

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES - 11 SEPTEMBER 2019

Present: Councillor Debs Absolom (Vice Chair in the Chair)
Councillors David Absolom, Barnett-Ward, Carnell, Duveen, Ennis, Hacker, Page, R Singh, Stanford-Beale and Whitham.

Apologies: Councillors Ayub (Chair) and Terry.

12. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 12 June 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Further to Minute 1(1) of the previous meeting, Cleaner Air and Safer Transport Forum, Councillor Barnett-Ward, Chair of the Forum, informed the Sub-Committee that the first meeting of the Forum had taken place on 9 September 2019 and that there had been lots of ideas for the Forum to take forward.

13. 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
Councillor Whitham	School Crossing Patrol Saved
Councillor Whitham	Pause Implementation of Wokingham Road Cycle Scheme

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

14. PETITIONS

(a) Petition Requesting Parking Restrictions on Rissington Close

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the receipt of a petition from residents, asking the Council to implement parking restrictions on Rissington Close. A plan showing the location of Rissington Close was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The petition read as follows:

'We, the residents affected by parking issues in Rissington Close are petitioning for the council to provide a solution to prevent non-residents parking in the close. The reason for this is that it causes obstructions for people going up and down the (very steep) hill and is dangerous as sight lines are affected and this could potentially cause accidents. Also, some of the residents rely on Readibus and Hospital Transport and it can make things difficult negotiating around parked cars. In particular when Dustbin/Recycling lorry come twice a week. One of the vehicles (a white van) has been parked in the Cul de sac on a daily basis (weekdays) for over a year now and we know that he uses the train each day. We would like to find a

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solution such as - residents parking only (permits?), double yellow lines or single yellow line to say that parking is not allowed between particular hours of the day (therefore preventing people parking for the day and longer -sometimes a whole weekend).'

At the invitation of the Chair the petition organiser, Mary Cripps, addressed the Sub-Committee on behalf of the petitioners.

Officers informed the Sub-Committee that Rissington Close had been included in the new requests for consideration in the Waiting Restriction Review Programme 2019B (see Minute 16, below).

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;**
- (2) That the inclusion of the issues raised by the petition in the Waiting Restriction Review Programme 2019B be noted;**
- (3) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.**

(b) Petition Requesting the Reinstatement of the Pelican Crossing on Wokingham Road outside Palmer Park

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the receipt of a petition from residents, asking the Council to reinstate the pelican crossing on Wokingham Road outside Palmer Park.

The petition read as follows:

'The zebra crossing you have recently installed on the Wokingham Road is more dangerous than the pelican crossing it replaced.

This crossing is used by many children and it is too easy for a pedestrian/cyclist to go straight across the island when traffic has not stopped in the other direction.

There have been many cases already where traffic has not stopped - even when pedestrians are part-way across the crossing (going towards the park).

Also - buses may stop in the North-bound bus-lane but traffic in the adjacent North-bound lane may not (this has happened already).

Please reinstate a pelican crossing as soon as possible before there is an accident.'

At the invitation of the Chair Francis Hayes addressed the Sub-Committee on behalf of the petitioners.

Resolved -

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

- (2) That the request to reinstate the pelican crossing be investigated and the results of the investigation reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
 - (3) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.
- (c) Petition Requesting Re Gravel Wardle Avenue with correct materials as Compensation to Road Closure on Armour Hill

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the receipt of a petition from residents, asking the Council to re gravel Wardle Avenue with correct materials as compensation to road closure on Armour Hill.

The petition read as follows:

‘Since the section on Armour Hill in 2018, we (the “residents of Wardle Avenue) have noticed a large increase in traffic including heavy vehicles on Wardle Avenue which has resulted in a rapid deterioration of the road. As you may be aware, Wardle Avenue is a private thoroughfare road and is not designed for huge volumes of traffic.

