

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES - 4 NOVEMBER 2014

Present: Councillors Page (Chair), D.L. Absolom, Ayub, Davies, Duveen, Hacker, Hopper, Jones, Terry, Whitham and Willis (from Item 48)

Also in attendance: Councillors Ennis and Vickers.

42. FORMER TRANSPORT USERS' FORUM - CONSULTATIVE ITEM

(1) Questions

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

(2) Presentation - Reading Bridge Strengthening Works

Sam Shean, Assistant Highways Manager, gave a presentation and answered questions on Reading Bridge Strengthening Works.

He explained that the Council had successfully bid for Government funding to carry out repairs to Reading Bridge, which had been slowly deteriorating due to water seepage, damaged concrete and erosion to the stone works. The work would involve pumping concrete into the void under the bridge and repairing the stone pillars and would reduce the need for future maintenance. Consideration had been given to completing the work at night to minimise the disruption to traffic, but this would not be possible due to noise as well as the safety of workers, and so there would be off-peak lane closures from Monday to Friday for this first stage. The work was scheduled to be completed by June 2015.

Resolved: That Sam Shean be thanked for his presentation.

43. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 11 September 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

44. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

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

45. PETITIONS

(a) Redlands School - Petition for a safer route to school

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the receipt of a petition with 53 signatures asking the Council to conduct a review of road safety around Redlands Primary School.

The petition read as follows:

"Every child should have a safe route to school. Cars stopping and turning close to Redlands Primary School around collection and drop off times are causing road safety issues for children on Blenheim Gardens, Hatherley Road and other roads in the vicinity of the school.

We want the Council and Police to work together with parents and Redlands Primary School to find a solution to the road safety issue of cars around the school"

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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.

Resolved:

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

46. PETITION UPDATE - RESIDENTS OF HOLMES ROAD REQUESTING REDUCTION IN SPEEDING AND ONE WAY PLUG

Further to Minute 25a of the meeting of 11 September 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, signed by 12 residents of Holmes Road, requesting that access to Holmes Road in East Reading be restricted through the use of a one way plug and to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling within the road.

The report stated that Holmes Road was a standard width two-way road that was subject to a 30mph speed limit. It was noted at the meeting that this was incorrect as the road was in a 20mph zone.

The report explained that it was the duty of the highway authority to ensure that the highway was as safe as reasonably practicable and that this was achieved by using accident data supplied by the police so that the Council could identify a pattern of those locations that had the worst record. The accident statistics had been checked for Holmes Road and no injury accidents had been recorded in the past five years and the Council had to prioritise funding to areas with high levels of injury accidents.

The report stated that the request to close the road had been investigated and that it was possible, subject to full support from residents, but that access for large vehicles such as refuse collections would have to be protected and so a full design and cost assessment would have to be completed before a decision could be made.

It was proposed that the road continued to be monitored as part of the Council's ongoing road safety strategy and that Vehicle Activated Signs be provided, on a rotation basis, which could record usage and provide speed data.

At the invitation of the Chair, lead petitioner Rachel Benwell addressed the Sub-Committee and stated that the original petition had not sought the closure of the road, as stated in the report, but a one-way plug.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That Holmes Road continued to be monitored as part of the Council's ongoing road safety strategy and the Vehicle Activated Sign be used when possible as part of the annual sign rotation schedule;

- (3) That the issue be investigated further and a report on available options be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee for consideration;
- (4) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

47. PETITION UPDATE - RECREATION ROAD AND BLUNDELLS ROAD

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the investigation carried out by officers following the submission of a petition, signed by approximately 100 residents, to the Sub-Committee on 11 September 2014 (Minute 25c refers).

The report explained that Recreation Road and Blundells Road were standard width two-way roads with street lights and that both roads were subject to a 30mph speed limit and had parking on both sides of the road.

The report explained that it was the duty of the highway authority to ensure that the highway was as safe as reasonably practicable and that this was achieved by using accident data supplied by the police so that the Council could identify a pattern of those locations that had the worst record. The accident statistics had been checked for Recreation Road and Blundells Road and two slight injury accidents had been recorded in the past five years but unfortunately the Council had to prioritise funding to areas with higher levels of injury accidents.

