

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 SEPTEMBER 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	12
TITLE:	WATLINGTON STREET / SOUTH STREET - INFORMAL CONSULTATION		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	ABBEY
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises the results of an informal consultation that was conducted by Abbey Ward Councillors, which invited resident feedback regarding proposed measures to improve road safety, reduce speeding traffic and improve the local environment in Watlington Street and South Street.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That further consideration be given to the consultation feedback and that other options are considered for this area.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 Improving road safety through the reduction of casualties is a statutory duty of the council as highway authority.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 In early July 2016, Abbey Ward Councillors delivered an informal consultation letter to residents of Watlington Street (between Queens Road and London Road), South Street (between Sidmouth Street and Watlington Street), The Grove, Boulton Street and The Dell.

The informal consultation was conducted, following the receipt of numerous complaints regarding the volume of speeding traffic, especially during peak hours, associated with cars rat-running between London Road and Sidmouth Street.

- 4.2 The consultation proposed that a road closure at the junction of South Street and Sidmouth Street would remove the rat-running traffic and also improve road safety at this junction.
- 4.3 In the 5 years between 2011 and 2015, there have been 3 accidents, which have resulted in casualties, at the junction of Watlington Street and London Road. During the same period there have been 8 accidents, which have resulted in casualties, at the junction with South Street and Sidmouth Street.
- 4.4 The consultation document asked whether the resident would support a closure of the junction of South Street and Sidmouth Street, whether they would support a proposal for new road humps along Watlington Street and invited any other comments or suggestions.
- 4.5 Appendix 1 provides a summary of the consultation results.
- 4.6 With a relatively low response, it is difficult for Officers to provide a clear recommendation. From the consultation results, there appears to be more support for traffic calming through road humps, however, this does not solve the root cause of the concerns, which is rat-running traffic.
- 4.7 In conclusion, Officers recommend that further consideration be given to the feedback received from this informal consultation and that other options are considered for this area.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 This proposal contributes to the Council's strategic aims, as set out below:
 - Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active
 - Providing infrastructure to support the economy.
 - Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Further informal consultation may be conducted, as proposals develop for this area, prior to statutory consultation.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Changes to Traffic Regulation Orders will require advertisement and consultation, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None arising from this report.
- 9.2 Funding will need to be identified prior to implementation of any scheme.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

Analysis of Responses to Watlington Street/South Street – Informal Traffic Consultation

	<u>Q1</u>			<u>Q2</u>		
	Proposal for road closure at the junction of South Street and Sidmouth Street.					
<u>Street/Location</u>	<u>FOR *</u>	<u>AGAINST **</u>	<u>NO VOTE CAST</u>	<u>FOR ***</u>	<u>AGAINST ****</u>	<u>NO VOTE CAST</u>
Watlington Street	6	7	0	10	2	1
South Street	1	1	0	1	1	0
Boult Street	2	1	0	1	1	1
The Grove	5	5	0	8	2	0
The Dell	5	2	0	4	3	0
Sidmouth Court	2	2	0	1	3	0
Totals:	21	18	0	25	12	2
Percentage:	53.8%	46.2%	0.0%	64.1%	30.8%	5.1%

TOTAL RETURNED:	39
TOTAL SENT:	255
%	15.29%

Q1: "YES" FOR * I would support a road closure at the junction of South Street and Sidmouth Street.
 "NO" AGAINST ** I would not support a road closure at the junction of South Street and Sidmouth Street.

Q2: "YES" FOR *** I would support new road humps along Watlington Street.
 "NO" AGAINST **** I would not support new road humps along Watlington Street.

"n/a" NO VOTE CAST Applied when both boxes appear blank