

**READING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH &  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

<b>TO:</b>	<b>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>14 NOVEMBER 2019</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>THE ABBEY SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH ROAD / VICARAGE ROAD</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>REDLANDS</b>
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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To report to the Sub-Committee a review of the traffic management measures associated with proposed new accesses on Christchurch Road and Vicarage Road relating to the development works to The Abbey School.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval to carry out a Statutory Consultation on the proposed changes which include the following:
- Alteration to the 'No Waiting Mon - Sat 8am - 6.30pm' restriction at the proposed access on Christchurch Road.
  - Extension of the 'No Waiting at Anytime' restriction on Vicarage Road to the north and south of the proposed access on Vicarage Road.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 - Christchurch Road / Vicarage Road location and restriction plan.
- 1.4 Appendix 2 - Existing access arrangements.

**2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.

- 2.2 That the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to undertake a statutory consultation for the proposed restrictions on Christchurch Road and Vicarage Road, as per Items 4.6, 4.7, 4.9 and 4.10.
- 2.3 That subject to no objections being received, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
- 2.4 That any objection(s) received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.
- 2.5 That the Head of Transport (or appropriate Officer), 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 provision of waiting/parking restrictions and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

### **4. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 planning permission was granted for the erection of single and two storey extensions to the existing building and the creation of new access and alterations and adaptations to existing access points at The Abbey School.
- 4.2 The access alterations include the provision of upgrading the existing dropped kerb access on Christchurch Road to a Bellmouth access in order to aid access for coaches and deliveries. The proposals also include the removal of the existing dropped kerb located on the corner of Christchurch Road and Vicarage Road and the creation of a new bellmouth access onto Vicarage Road located 15.8 metres from the Christchurch Road / Vicarage Road junction. Images of the existing arrangements can be found at Appendix 2.
- 4.3 The existing access onto the Christchurch Road / Vicarage Road junction will be replaced with a pedestrian only entrance with a further pedestrian entrance located south of the new vehicular access onto Vicarage Road.

- 4.4 As stated above the design was agreed at the planning application stage and work is currently underway to implement the building works associated with the development. This report seeks to alter the traffic management measures surrounding the revised access proposals.

#### Christchurch Road

- 4.5 The Christchurch Road school frontage is currently controlled through a 'No Waiting Mon - Sat 8am - 6.30pm' restriction, which extends across the existing dropped kerb.
- 4.6 These proposals seek to alter the existing 'No Waiting Mon - Sat 8am - 6.30pm' restriction to the west of the proposed access. The restriction commences at the Christchurch Road / Vicarage Road junction, which would continue, and would extend to the east for a distance of 36 metres following the kerb radii of the proposed junction and cease at the back of the footway.
- 4.7 To the east of the proposed access the 'No Waiting Mon - Sat 8am - 6.30pm' restriction will commence at the back of the footway and is to follow the radii to the east of the proposed junction for a distance of 8 meters.

#### Vicarage Road

- 4.8 The Vicarage Road school frontage is currently controlled through a 'No Waiting at Anytime' restriction, which extends from the Christchurch Road / Vicarage Road junction across the existing dropped kerb for a distance of 18 metres commencing at the end of the existing footway build out.
- 4.9 These proposals seek to extend the existing 'No Waiting at Anytime' restriction to the south for a distance of 5 metres following the junction radii concluding at the back of the footway.
- 4.10 To the south of the junction the proposals seek to introduce a 'No Waiting at Anytime' restriction, this is to commence at the back of the footway and extend for a distance of 12 metres until it meets the existing School Keep Clear restriction.
- 4.11 All of the above alterations are to ensure that parents do not drop off and/or pick up their children from Christchurch Road and/or Vicarage Road within close proximity to the proposed accesses, which would have detrimental implications for visibility and movement at the either of the proposed accesses and for traffic movements close to the Christchurch Road / Vicarage Road junction.

4.12 The proposed restrictions for both Christchurch Road and Vicarage Road can be identified on the plan at Appendix 1.

## **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 will be conducted in accordance with appropriate legislation. Notices will be advertised in the local printed newspaper and will be erected on lamp columns within the affected area.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 New, or changes to existing, 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. The resultant Traffic Regulation Order will be sealed in accordance with the same regulations.

## **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 The Council does not consider that the proposals will be discriminatory to any groups with protected characteristics. Informal and statutory consultations provide opportunities for objections/support/concerns to be raised and considered prior to a decision being made on whether to implement a scheme.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Funding for the statutory consultation comes from S106 monies secured to mitigate the transport impacts of the expanded Abbey School which was approved by Planning Applications Committee on 14th September 2018. The implementation of the parking restrictions will be undertaken by the developer by way of a S278 Agreement, which is also required to implement the proposed accesses.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 None