explained that the residents of St Bartholomew's Road had expressed concern with unrestricted parking on the eastern side of St Bartholomew's Road but that the initial shared use proposal advertised during Phase 1 of the review had not been implemented. However, following further consultation with residents and Ward Councillors a further proposal had been taken to statutory consultation and comments received were attached to the report at Appendix 1. It was noted that the report had wrongly stated that the proposal had been for '...resident parking or 2 hours no return within 2 hours 8am-8pm...' as the proposal had been for shared use at all times.

The report also explained that the residents of Cholmeley Terrace had requested an increase in resident's parking spaces. This had been achieved by a proposal to reduce the length of no waiting at any time and by extending the resident parking bays. No comments had been received during the statutory consultation period.

The report stated that it had been proposed that Upper Redlands Road, Redlands Road and Whitley Park Lane be consolidated into Zone 15R and that no comments had been received during the statutory consultation period.

The report also stated that residents and Ward Councillors of Waldeck Street and Swainstone Road had expressed support for a resident permit scheme and that the responses received in relation to informal consultation carried out in December 2014 were attached at Appendix 4.

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr J Wells and Mr M Norcross (residents of Patrick Road) and Councillor Rodda (Katesgrove Ward Councillor) addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted;

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- (2) That the proposals, as advertised, be implemented;
- (3) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seal the Traffic Regulation Order (Resident Parking No 2) 2014, and no public inquiry be held into the proposals;
- (4) That the objectors be informed accordingly;
- (5) That, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation on a traffic regulation order for a no waiting restriction on Patrick Road;
- (6) That, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation on a traffic regulation order for resident parking schemes in Waldeck Street and/or Swainstone Road.

68. HIGHMOOR ROAD/ ALBERT ROAD - PETITION FOR A SAFER CROSSROADS - UPDATE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the resultant review of the road safety improvement options to reduce accidents and the concern of accidents at the crossroads of Highmoor Road and Albert Road following the response to statutory consultation. The revised list of options was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report recommended that the priorities at the crossroads be changed and that STOP signs and markings be introduced on both approaches to the junction from Albert Road. It was recognised that this did not meet the request of the original petition, but it was considered that it would improve road safety and reduce injury accidents.

The report stated that the change to priorities did not require further statutory process, but did currently require central government approval. However, this approval was being relaxed in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions review that was expected to be endorsed by parliament in 2015.

The report explained that there were risks associated with changing well established priorities at the junction, but that these should be mitigated by freshly applied road surface colouring and road markings to alert drivers to the change. There would also be a continued period of review.

Simon Beasley, Network Manager, displayed some photographs to the Sub-Committee that demonstrated that the felling of a large tree and the introduction of parking restrictions close to the junction had improved visibility for motorists and so it was agreed that, with further planned improvements to signage, that it might be unnecessary to make other changes to the junction at present to improve road safety.

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Scicluna, Dr Johnson and Councillor Ballsdon addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report and review of options in Appendix 1 be noted;
- (2) That the officer recommendation to change priorities at the junction of Highmoor Road with Albert Road be deferred and that a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee at its meeting in November 2015.

69. PETITION UPDATE - REDLANDS SCHOOL - PETITION FOR A SAFER ROUTE TO SCHOOL

Further to Minute 45a of the meeting of 4 November 2014, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the investigation carried out by officers following submission of a petition, with 53 signatures, asking the Council to conduct a review of road safety around Redlands School.

The report stated that the Council had appointed a new school crossing patrol officer who would be situated on the zebra crossing at Addington Road.

The report explained that the location had been chosen as the majority of pupils resided to the north of the school and so those travelling by foot had to cross on Addington Road. This area had also been promoted as part of the Eastern Area 20mph scheme.

The report stated that 'School Keep Clear' markings were present outside the immediate vicinity of the school to protect the safety of the children during school drop off and pick up times. In addition, vehicles were prohibited from driving along the section of Lydford Road nearest the school.

It was proposed that due to the density of dwellings and associated parking, any further restrictions would result in an overall loss of kerb side parking space which would have an impact upon the residents.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

70. NEW ZEBRA CROSSING ON CHATHAM STREET ASSOCIATED WITH CHATHAM PLACE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval from the Sub-Committee to carry out statutory notice procedures on a proposal to install a new zebra crossing on Chatham Street in proximity to the Inner Distribution Road (IDR) roundabout. This would be funded by Section 106 Planning Contributions from the planning application for the Chatham Place 2 development. A drawing showing the proposed location of the crossing was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that the new zebra crossing would provide a safe crossing facility in the proximity of the roundabout on the only arm not to have a zebra crossing and that anti-skid surfacing would be laid on the approaches to the crossing.

Resolved -

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- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultation on the intention to establish a pedestrian crossing on Chatham Street outside the Chatham Place 2 redevelopment in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

71. KENAVON DRIVE - REVIEW OF ON-STREET PAY AND DISPLAY BAY

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report to seek approval to carry out statutory consultation and implementation, subject to no objections being received, on the addition of residents permit parking to the existing on-street pay and display bay within Kenavon Drive.

