

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 10 JANUARY 2019

Present: Councillor Ayub (Chair);
Councillors Debs Absolom (Vice-Chair), Barnett-Ward, Ennis,
Jones, McGonigle, Page, Stanford-Beale and Terry

Apologies: Councillors Hacker, Hopper and R Singh

32. FORMER TRANSPORT USERS' FORUM - CONSULTATIVE ITEMS

(1) Questions

Questions on the following matters were submitted, and answered by the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment Planning and Transport on behalf of the Chair:

Questioner	Subject
Mo McSevney	20mile per hour zone in 'Old Redlands'
Duncan Godding	Motorcycle use in Bus Lanes
Christopher Dodson	Parking Bays on Whiteknights Road

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

(2) Presentation - Vastern Road Roundabout Road Safety Proposals

John Lee, Reading Cycle Campaign, gave a presentation on possible road safety improvements at the roundabout where Vastern Road met Bridge Street and Napier Road. A number of the issues and proposed improvements covered in the presentation were also discussed by the Sub-Committee in their consideration of a report on the Vastern Road roundabout elsewhere on the agenda (Minute 44 refers).

A copy of the presentation slides was made available on the Reading Borough Council website.

Resolved - That John Lee be thanked for his presentation.

33. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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The Minutes of the meeting of 1 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stanford-Beale declared a non-pecuniary interest in the items regarding Vastern Road Roundabout, insofar as they included discussion of bus lanes, on the grounds that she was a Director of Reading Transport Limited.

35. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

A question on the following matter was submitted, and answered by the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment Planning and Transport on behalf of the Chair:

Questioner	Subject
Councillor White	Tackling Car Congestion at School Gates

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

36. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND POTHOLE REPAIR PLAN 2018/2019 - UPDATE REPORT

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of a £643,000 allocation to the Council from additional Department for Transport (DfT) funding for local highways maintenance work in the current Financial Year, and of the progress with the Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019.

The report explained that the £643,000 additional funding was for 'local highways maintenance, including the repair of potholes, to keep local bridges and structures open and safe, as well as to help aid other minor highway works that may be needed', and was in addition to funding already awarded to the Council from the DfT Pothole Action Fund and Pothole and Flood Resilience Funding. A table in the report set out the proposed allocation of the funding in the highway maintenance areas of: Pothole Repairs / Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019; Major Roads Resurfacing; Minor Roads Surfacing; Footway Reconstruction and Bridges / Structures.

The report explained that as in previous years, a Pothole Repair Plan had been set up for 2018/19 to enable potholes of a lesser depth than the Council's normal investigatory criteria to be repaired. Potholes for inclusion in the Pothole Repair Plan 2018/19 were being identified by Neighbourhood Officers through highway inspections and/or following ad hoc reports received by the Council. Officers had been selecting the roads from their respective inspection areas on a priority/needs basis to ensure a fair distribution of work across the Borough. The 2018/19 Plan had commenced in October 2018 and would be continuing through to 31 March 2019; as at 14 December 2018 410 potholes had been

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repaired under the Plan and it was estimated that in the region of 1700 potholes would be repaired by the end of March. The Plan was operating concurrently with the statutory highway inspection regime and delivered using existing in-house Council Highway Operative resources and equipment.

Resolved -

- (1) That the allocation of £643,000 from the additional £420 million funding for local highways maintenance work for this Financial Year, as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget 2018 and confirmed in the Department for Transport correspondence dated 13 November 2018 be noted;**
- (2) That the progress on the Pothole Repair Plan 2018/2019 be noted.**

37. MAJOR TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS PROJECTS - UPDATE

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing the Sub-Committee with an update on key progress and milestones associated with the current programme of major transport and highways projects in the Borough namely:

- Reading Station Area Redevelopment (Cow Lane Bridges)
- South Reading Mass Rapid Transit (Phases 1-4)
- Reading Green Park Station
- Thames Valley Park Park & Ride
- East Reading Mass Rapid Transit
- NCN (National Cycle Network) Route 422

The report also gave an update on the following unfunded schemes:

- South Reading Mass Rapid Transit (Future Phases)
- Reading West Station Upgrade
- Tilehurst Station Access Improvements
- Third Thames Crossing East of Reading

It was noted at the meeting that Wokingham Borough Council had refused planning permission for the East Reading Mass Rapid Transit scheme, and that the next steps would be announced in the near future.

Resolved - That the progress on delivery of the programme of major transport schemes as set out within the report be noted.

