

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES - 9 MARCH 2017

Present: Councillor Page (Chair).

Councillors Debs Absolom, Davies, Dennis, Duveen, Hacker, Hopper, Jones, McDonald, Terry, and White.

71. FORMER TRANSPORT USERS' FORUM - CONSULTATIVE ITEM

(1) Questions

Questions on the following matters were submitted, and answered by the Chair:

| Questioner | Subject |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Michael Weller | Cycling on Footpaths |
| Simon Smart | Cycle Bridge over the Thames |

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

(2) Presentation - RED ROUTES

Simon Beasley, gave a presentation on Red Routes to provide the background to the proposal of introducing Red Route waiting restrictions along the Reading Buses Route 17 corridor due to be discussed later that evening (Minute 78 below refers). Mr Beasley explained how Red Routes operated in practice and the implications for road users, local residents and businesses along the route.

Mr Beasley answered questions from members of the public and councillors.

Resolved - That Simon Beasley be thanked for his presentation.

72. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of 12 and 19 January 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

73. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Questions on the following matters were submitted, and answered by the Chair:

| Questioner | Subject |
|--------------------|--|
| Councillor Vickers | Church End Primary School - Crossing in Usk Road |
| Councillor White | Town Centre Public Parking |

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

74. PETITIONS

(a) Petition for potential parking scheme on Alexandra Road and Nearby Streets

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the receipt of a petition from residents, asking the Council to make available additional parking facilities outside the mosque at 46 Alexandra Road.

The petition read as follows:

'We really appreciate the new parking scheme on and around Alexandra Road. I hope that the scheme will benefit the residents of the area.'

You might be aware that No. 46 Alexandra Road, Reading is a Mosque (Muslim Community Center) and regularly used 5 times daily by the community. The Community members have raised concerns over parking whilst attending the mosque. We hereby request the following parking facilities to be made available so that the community members can continue attending the Mosque during their day and night prayers.

1-Two bays outside 46 Alexandra Road should be marked for Disabled

2-One hour free parking day and night

3-One hour for Friday Prayer

4-One hour for people attending any funeral prayers

5-One hour for attending Eid Prayers

We would be grateful for providing requested parking facilities for the community'

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the petition to provide parking provisions is considered as part of the Waiting Restriction Review programme and the results of officer investigations be reported back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

(b) Petition for resident permit parking (Coley Avenue area)

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the receipt of a petition from residents, asking the Council to provide resident permit parking in Coley Avenue South, Upavon Drive and Froxfield Avenue.

The petition read as follows:

'Parking problem day and night in Coley Ave South, Upavon Drive and Froxfield Ave, of vehicles of people who do not live in these roads we the undersigned want permit parking please.'

At the invitation of the Chair the petition organiser, Mr Sandon, addressed the Sub-Committee on behalf of the petitioners.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the petition to introduce permit parking be considered as part of the Waiting Restriction Review programme and the results of officer investigations reported back to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (3) That the request for permit parking be considered within the context of the West Reading Study Area to ensure a comprehensive approach to surrounding streets.

75. PETITION UPDATE - PARKING PROTECTION AND ROAD SAFETY MEASURES ON THE MEADWAY

Further to Minute 62 of the meeting held on 12 January 2017, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing the Sub-Committee with officer recommendations in respect of the petition, requesting implementation of parking protection and road safety measures on The Meadway, outside the shopping area opposite the junction with Dee Road.

The report stated that the provision of waiting/parking restrictions and road safety measures were specified within the existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards. The report summarised the items requested within the petition as follows:

- (i) Permit parking, with 2 hours short-term parking (i.e. shared-use permit parking with 2 hours limited waiting).
- (ii) The laybys to the north and south of the 'horseshoe' to be converted to disabled and emergency service vehicle bays only.
- (iii) Traffic calming, by way of 3 rubber speed humps on approach to and exit from the shops, and a 10mph speed limit installed.
- (iv) Upgraded lighting to the front of the shops.