The report explained that the existing on-street pay and display parking provision within Kenavon Drive was currently underused and so adding some residents permit parking to the existing on-street pay and display bay would make better use of the road space and would benefit local residents.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation and advertise a proposal to add some residents permit parking provision to the on-street pay & display within Kenavon Drive and, subject to no objections being received to make the Traffic Regulation Order;
- (3) That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (4) That the Head of Transportation and Streetcare, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport be authorised to make minor changes to the proposal;
- (5) That no public enquiry be held into the proposal.

72. BI-ANNUAL WAITING RESTRICTION REVIEW - STATUTORY CONSULTATION

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of forthcoming requests for waiting restrictions within the Borough that had been raised by members of the public, community organisations and Councillors since September 2014.

At the meeting of the Sub-Committee on 11 September 2014 (Minute 34 refers), it was proposed that Ward Councillors be consulted on requests, and the resultant schemes to take forward to the statutory consultation process were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation and advertise the proposals listed in Appendix 1 and, subject to no objections being received to make the Traffic Regulation Order;
- (3) That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (4) That the Head of Transportation and Streetcare, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport be authorised to make minor changes to the proposals;
- (5) That no public enquiry be held into the proposals.

73. ALL SAINTS JUNIOR SCHOOL - TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the review of the current traffic management measures in the vicinity of All Saints Junior School and seeking approval to carry out a statutory consultation on a proposed 'School Keep Clear' marking on Brownlow Road. A location plan showing the proposals for Maitland Road and Brownlow Road was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report explained that All Saints Junior School had opened in September 2012 and was situated on Brownlow Road, opposite All Saints Infant School. There were currently two 'School Keep Clear' signs on the eastern side of the road by the Infant School, but no markings outside the Junior School. Following representations from Ward Councillors, it had been suggested that a one-way system be introduced on Maitland Road. This proposal would be investigated by officers and the results reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation and advertise the proposed 'School Keep Clear' restriction in Brownlow Road, as shown in Appendix 1, and, subject to no objections being received to make the Traffic Regulation Order;
- (3) That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (4) That a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee on the proposal to introduce a one-way restriction in Maitland Road.

74. A33 PINCH POINT SCHEME

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the A33 Pinch Point Scheme.

The report stated that the scheme comprised a range of measures to improve journey time reliability and to reduce congestion, and included extending the left-turn filter lanes for exiting the A33 onto Rose Kiln Lane (north and southbound). The scheme would also provide more direct pedestrian and cycle links that would be built up to road level. This would ensure that they were safer for users and that they would not be affected by seasonal flooding.

The report explained that the project team were aiming to minimise any disruption whilst the improvement works took place by limiting lane closures to off peak hours between January and May and that the bus services would run as normal. The work was expected to be completed by early summer 2015.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

75. ANNUAL PARKING REPORT 2013-2104

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report stating that the Traffic Management Act 2004 required each local authority with Civil Parking Enforcement to publish an Annual Report about their enforcement activities, covering financial and statistical data.

The Parking Services Annual Report for 2013-14 was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and would be published in January 2015.

The Annual Reports for 2008-13 had previously been reported to Cabinet in 2011, the Traffic Management Advisory Panel in January 2013 and the Traffic Management Sub-Committee in November 2013. They were also available on the Council website.

The report stated that the Statutory Guidance required that the Local Authority included financial details in the Annual Report with regard to total income and expenditure on the parking account and statistical information relating to the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued, cancelled and challenged. The Annual Report also included information for Residents Parking Permits, Bus Lane Enforcement, Blue Badge Issues, Car Parks, Pay and Display and Freedom of Information requests.

The report explained that the number of Bus Lane Penalty Charge Notices issued had increased by 30% compared to the previous year and that this was attributed to the introduction of five new bus lanes around Reading Station and to the upgrade to digital enforcement of five existing bus lanes. The number of Parking Penalty Charge Notices issued in 2013/14 was 3% lower than the previous year which demonstrated improved compliance with the parking restrictions in Reading.

Resolved -

- (1) **That the report be noted;**

- (2) That the 2013-2014 Annual Parking Report for publication in January 2015 be noted.

76. READING UNIVERSITY AND ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL AREA: ON-STREET PAY AND DISPLAY AND RESIDENTS' PARKING SCOPING UPDATE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report to update the Sub-Committee on the proposal to introduce additional areas of on-street pay and display in and around the Hospital and University area.

The report stated that on-street pay and display restrictions enabled more efficient use and enforcement of on-street parking restrictions, whilst still accommodating residents parking within permit zones. Historically on-street parking was under significant pressure in the roads around the Hospital and University and in 2012 an informal consultation had been undertaken to establish whether a combined pay and display and Residents' Parking scheme would assist in dealing with this, but the scheme had not been progressed at that time as it was considered premature in the wider Eastern Area study context.