Following a discussion at the meeting, it was agreed that further options, with funding implications, should be investigated.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That Recreation Road and Blundells Road continue to be monitored as part of the Council's ongoing road safety strategy and the Vehicle Activated Sign be used when possible as part of the speed awareness sign rotation schedule;
- (3) That the issue be investigated further and a report on available options, with funding implications, be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee for consideration;
- (4) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

48. RESIDENTS PARKING - EXTENSION OF RESIDENTS PARKING AREAS

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the requests received from residents and Ward Councillors regarding the amendment or introduction of resident parking areas, details of which were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that, following a consultation of affected residents across the Borough in 2011, a reorganisation of all resident parking zones had been carried out to more closely match the available number of kerb side spaces with permits issued. This had resulted in a

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reduction from 54 smaller zones to 14 larger zones. A number of minor amendments had been carried out in early 2014 to increase kerb-side space for resident permit holders within the existing areas to provide additional spaces across the zones.

The report explained that following these amendments and discussions with local residents and ward councillors, there had been a number of streets, listed in Appendix 1, that had requested changes to residents parking and it was proposed that these proceeded to statutory consultation.

A number of streets, also listed in Appendix 1, had requested the introduction of resident parking areas and it was proposed that informal consultation in the form of a household questionnaire be carried out in these areas and the results reported back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee prior to any formal statutory consultation.

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 statutory consultation on the proposals for Patrick Road (01R), Barry Place (03R), Cholmeley Terrace/Regent Street (12R), St Bartholomew's Road (14R) and to re-advertise Upper Redlands Road, Redlands Road, Sutton Walk and Whitley Park Lane from their existing zone numbers to Zone 15R, in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and, subject to no objections being received, to implement the proposals;
- (3) That any objections received following the statutory consultation be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (4) That informal consultation be carried out by Ward Councillors with affected residents of the entire East Newtown area to ascertain whether they wished to remain 10am-4pm or to amend this to 8am-8pm;
- (5) That informal consultation be carried out with affected residents in other roads listed in Appendix 1 where requests had been made for the introduction of new areas of resident parking and that Sutton Place be added to this list;
- (6) That kerbside parking space around the existing Zone 02R area be reviewed and, if there was capacity for additional residents parking spaces, to consult with Ward Councillors prior to proceeding to formal consultation;
- (7) That proposals for waiting restrictions in Foxglove Gardens (05R) be developed in consultation with Ward Councillors.

49. HIGHMOOR ROAD / ALBERT ROAD - PETITION FOR A SAFER CROSSROADS - OBJECTIONS TO THE ADVERTISED ORDER

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report to update the Sub-Committee on objections, support and other comments received to the proposal to restrict vehicle movements from the west side of Highmoor Road across the junction with Albert Road. Approximately 70 individual representations had been received prior to the issue of the statutory notice and a further 15 received during the statutory period. The original list of options reviewed at the meeting on 11 September 2014 (minute 33 refers) was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

A supplementary report was tabled at the meeting which provided a summary of the representations received at Appendix 2 and set out officer's comments in response.

The report explained that the highway authority had a duty to take steps to both reduce and prevent collisions on the road network and to maintain and manage the road network and secure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic, which included pedestrians. As a result of this, the closure of the west side of Highmoor Road had been promoted to deal with a specific pattern of accidents that had resulted in three injuries within the last four years.

The report stated that the proposal to close the west side of Highmoor Road had prompted a significant response, most of which were from residents of the immediate area concerned with the displacement of traffic onto their street, as Highmoor Road was used by motorists as a link road across Caversham Heights. Concerns had also been raised about speeding on Albert Road.

Simon Beasley, Network Manager, presented pictures to the Sub-Committee to demonstrate the issues faced at this junction and tabled a letter from Rob Wilson MP that detailed results of a consultation that Mr Wilson had undertaken in the area.

Resolved -

- (1) That the objections received in response to the statutory consultation to restrict the west side of Highmoor Road at its junction with Albert Road be noted;**
- (2) That the Sub-Committee deferred making a decision asking for the options be investigated further and a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee for consideration;**
- (3) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.**

50. PLAY STREETS UPDATE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the progress on Play Streets.

The report explained that Play Streets was a concept whereby residents closed their street to through traffic for a short period of time to allow children to play in the street safely. A list of ten reasons for Play Streets and the positive impact for both children and the

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community was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and the current list of Play Streets in Reading was attached to the report at Appendix 2.

The experimental traffic regulation order that had been used to close roads for play streets was reaching the end of the 18 month legal limit and the report recommended that this not be made permanent but that streets should be closed using the Town Police Clauses Act 1847.