38. BI-ANNUAL WAITING RESTRICTION REVIEW - 2018B PROPOSALS FOR STATUTORY CONSULTATION

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval for statutory consultation on new or altered waiting restrictions. A table setting out the Bi-Annual Waiting Restriction Review Programme list of streets and officer recommendations, including any comments from Councillors, was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and drawings to accompany the officer recommendations in Appendix 1 were attached to the report at Appendix 2.

The report explained that approval had been given at the meeting on 12 September 2018 (Minute 16 refers) to carry out investigation at various locations, following requests that the Council had received for new or amended waiting restrictions. Officers had investigated the list of requests and had considered appropriate measures to overcome each issue. Proposals had been shared with Ward Councillors to provide them with an opportunity to informally consult with residents, consider the recommendations and provide any comments.

The Sub-Committee considered the 72 requests and recommendations which were set out in Appendix 1, and approved statutory consultation being carried out where the officer recommendation was to implement new or altered waiting restrictions.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;**
- (2) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to undertake a statutory consultation in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, for the proposed waiting restrictions set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report;**
- (3) That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order;**
- (4) That any objection(s) received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;**
- (5) That the Head of Transportation and Streetcare, in consultation with the appropriate Lead Councillor be authorised to make minor changes to the proposals;**
- (6) That no public inquiry be held into the proposals.**

39. RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING - UPDATE

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Further to Minute 17 of the meeting held on 12 September 2018, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of feedback received during statutory consultation for proposed Resident Permit Parking (RPP) schemes for Harrow Court, East Reading area and The Willows/St Stephens Close area. The report also set out proposals for the Lower Caversham area RPP scheme which had been developed following informal consultation.

Harrow Court

Appendix 1 of the report set out the responses received in relation to the advertised Traffic regulation order (TRO) for the Harrow Court RPP scheme proposals, and a Drawing to show the advertised scheme proposal.

East Reading area

Appendix 2 of the report set out:

- a) Responses received in relation to the advertised TRO for the East Reading area, Part 1 proposals
- b) Responses received in relation to the advertised TRO for the East Reading area, Part 2 proposals
- c) General responses received in relation to the advertised TRO for the East Reading area RPP scheme proposals
- d) drawings to show the advertised East Reading area RPP scheme proposals.

An update report was tabled at the meeting which explained that, following a review of the responses that had been received in relation to the East Reading area scheme, it was recommended to replace the proposed Residents Parking only bay in Whiteknights Road with a double yellow lines restriction, and to remove the proposed restrictions in Wokingham Road from the scheme. The revisions had been considered necessary due to the volume and content of objections to these specific proposals.

Councillor McGonigle moved an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Jones and carried, which proposed that: the East Reading Area Part 1 scheme be implemented as soon as possible; a report on the impact of the Area Part 1 scheme be submitted to the November 2019 meeting of the Sub-Committee, and a decision on whether to implement the Part 2 scheme be made following consideration of the report.

Bernadette Cowling, representing Earley Christian Fellowship, attended the meeting and addressed the Sub-Committee on the proposed restrictions in Wokingham Road.

The Willows and St Stephens Close

Appendix 3 of the report set out responses received in relation to the advertised Traffic regulation order for the The Willows & St Stephens Road area RPP scheme proposals and a drawing to show the advertised scheme proposal.

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Proposed Lower Caversham area scheme

The report explained that officers and Ward Councillors had considered feedback received during the concept scheme design informal consultation stage and had developed a revised proposal. Appendix 4 of the report set out revised scheme drawings and it was recommended that the scheme be progressed to statutory consultation.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;**
- (2) That the marked bay restriction (shared-use) on Whiteknights Road be removed from the resultant Traffic Regulation Order and that officers conduct a statutory consultation on the implementation of double yellow lines in place of this proposed bay;**
- (3) That the proposed restrictions for Wokingham Road be removed from the resultant Traffic Regulation Order and that revised proposals be recommended for statutory consultation at a future meeting;**
- (4) That the proposed restrictions associated with the Harrow Court, East Reading and The Willows & St Stephens Close resident permit parking schemes, with the exception of those referred to in (2) and (3) above, be approved as advertised;**
- (5) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seal the resultant Traffic Regulation Orders, and no public inquiry be held into the proposals;**
- (6) That, should funding permit, Officers develop the proposals for implementation;**
- (7) That the East Reading Area Part 1 scheme be implemented as soon as possible;**
- (8) That a report on the impact of the East Reading Area Part 1 scheme be submitted to the November 2019 meeting of the Sub-Committee, and that following consideration of the report a decision be made on whether to implement the East Reading Area Part 2 scheme;**
- (9) That respondents to the statutory consultation be informed of the decision accordingly;**
- (10) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation and advertise the proposals for a Lower Caversham residents permit parking scheme as set out in Appendix 4, and for the proposed implementation of a double yellow lines restriction in place of the proposed bay on Whiteknights Road (see (2) above), in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996;**

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- (11) That subject to no objections being received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order;
- (12) That any objections received during the statutory consultation be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (13) That the Head of Transportation and Streetcare, in consultation with the appropriate Lead Councillor be authorised to make minor changes to the proposals;
- (14) That no public enquiry be held into the proposals.