The report explained that officers had investigated the issues raised and the requests made and had the following recommendations for the Sub-Committee:

- (a) If the request was added to the list of outstanding schemes, consideration would need to be given to the residents who would benefit and the potential impact that permit parking could have on the availability of parking for visitors to the shops. There would likely be a long lead-in time for the introduction of a permit parking scheme, due to the number of outstanding schemes awaiting progression. Waiting restrictions, possibly daytime-only, could be considered as part of the Waiting Restriction Review programme and implemented in a shorter timescale. However, some parking in this area was likely to be from Hanover Court (which sat behind the shops) and not part of the public highway network therefore, residents would not typically be eligible for a permit.

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Officers recommended considering waiting restrictions as part of the 2017A review programme.

- (b) It was recommended that the request for disabled bays be considered as part of the 2017A Waiting Restriction Review programme.
- (c) The minimum legal speed limit that could be implemented on the Highway was 20mph. Traffic calming features would need to comply with Highway regulations, so could not be installed in the manner requested. Officers had not observed motorists using the 'horseshoe' to bypass the traffic signals, nor driving at excessive speed. While a speed survey could be conducted, this would be outsourced at a cost to the Council and would likely demonstrate that the majority of vehicles were traveling at less than 20mph.

This one-way section of The Meadway had an excellent Highway safety record, with no incidents involving casualties having been recorded by the Police in the latest three year period.

It was unfortunate that there would always be a minority of motorists that did not drive in an appropriate and acceptable manner, regardless of the measures that were put in place to encourage them to do so. The installation of vertical traffic calming measures would be subject to statutory consultation and consideration would need to be given to the additional road noise that they could create, as well as the locations available for installation - accesses to private driveways and the location of the parking bays would limit availability. Officers did not recommend progressing with traffic calming measures at this time, as there was currently no evidence to suggest that there was a speed-related road safety issue at this location.

- (d) The Highway street lighting columns were due to be upgraded to the improved LED lamps, as part of the Council's rolling LED lighting replacement programme.

The Sub-Committee discussed the report and it was suggested that a meeting with residents and local businesses be arranged to discuss the measures which could be taken forward.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the waiting (parking) restrictions be considered as part of the Waiting Restrictions Review Programme as set out in (a) and (b) above;
- (3) That local residents and businesses be invited to meet and discuss the measures which could be taken forward;
- (4) That traffic calming be not considered at this time, in accordance with (c) above.

76. RESIDENT PARKING SCHEME - CHARITY AND CARER PERMIT CHARGES

Further to Minute 63 of the meeting held on 12 January 2017, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report inviting the Sub-Committee to consider the proposal to charge for Charity (first) and Carer parking permits.

The report explained the history of resident permit parking charges and how these had developed in recent years. Following the work of a Task and Finish Group, reported to the Sub-Committee on 12 January 2017, the Sub-Committee had decided to recommend a charge for the first resident's permits, discretionary first resident's permits, Healthcare Professional, Medical Practitioner and Teacher permits. The report stated that these recommendations had been agreed by Policy Committee on 16 January 2017.

The report invited the Sub-Committee to decide if the first permit charge of £30 should be applied to Charity (first) and Carer permits, as the decision on these permit types had been deferred from the 12 January meeting. The report explained that a total of 26 Charity (first) and 133 Carer permits had been issued in 2015/16 and if these had been charged at the proposed rate it would have raised a total of £4,770.

The Chair advised the Sub-Committee that the Access and Disabilities Working Group had discussed the proposal at its recent meeting and had taken the view that there should not be a charge for either carer or charity permits.

Resolved - That the Charity (first) and Carer Parking Permits continue to be issued free of charge.

(Councillors Jones and Terry declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item. Nature of interest: involvement with a local charity)

77. RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING - NEW AND OUTSTANDING REQUESTS

Further to Minute 63 of the meeting held on 12 January 2017, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing the Sub-Committee with a consolidated report on all outstanding requests for resident permit parking across the Borough.