The report explained that a planning application had been submitted by the Royal Berkshire Hospital for a new Pre-Operative Assessment and 24 bed ward to be built on the site of the current Addington Road car park, with consequential amendments to the provision of surface car parking and to the management of the multi storey car park. The Hospital Trust had stated that they would promote staff travel to work by sustainable means and would consider how additional parking could be accommodated on and off site.

The report stated that a planning application was also anticipated from the University relating to their on campus parking provision and so this would also need to be considered in relation to the relevant transport and planning policies.

The report also stated that following the completion of a large number of improvements along the Eastern corridor which supported more active travel, improvements for bus passengers, upgraded traffic signals and low energy, low carbon street lighting upgrades as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme, it was considered appropriate for officers to develop the detailed pay and display scheme and the Resident Parking proposals to be reported back to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee.

The following roads had been identified as having potential for future pay and display and Resident Parking in the Hospital and University areas:

- Redlands Road (east and west sides)
- Addington Road (north and south sides)
- Erleigh Road (north and south sides)
- Morgan Road (east and west sides)
- Kendrick Road
- Alexandra Road
- Allcroft Road
- Elmhurst Road
- Upper Redlands Road

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The proposed restrictions to be advertised would need to consider the hours of operation of a scheme and the charging tariff, in consultation with the Hospital and University and to allow for the needs of people visiting the hospital.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee on the proposals to develop a pay and display scheme and residents parking for future statutory advertising.

77. READING STATION - HIGHWAY WORKS UPDATE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on progress on the Reading Station Redevelopment Project and associated highway works.

The report stated that the work on the Northern and Southwest Interchanges and the North and South public squares had been completed and that work on a new cycle parking hub of 300 racks in the corner of the multi-storey car park was due to be completed by the end of March 2015.

The remaining works to the west of the station at Cow Lane included a new elevated railway that was supported by a viaduct and a new railway depot facility. As part of the viaduct works, Network Rail were due to remove the arched Cow Lane Bridge at the end of January 2015. This would create a temporary footway beneath the bridge, but there would still be traffic signals for vehicles as the width of the road would not be increased at this stage.

The report had stated that a Public Inquiry had been required as objections to the Cow Lane Bridges Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Side Roads Order (SRO) had been received by some of the affected landowners and that this had delayed the construction programme. Councillor Page reported to the Sub-Committee that the Public Inquiry had commenced on 13 January 2015 but that it had been adjourned after one day, as all objections had been withdrawn. A decision from the Inquiry Inspection was expected before the end of June 2015 and, subject to the outcome of the Inquiry, and no High Court Challenges being made within 6 weeks from the publication of notice of decision, construction of the highway works could commence in late summer 2015.

There was also a discussion with regard to the potential extension of bus services once the Cow Lane Bridges had been removed and it was agreed that a report would be requested for a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That a report or presentation be given by representatives from Reading Buses with regard to new bus services at a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

78. LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on progress with delivery of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Small Package, for which £4.9m funding had been approved by the Department for Transport (DfT) in July 2011 and the LSTF Large Partnership Package, for which £20.692m funding had been approved by the DfT in June 2012.

The report provided an update on each of the five delivery themes of the LSTF programme, with particular focus on projects that had reached milestones within the previous three months, which included the following:

- The completion of the Personalised Travel Planning programme;
- The upgrade of the traffic signals at George Street/Gosbrook Road, Church Road/Church Street and Caversham Park Road/Henley Road junctions;
- The continued increase in usage of the ReadyBike cycle hire scheme, with total rentals to the end of November totalling 14,634, which covered an estimated 83,200 miles;
- The installation of an additional cycle hire docking station at Reading Station South;
- The construction of the Thames pedestrian cycle bridge which was due for completion in summer 2015;
- The park and ride sites at Mere oak and Winnersh Triangle which were due for completion in spring 2015.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

79. CYCLE FORUM MEETING NOTES

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the discussions and actions arising from the October 2014 meeting of the Cycle Forum, which met under the auspices of the approved Cycling Strategy.

The notes of the Cycle Forum meeting of 22 October 2014 were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Resolved: That the report be noted

80. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved -

That, pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) members of the press and public be excluded during consideration of Items 61 and 62 below, as it was likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

81. APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY PARKING PERMITS

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report giving details of the background to her decisions to refuse applications for Discretionary Parking Permits from a total of fifteen applicants, who had subsequently appealed against these decisions.

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Resolved -

- (1) That with regard to applications 1.0-1.12, five discretionary permits be issued for use by staff at the College;
- (2) That with regard to application 1.14, a discretionary permit be issued, personal to the applicant and charged at the third permit fee;
- (3) That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services' decision to refuse application 1.13 be upheld.

(Exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2).

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 9.30pm).