40. PROPOSED CLOSURES OF MEADOW ROAD AND MILFORD ROAD - UPDATE

Further to Minute 9 of the meeting held on 13 June 2018, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing the Sub-Committee with a design for the proposed closures of Meadow Road and Milford Road, and supplementary measures, that had been developed following the receipt of local feedback to the concept. The report sought approval for statutory consultation on the proposed measures; a copy of the design proposal was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report noted that the forthcoming completion of Network Rail's works at Cow Lane Bridges would result in the removal of permanent traffic lights and the creation of full two-way traffic operation through the bridges. This was likely to result in more traffic using Portman Road and Richfield Avenue to reach Caversham Road, with a risk that, particularly during peak-times, some traffic might 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. Informal consultation had been carried out on a proposal to close Meadow Road near to its junction with Milford Road, and Milford Road near to its junction with Cardiff Road.

The report stated that feedback that the Council had received had made it apparent that closing Meadow Road and Milford Road would isolate a small number of businesses in Cardiff Road from being able to receive deliveries, unless supplementary measures were considered. The same issue for residential deliveries would also arise. A design proposal had therefore been developed which included the closure of Milford Road and Meadow Road, but also the removal of the width restriction on Addison Road, north of its junction with Ross Road. The proposal would create a route between Caversham Road and Cardiff Road, without enabling a rat-run, and would also allow some additional parking spaces to be created, where this was currently prevented by the width restriction.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) 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;

- (3) That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order;
- (4) That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be submitted to a future meeting;
- (5) 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;
- (6) That no public enquiry be held into the proposals.

41. HOSPITAL AND UNIVERSITY AREA PARKING SCHEME - MINOR AMENDMENTS

Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on 13 June 2018, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report asking the Sub-Committee to approve statutory consultation for implementing minor alterations to a number of parking restrictions within the Hospital and University area parking scheme. Drawings showing the proposed alterations to the parking scheme were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report explained that previously agreed changes to the scheme, including the agreement to increase pay and display charges by 10p per tariff, which had been agreed at the meeting on 11 January 2018 (Minute 64 refers), had not yet been implemented. It had been decided that some of the agreed proposals required further consideration of public feedback, and for officers and Ward Councillors to develop alternative proposals. Appendix 1 set out a series of drawings to show the results of this development and the final proposals that were recommended for statutory consultation. Once all changes had been agreed the implementation of restriction changes in the parking scheme area would be conducted as a single scheme, in order to be more cost effective and ensure clarity of the restrictions across the scheme, supporting enforceability.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to undertake a statutory consultation in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, for the proposed alterations to the Hospital and University area parking scheme in Appendix 1;
- (3) That subject to no objections being received during the period of statutory consultation, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order;

- (4) That any objection(s) received, following the statutory advertisement, be submitted to a future meeting;**
- (5) That no public inquiry be held into the proposals.**

42. OXFORD ROAD AREA STUDY: ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS FOR STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Further to Minute 79 of the meeting held on 8 March 2018, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report asking the Sub-Committee to approve a statutory consultation on revised proposals for Oxford Road, following a safety audit, which would provide additional benefits to the flow of buses toward the Norcot Road and Bedford Road junction approaches. Drawings of the revised corridor proposals for safety audit and statutory consultation were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report noted that approval had been granted for bus lane improvements along Oxford Road at the March 2018 meeting (Minute 79 refers); however, officers had been working to consider further measures to address other key areas, particularly the improvement of bus journey times at the Bedford Road junction and toward the Norcot Road roundabout. The proposals set out at Appendix 1 would achieve this through the reallocation of existing road space, or by minor adjustments to the road alignment. Where these adjustments had been considered necessary, officers had sought to design the scheme in a way that minimised the extent of these works to ensure that they were cost effective, relative to the anticipated benefits. The improvements to bus lanes would also provide additional areas for cycling outside of the general traffic lanes.