Appendix 1 to the report provided a list of all outstanding schemes that were either area schemes or were yet to be investigated. The list included background information on the schemes and some officer comments. The report stated that the list did not include requests being presented to the Sub-Committee as part of the 2017A Waiting Restrictions Review Programme.

The report included a proposal that this should become a regular agenda item for the Sub-Committee, with the main report being presented at the March and September meetings and scheme update reports being presented as required. It was recommended that new requests for resident permit parking were added to this report and were no longer added to the Waiting Restrictions Review programme.

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Dave Dymond and Mr Keith Faulkner addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

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- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the report become a regular agenda item and that new permit parking requests be referred to this 'programme' as proposed in the report;
- (3) That the following schemes be prioritised for progression:
 - 13 - Warwick Road and Cintra Avenue
 - 1 - Little Johns Lane Area
 - 3 - Lower Caversham
 - 12 - St Stephens Close
 - 8 - Harrow Court
 - 2, 4 & 9 East Reading Area, Amherst Road, Melrose Avenue (all progressed as an area scheme)
 - 5, 6, 11 Charndon Close, Collis Street, Rowley Road (all progressed as an area scheme)
 - 7 Grovelands Road;
- (4) That scheme 10 (Mortimer Close, Whitley) remain on the reserve list but not be recommended for further action at this time.

78. RED ROUTE - BUS ROUTE 17

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of a proposal to introduce a Red Route waiting restriction along the Reading Buses Route 17 corridor.

The report stated that it had been agreed by Policy Committee on 20 July 2015 to turn the Reading buses route 17 into a red route. The purpose of the proposal was to improve the efficiency of the Route 17 corridor, promote local business through better access to short term parking, to stop indiscriminate parking on footways (thus improving safety concerns expressed by pedestrians and cyclists) through consistent enforcement of the waiting restrictions.

The report explained that Red Routes had been very successful in London for some time. Through special approval from the Department of Transport a small number of highway authorities outside London had developed Red Route corridors. The recent revision of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions had brought new red routes into line with yellow line restrictions as an effective parking management tool without the need for special approval. Although a red route was a no stopping restriction the advantages had been shown to outweigh any disadvantages.

The report explained that the intention now was to carry out informal consultation with a number of localised exhibitions on changing the existing yellow line restrictions into a red Route and report submitted to the June 2017 meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;

- (2) That the informal consultation be approved and the resultant feedback and officer recommendations be considered at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee in June 2017.

79. CIVIC OFFICES - INTRODUCTION OF PAY AND DISPLAY PARKING

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report that sought the approval of the Sub-Committee to introduce formal waiting restrictions on Council owned land, at the perimeter of the Civic offices, for the purpose of improved traffic management and introduction of Pay and Display (P&D) parking for public use.

The report explained that Corporate Facilities Management Team had identified potential for nineteen car parking spaces to become P&D bays. These comprised fourteen spaces at the northern end of Simmonds Street and five spaces behind the barrier-controlled visitor area to the south of the Civic Offices.

The report explained that by formalising parking through the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order, the spaces would be added to the current public highway parking contract managed within the Council's transport team. This would facilitate the procurement through the current contract for the introduction of the new bays, the P&D equipment, signage and road-markings, enforcement and, potentially, the installation of two electric charging bays.

The report explained that stakeholders had been consulted and only minor issues had been raised, which could be managed internally.

The financial implications and a plan of the site were attached as Appendix A to the report.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transportation and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultation and advertise this proposal in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) regulations 1996;
- (3) That subject to no objections being received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic regulation Order.

80. WAITING RESTRICTIONS REVIEW - OBJECTIONS TO WAITING RESTRICTIONS REVIEW 2016(B) AND REQUESTS FOR WAITING RESTRICTIONS REVIEW 2017(A)

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of objections received in respect of the traffic regulation order, which had been advertised as part of the waiting restriction review programme 2016B. These involved proposed implementation and amendments of waiting restrictions at various locations across the Borough. The objections were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, which was circulated at the meeting, to enable the Sub-Committee to conclude the outcome of the proposals.