The report stated that no objections had been received to any of the current Play Street road closures, although some concerns had been raised about the principle of the scheme. The reasonable grounds for objection had been agreed at the meeting of Traffic Management Advisory Panel on 14 March 2013 (Minute 76 refers) and objections received on these grounds would be reported to the Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and to a meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the current experimental traffic regulation order used for Play Streets be allowed to expire at the end of its 18 month duration;
- (3) That Play Streets be continued using the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 to temporarily close roads;
- (4) That any objections received relating to the temporary closure of roads for Play Streets be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

51. FOOTWAY AND VERGE PARKING BAN UPDATE - TILEHURST

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report to update the Sub-Committee on the experimental footway and verge parking ban in the Tilehurst area.

The report stated that the original consultation had showed a 70:30 split in favour of a footway/verge parking ban and this level of support had continued throughout the trial. The trial had met the objectives in most areas, with positive feedback particularly related to the additional benefit of cars travelling at a lower speed.

The report explained that the residents of Mayfair had petitioned for the ban to be altered and that an alternative restriction would be sought to protect the grass verges once the Department for Transport had revised the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) as this would allow local highway authorities more flexibility in signage.

The issue of drivers parking on footways outside shops and banks also needed to be addressed and this could be achieved through barriers, which would also provide additional cycle parking and could be delivered through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF).

The report noted that the verges in Park Lane had not improved during the trial due to the concerns of residents with regard to traffic flow and so consideration would be given to changes to road markings as the road was sufficiently wide to accommodate on-street parking without disruption to traffic flow.

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Vickers addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the ban on footway and verge parking in Tilehurst (with the exception of Mayfair) be permanently implemented;
- (3) That, following the revised Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) an alternative restriction be considered for Mayfair to protect the grass verges;
- (4) That a further report on the issues identified in the report, in particular reseeded of verges, road markings in Park Lane and the introduction of more cycle parking, be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

52. CIVIC 'B' CAR PARK - CHANGES TO DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION AND INTRODUCTION OF EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report advising the Sub-Committee of a proposal to change the days and hours of operation and the tariff rate in the Civic 'B' Car Park and the introduction of an experimental 'Off Street' car parking order for 18 months.

The report stated that the car park was currently used by Council employees between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, and was open to members of the public as a Pay and Display car park at other times. Following the move to the new Council Offices, this car park would no longer be used for staff car parking and so it was proposed to introduce an experimental 'Off-Street' Places Order to allow for members of the public to use the car park 24 hours per day and seven days a week at the same tariff rate as was currently offered for evening and weekend parking.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the proposed changes to the days and hours of operation and the tariff rate in Civic 'B' Car Park be approved as detailed in the report;
- (3) That season tickets, as detailed in the report, be introduced in Civic 'B' Car Park;
- (4) That, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation and advertise the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order and, subject to no objections being received within the first six months, to implement the proposal permanently;
- (5) That any objections to the Experimental Order be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;

- (6) That the Head of Transportation and Streetcare be authorised to implement the changes to tariff in the Civic 'B' Car Park.

53. WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2014-2015

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report to update the Sub-Committee on the outputs delivered by the 2013/14 Winter Service Plan during the 2013/14 winter period and of the 2014/15 Winter Service Plan which was intended to manage the 2014/15 winter period.

The report stated that the 2013/14 winter had been a wet and relatively mild winter season with no prolonged weather events, although there had been several occasions when marginal temperatures had triggered treatment of the primary network.

The report explained that the 2013/14 Winter Service Plan had been reviewed and the results used to update the 2014/15 Plan.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the outputs delivered by the 2013/14 Winter Service Plan and subsequent procedures be noted;
- (3) That the 2014/15 Winter Service Plan be endorsed.

54. PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO GARAGE AREAS - SOMERSTOWN COURT AND WOOD GREEN CLOSE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval to carry out statutory consultation and, subject to no objections being received, implement a prohibition of motor vehicles except for access for residents, to the garage areas in Wood Green Court and Somerstown Court, to be enforced using physical barriers. Maps showing the location of the garages were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that the garage areas of Somerstown Court and Wood Green Close had regularly been used by prostitutes bringing clients in cars and so residents had requested some form of physical barrier to prevent access to non-residents in vehicles. Additional work by the anti-social behaviour team and the police would also help to reduce the problem.

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, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation and advertise the proposals attached to the report at Appendix 1 in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and, subject to no objections being received, to implement the Traffic Regulation Order;

- (3) That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

55. 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 Interchange and North public square had been completed and that work on the Southwest Interchange, cycle parking hubs and the South public square was progressing well and should soon be completed.

