

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO APPEALS & COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

1 OCTOBER 2008

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

BEECHWOOD ROAD/WITHAM AVENUE, EAGLESCLIFFE - 24 HOUR WAITING RESTRICTIONS

1.0 SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views on an unresolved objection received following statutory advertising of a proposal to implement 24 hour waiting restrictions around the junction of Beechwood Road/Witham Avenue, Eaglescliffe.

It is not considered appropriate for the Head of Technical Services to consider the objection as he would effectively be reviewing his own decision.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- (i) Members give consideration to the objection raised by a local resident and also to the comments of the Head of Technical Services.
- (ii) The local Ward Councillors and the objector be informed of the Committee's recommendation.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 In May 2008 approval was given to process a permanent Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit waiting on Beechwood Road at its junction with Witham Avenue (see **Drawing TM2/38**).
- 3.2 The proposal was developed following complaints of obstructive parking around the junction, which is a 90 degree bend. Parking around the bend obstructs driver forward visibility and forces vehicles onto the wrong side of the road into the path of oncoming traffic where there is potential for collision.
- 3.3 Following publication of the statutory Notices on site and in the local press on 29 May 2008, three objections were formally received during the objection period which expired on 26 June 2008. The objections were received by the Director of Law and Democracy, two of the objections were resolved and subsequently withdrawn (see **Appendix 1**), an exchange of correspondence has occurred with the third objector but the objection could not be resolved and the objector has requested that the matter be referred to the Appeals and Complaints Committee (copies of correspondence in **Appendix 2**).

4.0 OBJECTION DETAILS

4.1 Mr M Aneese (resident of No. 1 Beechwood Road) Detail of objection dated 11 June 2008

There have been no injury accidents in this vicinity. The area is essential for parking vehicles since no off street facilities are available.

Parking would be displaced to outside of other properties or neighbouring streets which would cause unrest among residents. Suggest a one way system to address the issue of oncoming traffic meeting another vehicle.

4.2 Response from Traffic Management

There have been no reported injury accidents in the past three year period, the proposal is in response to road safety concerns and the potential for collision which was raised with the Council.

Beechwood Road is adopted highway and as such no one has any specific parking rights, it is not possible to reserve any space outside an individual property. This causes issues for many residents across the Borough where properties do not have off street parking facilities. However, road safety concerns must take precedent over demand for parking in such situations.

Parking on street is available approximately 17 metres from No. 1 Beechwood Road on the south side of Witham Avenue, there are no properties on this side.

If a one way system was introduced it may result in increased vehicle speeds along Beechwood Road since drivers would be confident they would not meet, or need to give way to oncoming traffic. It would also have implications for local residents in that it would cause inconvenience when accessing properties via the one way system since it may not be the most direct route. This could lead to people contravening the one way system resulting in increased enforcement burden for the Police.

5.0 DISCUSSION

Prior to statutory advertising, a consultation exercise with local residents was undertaken. Seven directly affected residents were consulted of which six replies were received (3 in support and 3 against).

Concerns regarding potential increase in vehicle speeds if parking was removed were raised, however, the junction is a 90 degree bend which acts as a traffic calming feature in itself as it forces drivers to reduce speeds on the approach to the corner.

A request for a 20mph zone was raised although these measures are generally required to be self-enforcing with road humps or are considered along short distances outside of schools and would not resolve the obstructive parking issue.

The extent of restrictions required was reviewed at residents requests; some parking on the south side of Witham Avenue could be accommodated and the extent was reduced by 21 metres prior to statutory advertising.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of processing the necessary Traffic Regulation Order and providing appropriate lining is approximately £1,600 to be funded from the 2008/09 Traffic Management budget.

7.0 POLICY CONTENT

The restrictions will assist the safe and expeditious movement of traffic at this junction and reduce potential for road traffic accidents.

8.0 CONSULTATION

An initial consultation exercise with affected residents was conducted prior to statutory advertising as previously detailed.

The Officers' Traffic Group, local Ward Councillors, Preston Parish Council and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport have indicated their support for the advertised proposal.

An unresolved objection remains as part of the Traffic Regulation Order process.

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

The proposal is required to address parking around a 90 degree bend which causes road safety issues in that vehicles are forced onto the wrong side of the road. The extent of restrictions has been reduced following the public consultation exercise in order to accommodate some parking on the south side of Witham Avenue. The reduced extent means parking on street is available approximately 17 metres from the objector's property.

It is requested that the Committee recommend the objection is over ruled and the waiting restrictions are implemented as advertised.

Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services

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Environmental Implications

None.

Community Safety Implications

Addresses road safety concerns relating to obstructive parking around the 90 degree bend.

Background Papers

Report TS.T.09.08
Officers' Traffic Group (Ref: 150/06)

Education Related Item?

No

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Eaglescliffe : Councillors Lewis, J Fletcher and Mrs Rigg