With the likelihood of the road falling into more disrepair as Armour Hill continues to stay closed, we would like to see your assistance in requesting for Reading Borough Council to re-gravel the road with the correct materials, as compensation. If Reading Borough Council had installed a ‘Road Ahead Sign’ at the junction of Wardle Avenue and Armour Road in 2018, I believe the road would not be in the state it is now’

At the invitation of the Chair the petition organiser, Wendy Jackson, addressed the Sub-Committee on behalf of the petitioners.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the request to re-gravel Wardle Avenue be investigated and considered and the results reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (3) That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

15. RED ROUTES

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing the Sub-Committee with and an update on the introduction of a Red Route waiting restriction along the Reading Buses Route 17 corridor. The following appendices were attached to the report:

Appendix 1	Consultation Sample Material Used
Appendix 2	Requests for Change
Appendix 3	Bus journey times from the east side
Appendix 4	Proposed amendments to the Red Route for statutory consultation (Norcot Road and Oxford Road)

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The report explained that the Red Route waiting restriction had been in place on the west side of Reading Buses Route 17, from the junction of Park Lane with Mayfair in Tilehurst to the IDR, since late summer 2018. Initial enforcement had been limited to the busiest periods and had focused on drivers pulling up onto the footway. Since October 2018 enforcement had been increased to daytime operations using the camera vehicle. Relatively few comments had been made on the use of the no stopping restriction and of those that had been received they were very specific to individual experiences. A sample of bus journey times that had been taken in March 2019 and had been compared to the same journey in the same period in March 2018 had shown promising benefits to public transport.

The report sought to make permanent the west side Red Route restriction which had been in place and camera enforced for just under a year and also addressed a petition that had been submitted to the meeting in March 2019 (Minute 50(a) refers) from residents of 275 to 291 Norcot Road, which had contained 11 signatures, on behalf of 14 persons at nine addresses.

The Sub-Committee discussed the report and in response to a number of comments and questions officers explained that a commitment had been made to carry out more enforcement work along the route and camera enforcement would be used in an appropriate way in areas of concern such as around corners. Officers also tabled a paper setting out improvements in bus times on the west side of the route from the Water Tower in Tilehurst to Waylen Street and informed the Sub-Committee that they would continue to look at issues with loading and unloading, parking on pavements and verges, and new parking bays, and would submit update reports to future meetings.

Councillor Page proposed that an additional recommended action be added that monitoring by officers and Reading Buses continued along the entire Red Route on a regular basis.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the appropriate experimental Traffic Regulation Order into a permanent Traffic Regulation Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, advertised in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996;
- (3) That the Assistant Director 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 permanent implementation of the parking bays (Norcot Road) and loading bay (Oxford Road) as set out in Appendix 4, attached to the report;
- (4) That, subject to no objections being received, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order;

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- (5) That any objection(s) received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting;
- (6) That the Head of Transportation, 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 proposal;
- (8) That monitoring by officers and Reading Buses continue along the entire length of the Red Route on a regular basis.

(In accordance with Standing Order 38, Councillor R Singh requested that his vote against the resolution be recorded and Councillor Duveen requested that his abstention be recorded.)

16. WAITING RESTRICTION REVIEW PROGRAMME

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of objections that had been received during statutory consultation for the agreed proposals that formed the 2019A Waiting Restrictions Review Programme. The report also provided the Sub-Committee with the list of new requests for potential inclusion in the 2019B programme.

The following appendices were attached to the report:

Appendix 1 - Objections, support and other comments that had been received during statutory consultation for the 2019A programme.

Appendix 2 - New requests for consideration in the 2019B programme.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the objections set out in Appendix 1 with the appropriate recommendation to either: implement, amend or reject the proposals be noted;
- (3) That the following proposals made under the waiting restriction review 2019A, as set out in Appendix 1, be implemented, amended or removed from the programme as follows:
 - Albury Close - Implement as advertised;
 - Wigmore Lane - Implement as advertised;
 - Broomfield Close - Implement as advertised;
 - Elsley Road - Implement as advertised;
 - Portway Close - Defer to the next meeting;
 - Netley Close - Implement as advertised;
 - Shepley Drive - Implement as advertised;
 - Surley Row - Implement as advertised;
 - Bran Close - Implement as advertised;
 - Lower Elmstone Drive - Implement as advertised;

- (4) That the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to seal the resultant Traffic Regulation Order and no public inquiry be held into the proposals;
- (5) That respondents to the statutory consultation be informed of the decision of the Sub-Committee accordingly, following publication of the agreed minutes of the meeting;
- (6) That the officer recommendations, following investigation of the new requests for consideration in the 2019B programme, be shared with Ward Councillors, providing opportunity for their comments to be included in the next report to the Sub-Committee;
- (7) That should funding permit, a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee requesting approval to conduct the Statutory Consultation on the recommended schemes for the 2019B subject to the following amendments to the programme:
 - Pierces Hill (Tilehurst) - Add to the programme.