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Appendix 2 to the report provided details of new requests for waiting restrictions raised by members of the public, community organisations and Councillors since September 2016.

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Brian Murphy addressed the Sub-Committee regarding the proposal in respect of Uplands Road, and Councillor Rodda addressed the Sub-Committee regarding the proposal in respect of Whitley Street, on behalf of his constituents.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That having considered the objections noted in Appendix 1 the following proposals be implemented as advertised:
 - 1 - Henry Street/Dorothy Street
 - 2 - Severn Way
 - 3 - Lower Armour Road
 - 4 - Havergate Way
 - 5 - Jefferson Close
 - 6 - Norcot Road
 - 7 - Shirley Avenue/Woodside Way;
- (3) That having considered the objections noted in Appendix 1, and the amendment proposed by Cllr White, the proposals for Wykeham Road be implemented as advertised, with the exception of a proposed reduction of the double yellow line on Wykeham Road, to the side of 89 Pitcroft Avenue;
- (4) That having considered the objections noted in Appendix 1, the proposal in respect of Whitley Street and Northcourt Avenue be implemented in accordance with the officer recommendation in Appendix 1;
- (5) That having considered the objections noted in Appendix 1 the following proposals be not implemented:
 - 1 - Uplands Road
 - 2 - Whitley Wood Lane;
- (6) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seal the resultant Traffic Regulation Order and no public inquiry be held into the proposals;
- (7) That the objectors be informed of the decisions of the Sub-Committee;
- (8) That the requests made for waiting restrictions as shown in Appendix 2 be noted and that officers investigate each request and consult on their findings with Ward Members, subject to the following comments:

- (i) that the Fulmead Road/Gordon Place/Dorset Street/Sherwood Street and Chester Street requests be considered at the same time as the residents parking request;
 - (ii) that the Shaw Road and Coley Avenue request be looked at as part of the West Reading Study;
 - (iii) that the Beecham Road request be dealt with together with the Grovelands Road resident parking scheme;
 - (iv) that the Brockley Close, Strathy Close and Usk Road requests be removed from the list;
 - (v) that the Kirton Close request be taken as part of a review of the junctions throughout the Windrush Way/Watermead estate;
 - (vi) that the Kennetside request be amended to include '...unrestricted sections *near* Cholmelely Road and Jolly Anglers PH';
 - (vii) that the Henley Road request be clarified to specify which part of Henley Road was involved;
- (9) That, should funding permit, a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee requesting approval to complete the Statutory Consultation on the approved schemes.

81. MAJOR TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS PROJECTS - UPDATE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing the Sub-Committee with an update on the current major transport and highways projects in Reading, namely:

Reading Station Area Development

Cow Lane Bridges - Highway Works

The report stated that Network Rail had confirmed in December 2016 that they were now required to carry out a full procurement process in order to identify a suitable contractor to construct the scheme and had confirmed that this process would delay the start of works until after Reading Festival in August 2017. Officers were awaiting a programme from Network Rail detailing the overall project plan but it was anticipated this would lead to completion in mid-2018.

Thames Valley Berkshire Growth Deal Schemes

Green Park Station

A bid had been submitted to the New Stations Fund for £2.8m additional funding which if successful would improve further passenger facilities at the station. A decision was anticipated by Network Rail in Spring 2017.

Reading West Station Upgrade

The report stated that unfortunately the funding bid for the Local Growth Fund to support Phase 2 of the scheme had been unsuccessful. Therefore at this time the Council would continue to explore other potential funding sources alongside Network rail and GWR.

South Reading Mass Rapid Transit

Phases three and four of the scheme had been ranked as the highest priority transport scheme in Berkshire for future funding from the Local Growth Fund and indicative funding for the scheme had been allocated by the Government in February 2017.