The report also summarised other measures being considered within the wider Oxford Road corridor study including wider use of 20mph speed limits in narrow residential streets and lowering the speed limit of Portman Road, Cow Lane and Richfield Avenue to 30mph.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;**
- (2) That the revised proposals in Appendix 1 proceed to safety audit and statutory consultation;**
- (3) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out the statutory consultation and advertise the proposals in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996;**
- (4) That subject to no objections being received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order;**
- (5) That any objections received during the statutory consultation be submitted to a future meeting;**

- (6) That the Head of Transportation and Streetcare, in consultation with the appropriate Lead Councillor be authorised to make minor changes to the proposals;
- (7) That no public enquiry be held into the proposals;
- (8) That public drop-in events be held in addition to the statutory consultation.

43. ANNUAL PARKING SERVICES REPORT 2017-2018

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report presenting financial and statistical data on the Council's civil parking enforcement activities during 2017-2018. A copy of the Parking Services Annual Report 2017-2018 was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that it was intended that the Annual Report for 2017-2018 would be published in January 2019.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report, and the availability of annual reports for 2008-2017 on the Council's website, be noted;
- (2) That the intention to publish the Annual Report for 2017-2018 in January 2019 be noted.

44. ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT - VASTERN ROAD ROUNDABOUT WITH GEORGE STREET (READING BRIDGE) AND NAPIER ROAD

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of proposed road safety improvements at the roundabout where Vastern Road (IDR) met Bridge Street (Reading Bridge) and Napier Road. A drawing showing the existing and proposed layout of the roundabout was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report explained that the Vastern Road roundabout was a five road, multi-lane entry/exit junction which resulted in it being less clear to users how to approach it. Consequently, certain movements could result in lane changes within the roundabout leading to accidents. The casualty statistics for the junction had shown a steady increase over the previous few years with a growing number of cyclists being injured. Over the three year period 2015 to 2017 there had been 26 casualties recorded at the roundabout, 18 of this total had been cyclists, with two main cluster areas around the northwest side (Vastern Road West) and east side (Napier Road).

The report explained that it had been the wish to re-line the roundabout for some time as a road safety improvement, but that this had proved challenging due to the number of

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lanes and entry/exits into the roundabout. The proposed improvements consisted of re-lining to clarify lane destinations and removing the need for lane changes within the roundabout. The expectation was that this alteration would reduce all collisions but specifically motor vehicle/pedal cycle collisions and the resultant casualties. Users would have to change established habits to adjust to the new layout and ensure they were in the correct lane before entering the roundabout. This would require further information on Forbury Road and Vastern Road (under the railway) prior to the roundabout to ensure that users were in the correct lane.

The report referred to a suggestion, also referred to in the presentation (Minute 32 above refers), that continental style give way markings be used on the Vastern Road west side entry to the roundabout. This was currently a non-prescribed road marking but early indications were that the Department of Transport (DfT) would allow a trial within Reading specifically aimed at improving safety for cyclists. The Committee supported further discussions with the DfT on using these markings.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report and proposed road safety improvements to the roundabout be noted;
- (2) That officers discuss the possible use of alternative give way markings at the roundabout with the Department for Transport, and report back to the Sub-Committee on the outcome.

45. CYCLE FORUM MEETING NOTES

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of the discussions and actions from the Cycle Forum held on 31 October 2018.

Resolved - That the minutes from the Cycle Forum held on 31 October 2018 be noted.

46. 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 the item 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.

47. APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY PARKING PERMITS

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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 twenty applicants, who had subsequently appealed against these decisions.

Resolved -

- (1) That, with regard to application 1 a second discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant and charged at second permit rate;
- (2) That with regard to application 2 a first or second discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant, subject to confirmation as to whether this was the first or second permit for the property;
- (3) That with regard to application 3 a third discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant;
- (4) That with regard to application 4 a third discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant;
- (5) That, with regard to application 6 a second discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant, subject to the provision of adequate vehicle proofs;
- (6) That, with regard to application 7, a first discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant;
- (7) That, with regards to application 10, a first discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant, on the grounds that this was a renewal of an existing permit that had been issued in error;
- (8) That, with regard to application 11, a first discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant, to run until the end of September 2019;
- (9) That, with regard to application 12, a third discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant, and that the property be referred to Council Tax enforcement;
- (10) That, with regard to application 13, a first discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant, subject to the provision of adequate vehicle proofs;
- (11) That, with regard to application 14, a third discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant, subject to the provision of adequate vehicle proofs;
- (12) That, with regard to application 15, a first discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant;

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- (13) That, with regard to application 16, one book of discretionary visitor permits be issued;**
- (14) That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services' decision to refuse applications 5, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19 and 20 be upheld.**

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

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.42 pm).

(The meeting closed at 8.42 pm)