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 over the 2014 Christmas holiday period. 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 explained that a Public Inquiry was 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. Negotiations had continued with the objectors and there remained a possibility that if the proposed agreements were approved and the objections withdrawn, the Public Inquiry would no longer be required.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

56. EAST AREA TRANSPORT STUDY UPDATE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on progress with the East Area Transport Study.

The report stated that substantial completion had been achieved on the work along London Road and adjoining streets which had included widening and resurfacing footways and shared cycleways, upgrading of traffic signals and the introduction of raised junction tables.

The highway improvements at Cemetery Junction had included resurfacing of roads and footways, new street furniture such as cycle parking and benches, landscaping and tree planting, the upgrade of traffic signals and a new pedestrian crossing.

The report explained that advisory cycle lanes on Southampton Street and Silver Street would be progressed separately in early 2015 and a pedestrian refuge island installed on Pepper Lane.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

57. 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, including the work that had commenced on the construction of the Pedestrian/Cycle bridge over the River Thames and the proposed new Park and Ride/Rail projects at MereOak, by M4 Junction 11 and at Winnersh Triangle, both in partnership with Wokingham Borough Council and at Theale Station in partnership with West Berkshire Council and First Great Western.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

58. NEW ZEBRA CROSSING ON NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE OUTSIDE GEOFFREY FIELD INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval to carry out statutory notice procedures on a proposal to install a new zebra crossing on Northumberland Avenue in the vicinity of the pedestrian entrance to Geoffrey Field Infant and Junior Schools. A drawing showing the location of the proposed crossing was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that the proposed zebra crossing would be funded by S106 Planning Contributions from the planning applications to expand the schools which were approved by the Planning Applications Committee on 10 September 2014 (minute 27 refers).

The report explained that as well as the new crossing, anti-skid surfacing would be laid on the approaches to the crossing as a safety measure.

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Eden addressed the Sub-Committee and requested that the work on the zebra crossing be postponed until after a more thorough review had been completed on road safety on Northumberland Avenue and other roads in the area. It was agreed that this would best be achieved through the establishment of a South Area Transport Study as this area covered a number of Wards.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory notice of the intention to establish a pedestrian crossing on Northumberland Avenue (as shown in Appendix 1) in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984;
- (3) That officers, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee/Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, establish a South Area Transport Study to review a range of road safety options

across this area and that the outcome of the review be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

59. READING GIRL'S SCHOOL - TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ALONG NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the traffic calming options being considered to mitigate the implications of the increased capacity at Reading Girl's School.

The report stated that the proposed traffic calming measures would be funded by S106 Planning Contributions from the planning application for the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of a new secondary school which had been approved by the Planning Applications Committee on 10 September 2014 (minute 27 refers).

The report explained that the new school would increase the school's capacity by 10% from 947 pupils to 1050 pupils and it was noted that the existing school was currently under capacity with just 656 pupils on roll and so the new school could result in a considerable increase in the number of children travelling to and from school.

The recommended proposals were to extend the 20mph limit along Northumberland Avenue and to review the existing traffic calming features with the intention of bringing a detailed report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Eden addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That a further report be prepared as part of the South Area Transport Study and submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee for consideration.

60. 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.

61. 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 nine applicants, who had subsequently appealed against these decisions.

Resolved -

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- (1) That with regard to application 1.2, a discretionary permit be issued, personal to the applicant and charged at the third permit fee, subject to one being available within the allocation for the property;
- (2) That with regard to applications 1.3, 1.7 and 1.8, discretionary permits be issued, personal to the applicants and charged at the third permit fee;
- (3) That with regard to application 1.4, a charity permit be issued, personal to the applicant;
- (4) That with regard to application 1.5, two free books of visitor's permits be issued, personal to the applicant;
- (5) That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services' decisions to refuse applications 1.0, 1.1 and 1.6 be upheld.

62. SUTTON WALK - APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY PARKING PERMITS

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report giving details of the background to her decision to refuse an application for a Discretionary Parking Permit from an applicant in Sutton Walk, who had subsequently appealed against this decision and of a request from residents of Sutton Walk to be included within a residents parking zone.

Resolved -

- (1) That the application be accepted and the permit allocation applied for issued,
- (2) That all residents of Sutton Walk be written to offering the opportunity to apply for discretionary permits,
- (3) That permits then be issued on receipt of the application as if the normal scheme rules applied.
- (4) That Sutton Walk be included in the Residents Permits Traffic Regulation Order for The Mount.

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

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.57pm).