East Reading Park & Ride and Mass Rapid Transit

Preparation of the full scheme business case for the MRT scheme was being progressed and the assessment was now anticipated to be submitted to the Berkshire Local Transport Body in June 2017 to seek full financial approval for the MRT scheme. It was noted that this would be subject to the outcome of the independent assessment of the business case by the Local Enterprise partnership and their assessors. It was anticipated that a planning application would be submitted in April/May 2017.

National Cycle Network Route 422

A programme for delivery of the full scheme was being agreed between project partners. The first phase of works in Reading had commenced in February 2017 and were progressing well.

Third Thames Bridge

The report reconfirmed that production of the outline strategic business case was being led by Wokingham Borough Council on behalf of the Cross Thames Travel Group. Unfortunately, the bid for funding to the DfT to produce the full business case had not been successful. Therefore options to progress the development of the scheme would be investigated by the joint group.

Whiteknights Reservoir Scheme

The report stated that works had commenced on 15 August 2016 and following on site engineering difficulties was now reprogrammed for completion mid to late May 2017. The contractor had installed the drainage and gabion basket retaining structure. Works on the 72m long flood wall had commenced in early February 2017 and were due for completion by early April 2017. A single lane closure along Whiteknights Road adjacent to the site was being managed by temporary traffic signals, which had been in place from 18 January 2017 and would run until the end of April 2017.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

(Councillor Duveen declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item. Nature of interest: Councillor Duveen's son worked for Network Rail)

82. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE UPDATE AND PROGRAMME 2017/18

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing the Sub-Committee with an update on the 2016/2017 Highway Maintenance programme and informing the Sub-Committee of the £2.039m (works and fees) programme for Highway

Maintenance for 2017/18 from the Local Transport Block Funding (Integrated Transport & Highway Maintenance) settlement.

The report outlined the background to the selection of schemes and Appendix 1 to the report detailed the list of schemes in each category to be undertaken in 2017/18. The categories were: Major Carriageway Resurfacing, Minor Roads Surfacing, Footway Resurfacing, Bridge/Structural Maintenance, Pothole Award and National Productivity Repair Fund. The report provided a detailed breakdown of allocations in each category.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the proposed Highway Maintenance Programme 2017/2018 and proposed spend allocation be approved as set out in paragraph 4.9 of the report.

83. SANDCROFT ROAD COLLAPSE REPAIR SCHEME UPDATE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of a collapse that had occurred within the public highway in Sandcroft Road, Caversham on 4 December 2016 following the report of a burst water main.

The report explained that since Thames Water's repair, which had been followed by a further burst to the water main nearby, they had commissioned a radar survey which had revealed several areas below the road surface that indicated the presence of loose and voided material. Council officers had met with Thames Water and Peter Brett Associates, the Council's term structural engineers to discuss the initial findings of the radar surveys and agreed that more detailed investigation was necessary.

The report explained that the resulting dynamic probing investigation works were scheduled to be completed within five weeks and Peter Brett Associates would then prepare a detailed report and recommendations to Thames Water setting out possible repair solutions.

The Sub-Committee was advised that Thames Water had agreed to update the affected residents on a fortnightly basis and to provide feedback on the ground investigation once it was available.

Resolved - that the report be noted

84. CYCLE FORUM MINUTES

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted the minutes of the Reading Cycle Forum meeting held on 2 February 2017

Resolved - that the notes be received.

85. 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 Item 86 below, as it was likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

86. 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.

Resolved -

- (1) That, with regard to applications 1.0, 1.1 and 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 and 2.0 the discretionary parking permits be issued as requested, personal to the applicants, free of charge for one year then charged at the appropriate fee rate from 2018;
- (2) That, with regard to application 1.8 the first discretionary residents permit be issued subject to confirmation of the vehicle insurance being registered at the permit premises;
- (3) That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services' decision to refuse applications 1.7, 1.9, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 be upheld.

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

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 9.13 pm).