17. RESULTS OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION - MANAGEMENT OF PALMER PARK CAR PARK

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing the Sub-Committee with the results of the statutory consultation that had been carried out and had proposed management of the car park (including charges) by Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) at Palmer Park.

At the invitation of the Chair Roger Clark, Church Secretary, Park United Reformed Church, addressed the Sub-Committee on the use of the car park by the Church.

The Sub-Committee agreed that consideration of the item should be deferred to allow officers to investigate the issues that had been raised and to have further discussions with representatives from the United Reformed Church. An updated report would be submitted to the next meeting.

18. REQUESTS FOR NEW TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of requests for new traffic management measures that had been raised by members of the public, other organisations/representatives and Councillors. The report also provided a development update for those requests that had become funded/part funded. The list of schemes/proposals, with initial comments from officers and recommendations was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The Sub-Committee discussed the report and agreed that the proposals for speed calming measures on Albert Road in Caversham Ward should be removed from the list of schemes.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;

- (2) That the schemes set out in Appendix 1, attached to the report, be supported for further officer investigation subject to the removal of the proposed speed calming measures on Albert Road (Caversham Ward) from the list of schemes.

19. RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING UPDATE

The Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing the Sub-Committee with an update on the list of requests for Resident Permit Parking, including the progress of developing schemes and any new requests that had been received. The following appendices were attached to the report:

Appendix 1	Updated list of requests for Resident Permit Parking;
Appendix 2	Proposed areas for informal consultation;
Appendix 3	Results of the Norcot Ward Councillor informal consultations in the Grovelands Road area.

Requested Schemes List - Update

Appendix 1 of the report set out the list of requests that had been received for Resident Permit Parking Schemes and included the comments and objections that had been received during the statutory consultation. Where the Sub-Committee had previously allocated a priority to a scheme this had been recorded and where a request had been previously reported to the Sub-Committee but had not been allocated a priority, this had also been recorded, along with any schemes that were 'new' to the list.

The report stated that since the last update report, schemes in Harrow Court, St Stephens Close and The Willows had been implemented, officers were delivering 'Area 1' of the East Reading area scheme, which was due to go live from 16 September 2019 and officers were also developing a delivery programme for the Lower Caversham scheme and intended to introduce this large area scheme before the end of December 2019.

Proposals for Informal Consultation

During July 2019 officers had been tasked with developing an expedited delivery programme (subject to consultation results) for the requests for schemes that had been received up to that time. The first stage of the development process was to consider an area that could form a new parking scheme area and to conduct an informal consultation to survey resident opinion about the potential introduction of Resident Permit Parking. Officers had suggested some initial areas and had sought Ward Councillor input and agreement to these areas. A table setting out the areas had been included in the report and the Sub-Committee agreed that these requests should be dealt with first.

The report explained that Norcot Ward Councillors had been conducting informal consultations in the Grovelands Road area and were satisfied that there was sufficient support across the area and, in place of a further informal consultation, had proposed a public meeting to further inform scheme development. To make most efficient use of limited staff resources, some of which might be externally sourced, and financial resources, officers would be seeking to conduct certain development phases across the list of schemes at the same time, for example, conducting the investigation and detailed design work for all schemes concurrently.

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The Sub-Committee discussed the report and agreed that the scheme areas in Appendix 2 and set out in a table at paragraph 4.8 of the report should be the first to be dealt with.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;**
- (2) That informal consultations be conducted for the areas set out in Appendix 2, attached to the report, with the exception of the Grovelands Road area (see paragraph 4.12 of the report) and the results reported to a future meeting;**
- (3) That the scheme areas set out in the table at paragraph 4.8 in the report be dealt with first.**

20. 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 item 21 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.

21. APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY PARKING PERMITS

The Executive Director for Economic Growth 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 40 applicants, who had subsequently appealed against these decisions.

Resolved -

- (1) That, with regard to applications 2, 7 and 37 one book of discretionary visitor permits be issued, personal to the applicant;**
- (2) That, with regard to applications 3 and 38 a first discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant;**
- (3) That, with regard to application 5 a first discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant and charged at the second permit rate;**
- (4) That, with regard to applications 1, 8, 10, 11 and 34 a third discretionary resident permit be issued, personal to the applicant;**
- (5) That application 24 be deferred to allow officers to obtain more information about parking arrangements in Osteriey Court;**
- (6) That the Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services' decision to refuse applications 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 39 and 40 be upheld.**

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

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.07 pm).