

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	10 JANUARY 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	10
TITLE:	PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MEADOW ROAD AND MILFORD ROAD - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	ABBEY
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Abbey Ward Councillors 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 The results of this informal consultation were reported to the Sub-Committee at their meeting in June 2018 and demonstrated majority support (79%) for the proposal.
- 1.3 This report provides a design for the proposed closures - and supplementary measures - that has been developed following the receipt of local feedback to the concept. Officers are seeking approval to conduct a statutory consultation on these proposed measures.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 - Design proposal.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 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.

- 2.3 That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
- 2.4 That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 That no public enquiry be held into the proposals.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The 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. The informal consultation requested feedback on the principle of closing Meadow Road and Milford Road to through-traffic.
- 4.2 The completion of Network Rail's works at Cow Lane Bridges 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.
- 4.3 The consultation highlighted the risk that, particularly during 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.

- 4.4 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. The proposed closures are also being considered in connection with the planning application for the residential redevelopment of the Cox and Wyman site.
- 4.5 Feedback that the Council has received 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.
- 4.6 Proposals have been developed, therefore, which include 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. This proposal will create a route between Caversham Road and Cardiff Road, without enabling a rat-run. This proposal would also allow some additional parking spaces to be created, where this is currently prevented by the width restriction.
- 4.7 It is recommended that these proposals, as per Appendix 1, be progressed to statutory consultation.
- 4.8 Should these measures be implemented, it could be considered whether other width restrictions in the area could be removed, or other alterations made, to provide additional resident parking spaces in the future.
- 4.9 Scheme implementation will not be programmed, no materials will be ordered and no works instructions issued until after a decision has been made by the Sub-Committee to implement a scheme, the meeting minutes are agreed and the resultant legal Order is sealed.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 This proposal contributes to the Council's priorities, as set out below:
- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe
 - Ensuring the Council is fit for the future

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 The informal consultation results have informed the development of the scheme and has provided residents and occupiers of potentially effected properties with the opportunity to provide feedback, prior to formal consultation.

- 6.2 Statutory consultation will be conducted 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. 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 It is intended that any measures be implemented using local developer contributions.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Report: Results of Informal Consultation - Possible Closure Of Meadow Road And Milford Road (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, June 2018).