

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

<b>TO:</b>	<b>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12 JUNE 2019</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>RESULTS OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION</b> <b>a. LOWER CAVERSHAM RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING</b> <b>b. MILFORD ROAD &amp; MEADOW ROAD CLOSURES AND COW LANE CORRIDOR SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION</b>		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>TONY PAGE</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT</b>
<b>SERVICE:</b>	<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>CAVERSHAM, ABBEY, BATTLE &amp; KENTWOOD</b>
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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report informs the Sub-Committee of objections and other feedback received during the statutory consultations on proposals for:

- a. Implementing a Resident Permit Parking scheme in Lower Caversham; and
- b. Closing Milford Road and Meadow Road and reducing the speed limit on Wigmore Lane, Portman Road, Cow Lane and Richfield Avenue from 40mph to 30mph.

1.2 Members are asked to consider this feedback and conclude the outcome of these proposals.

1.3 Appendix 1 provides the responses to the statutory consultation for the Lower Caversham Resident Permit Parking proposals.

1.4 Appendix 2 provides the responses to the statutory consultation for the closures of Milford Road and Meadow Road and the proposed speed limit reduction on Wigmore Lane, Portman Road and Richfield Avenue.

Please note that this statutory consultation closes on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Appendix 2 will initially be updated with responses received up

to the time of report dispatch deadlines and then updated to include further responses received up to the close of the consultation period.

## **2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.**
- 2.2 That the objections and other feedback noted in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 are considered by the Sub-Committee and that the proposals be agreed for implementation as advertised.**
- 2.3 That the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seal the resultant Traffic Regulation Order and no public enquiry be held into the proposals.**
- 2.4 Those respondents to the statutory consultation be informed of the decision of the Sub-Committee accordingly.**

## **3. POLICY CONTEXT**

- 3.1 The provision of waiting/parking restrictions and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.**
- 3.2 The informal consultation that informed the development of the Milford Road and Meadow Road closures was 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**

### **Part a - Lower Caversham Resident Permit Parking Scheme**

- 4.1 A number of requests for resident permit parking have been received from residents living in Lower Caversham. These were pulled together and an area scheme proposed, which was added to the list of Resident Permit Parking requests, which is regularly reported to the Sub-Committee. The scheme was prioritised by the Sub-Committee at their meeting in March 2017.**
- 4.2 Informal consultations have been conducted to inform the desire for development of a scheme, and to allow feedback on concept designs to be considered. A public drop-in session was held also.**
- 4.3 The Sub-Committee authorised the resulting proposals to proceed to statutory consultation at their meeting in January 2019. This consultation has been conducted over a 3 week period and the feedback (anonymised) has been provided in Appendix 1.**

- 4.4 The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the feedback that has been provided, particularly the objections, and consider whether the scheme should be implemented.

Officers recommend that the scheme be implemented as advertised.

- 4.5 The Sub-Committee is asked to note that until a decision is made for the scheme to be implemented and the minutes of the meeting agreed, no materials will be ordered, no contractors appointed and no delivery programme can be agreed.

Part b - Closures of Milford Road and Meadow Road and reduction of speed limit on Wigmore Road, Portman Road, Cow Lane and Richfield Avenue.

- 4.6 In May 2018, Abbey Ward Councillors conducted an informal consultation on the principle of closing Meadow Road and Milford Road to through-traffic. This proposal was in the context of growing concerns about the risk of nearby residential streets being used as a rat-run, following the removal of the Cow Lane bridge bottle-neck.

- 4.7 The results demonstrated a favourable consensus toward the development of these proposals and a design was reported to the Sub-Committee at their January 2019 meeting.

This proposal included the closures, but also the removal of the width restriction on Addison Road, thus removing an access issue that could be created for a number of businesses on Cardiff Road. The removal of this width restriction would not create a rat-run and has allowed the scheme proposal to include extending nearby resident permit parking bays.

- 4.8 At the September 2018 meeting of the Sub-Committee, officers proposed a reduction of the speed limit on the Cow Lane corridor between Oxford Road and Caversham Road, taking in Wigmore Road, Portman Road, Cow Lane and Richfield Road.

The proposed reduction would reduce the speed limit from 40mph (for the majority of the corridor) to 30mph. It was proposed that this would improve access/egress to/from side roads and accesses along the corridor and improve the perception of safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

- 4.9 Both proposals were approved for progression to statutory consultation. Officers considered that both were complimentary proposals related to the vicinity of Cow Lane, so combined them into a single statutory consultation.

This consultation has been conducted over a 3 week period and the feedback (anonymised) has been provided in Appendix 2, as updated.

- 4.10 The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the feedback that has been provided, particularly the objections, and consider whether the scheme should be implemented.

Officers recommend that the scheme be implemented as advertised.

- 4.11 The Sub-Committee is asked to note that until a decision is made for the scheme to be implemented and the minutes of the meeting agreed, no materials will be ordered, no contractors appointed and no delivery programme can be agreed.

## **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 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 Statutory consultation was carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 6.2 Informal consultations were conducted for both schemes contained in this report.
- 6.3 Advance warning notices will be placed on site ahead of implementing the schemes in this report.
- 6.4 Residents within any new Resident Permit Parking zone will be provided with a letter and information pack at least 3 weeks ahead of any scheme 'going live'. This will provide an opportunity for residents to apply for their parking permits.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The proposals that proceeded to statutory consultation were advertised under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and/or the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

- 7.2 The resultant Traffic Regulation Orders will be sealed and advertised, following a minuted decision for the proposals to be implemented.

## **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 statutory consultations provide 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 funding for the Lower Caversham Resident Permit Parking scheme will be sought from within existing Capital budgets, prioritising that provided from external funding sources such as Section 106 or CIL funding wherever possible.
- 9.2 It is intended that the scheme in Part b of this report be funded directly from local developer contributions.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 Resident Permit Parking Update (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, January 2019).
- 10.2 Proposed closure of Meadow Road and Milford Road - Update (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, January 2019).
- 10.3 Major Transport and Highways Projects - Update (Traffic Management Sub-Committee, September 2018).