

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	13 JUNE 2018	AGENDA ITEM:	12
TITLE:	RESULTS OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION - POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF MEADOW ROAD AND MILFORD ROAD		
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SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	ABBEY
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Abbey Ward Councillors have conducted an informal consultation on the potential closures of Meadow Road and Milford Road, as a method of addressing the potential for rat-running traffic in the area, particularly following Network Rail's completion of the Cow Lane Highway improvement works.
- 1.2 This report provides the results of the consultation and a recommendation that the Sub-Committee considers whether design proposals should be developed for further informal and/or statutory consultation.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That Officers should develop design proposals in consultation with Abbey Ward Councillors, for further informal and/or for statutory consultation.
- 2.3 That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultations and advertise the proposals in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

- 2.4 That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
- 2.5 That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.
- 2.6 That the Head of Transportation and Streetcare, or their representative, in consultation with the appropriate Lead Councillor, be authorised to make minor changes to the proposals.
- 2.7 That no public enquiry be held into the proposals.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 This informal consultation is in line with the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-19, involving and engaging with residents through consultation and communicating our reasons for considering changes.

4. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

- 4.1 During the weekend of 12th May 2018, Abbey Ward Councillors delivered an informal consultation letter to residents of the Addison Road, Cardiff Road and Swansea Road areas, requesting that responses be received by 1st June 2018.
- 4.2 The informal consultation requested feedback on the principle of closing Meadow Road and Milford Road to through-traffic.
- 4.3 The works to the Cow Lane Bridges, once completed, will result in the removal of permanent traffic lights and the creation of full two-way traffic operation through the bridges. It was proposed that this is likely to result in more traffic using the Portman Road and Richfield Avenue to reach Caversham Road.
- 4.4 The consultation highlighted the risk that, particularly in peak-times, some traffic may try to use a shortcut route via Tessa Road, Cremyll Road, Milford Road, Meadow Road and then use Addison Road, Ross Road, Swansea Road and Northfield Road as a bypass to any queuing traffic. Although there is a short one-way plug in Northfield Road the consultation also highlighted that there could be increased abuse of this route in the reverse direction.
- 4.5 In order to remove these risks, it was proposed that it would be possible to close Meadow Road near to its junction with Milford Road, and also Milford Road near to its junction with Cardiff Road. These

two options are also being discussed in connection with the current planning application for the residential redevelopment of the Cox and Wyman site.

4.6 If these road closures were to be implemented, it could be considered whether existing width restrictions in Cardiff Road, Addison Road and Ross Road could be removed, or other alterations made to provide additional resident parking spaces as a result. This may require further consultation.

4.7 The following table provides the results of the informal consultation:

Street	For	Against	Maybe	Total
Addison Road	32 (91.4%)	3 (8.6%)	-	35
Cardiff Road	8 (57.1%)	5 (35.7%)	1 (7.1%)	14
Denbeigh Place	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	-	2
Newport Road	5 (55.6%)	4 (44.4%)	-	9
Randolph Road	2 (100%)	-	-	2
Swansea Road	9 (100%)	-	-	9
York Road	9 (75%)	3 (25%)	-	12
Northfield Road	2 (100%)	-	-	2
Caversham Road	-	1 (100%)	-	1
Total	68 (79.1%)	17 (19.8%)	1 (1.2%)	86

4.8 It is considered that a significant majority, of a sufficient number of respondents, are in favour of the road closure proposals. Officers therefore recommend that design proposals should be developed for further informal and/or statutory consultation.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 This proposal supports the aims and objectives of the Local Transport Plan and contributes to the Council's strategic aims, as set out below:

- Providing the infrastructure to support the economy.
- Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 The informal consultation results will inform the development of the scheme and has provided residents and occupiers of potentially effected properties with the opportunity to have their say, prior to any potential formal consultation.
- 6.2 Statutory consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Changes to Traffic Regulation Orders 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.

- 8.2 It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment is relevant as the proposals are not deemed to be discriminatory to persons with protected characteristics and a statutory consultation will be conducted, providing an opportunity for objections/support/concerns to be considered prior to a decision being made on whether to implement the proposals.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Funding will need to be identified prior to the formal consultation and implementation of any measures. It is intended that any measures be implemented using local developer contributions.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.