

4 October 2018**AGENDA ITEM: 4****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (NORMAN AVENUE AND
STATION ROAD, SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AND
PARKING PLACES) TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2018 (4220)****CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider objections received in respect of the above Traffic Regulation Order and whether it should be made as advertised.

Information

2. Station Road is a busy local distributor route located approximately 1km south-east of Sutton-in-Ashfield town centre with an average annual daily traffic flow of 14,450 vehicles. Regular Trent Barton bus services to Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottingham, Derby and Ripley use the route and it provides a link from the town centre to the A38. There are two retail parks, other retail premises, residential properties along with the County Council's Lawn View House offices and Sutton Young People's Centre located on this section of Station Road where restrictions are proposed. Sutton Lawn, a large public park, is also accessed off Station Road via Lawn Avenue.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) has received requests from residents to address obstructive parking on Station Road and Norman Avenue, Sutton-in-Ashfield. At times, vehicles park too close to the pedestrian refuges on Station Road and this results in insufficient space for larger vehicles to navigate between the parked vehicles and the refuges forcing on occasion, drivers to commit an offence by passing the refuges on the wrong side of the carriageway. The presence of parked vehicles also restricts visibility at junctions and can also cause conflict between drivers overtaking parked vehicles and those entering the right-turn lanes for adjacent access roads. In an attempt to reduce the obstruction they are causing to other vehicular road users, some drivers park their vehicles substantially onto the pavement, which instead endangers and impedes pedestrian road users using the footways. NCC has received a number of complaints of this nature from pedestrians using this section of Station Road.
4. Norman Avenue is a cul-de-sac accessed directly off Station Road and vehicles are also regularly parked at the northern end of this road close to Station Road which is a narrow section of road enclosed between two fences. This parking causes an obstruction for larger vehicles travelling along Norman Avenue and obstructs the private vehicular accesses.

5. There is significant demand by commuters for on-street parking in the area, which has led to obstructive parking patterns. Parking too near to junctions, bends or crossing points reduces visibility for vehicles, pedestrians and adversely affects the safe and efficient operation of the highway.
6. In response to the concerns raised, it is proposed to introduce 'No Waiting At Any Time' (double yellow lines) restrictions along sections of Station Road and Norman Avenue, a bus stop clearway at stop AS0062 and a residents' parking bay on Station Road outside property numbers 41 to 49.
7. The statutory consultation and public advertisement of the proposals, detailed on the attached drawing H/JMR/2635/02, was carried out between 30th May and 29th June 2018.
8. A total of eight responses were received to the consultation during the advertisement period. This included four expressing support for the proposals, one requesting additional restrictions, one making general comments and two responses objecting to elements of the proposals.
9. It is considered that there are two outstanding objections including one from Ashfield District Council.

Objections Received

10. Objection – Displacement Parking onto Sutton Lawns

Ashfield District Council's Locality and Community Empowerment Team has objected to the proposals. It considers that the restrictions will displace parking onto the Sutton Lawns recreation site, which does not have sufficient car parking capacity to accommodate this additional demand. In addition, it further states that the public open space is already suffering with overspill parking from the County Council's Lawn View office, which is having a direct impact on residents using the park.

11. Response – Displacement Parking onto Sutton Lawns

The primary purpose of the highway is to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and vehicles. Whilst it is acknowledged that there is existing demand for on-street parking on Sutton Road the provision of on-street parking must always be secondary to maintaining the safe and efficient operation of the highway.

The existing parking patterns have an adverse effect on vehicle flow around the pedestrian refuges, the safe operation of the right-turn ghost islands and the efficient and safe operation of adjacent junctions. The obstructive parking at bus stops and on pavements also adversely affects safe use of the highway for non-drivers.

Nottinghamshire County Council currently promotes flexible working at its offices. The existing Lawn View travel plan will support staff affected by the parking restrictions to identify opportunities to use sustainable transport modes or virtual travel. The Council is also currently exploring options to increase parking capacity for the use of employees who work at Lawn View House.

Parking on both sides of Station Road and Norman Avenue beyond the proposed restrictions will remain unaffected by the proposed TRO. It is acknowledged that there is always a balance to be struck between competing demands for a finite resource. However, it is considered that the scheme is a proportional and reasonable intervention to improve safety for all road users.

12. Objection – Displacement Parking at Norman Avenue and Station Road

One respondent objected to the proposals as they believe that the restrictions would result in the displacement of parking to the area in front of their property on Station Road and adjacent to the boundary wall on Norman Avenue which is to the rear of their property. They stated that they already have difficulty egressing from their garage onto Norman Avenue due to the presence of parked vehicles and difficulty exiting from Norman Avenue due to parked vehicles on Station Road affecting visibility.

13. Response – Displacement Parking at Norman Avenue and Station Road

There is always an element of displacement parking with the introduction of any new parking restrictions. However these restrictions are required for the safe and efficient operation of the Highway. The proposed restrictions will keep the junction of Norman Avenue and Station Road free from parked vehicles, which will aid visibility when exiting from Norman Avenue. 'No waiting at any time' restrictions have also been proposed for the narrow section of Norman Road opposite the rear access gates of no. 46 and 48 Norman Avenue to prevent double parking and maintain the free flow of traffic.

It should be noted that where pavement parking constitutes an obstruction it is a matter for the Police, who are empowered to enforce on this matter. An appropriate measure to help alleviate residents' difficulties with vehicle access / egress to properties is the provision of advisory 'H bar markings' and these can be provided in line with the County Council's charging policy (£200) on request from local residents.

Other Options Considered

14. Other options considered relate to the length of the waiting restrictions proposed, which could have been either lesser or greater. The proposals are considered to strike a reasonable balance between the need to maintain the safe operation of the highway and recognition of the demand for on-street parking.

Comments from Local Members

15. County Councillor Deakin made no comment on the proposals as part of the statutory consultation.

Reasons for Recommendations

16. It is considered that the proposed scheme presents a reasonable balance between the needs of all highway users, including non-drivers, who live in or visit the area.

Crime and Disorder Implications

17. Nottinghamshire Police made no comments on the proposal. No additional crime or disorder implications are envisaged.

Financial Implications

18. The scheme is being funded through the 2018/19 Traffic Management Revenue budget for Ashfield with an estimated cost to implement the works and traffic order of £1,500.

Human Rights Implications

19. The implementation of the proposals within this report might be considered to have a minimal impact on human rights (such as the right to respect for private and family life and the right to peaceful enjoyment of property, for example). However, the Authority is entitled to affect these rights where it is in accordance with the law and is both necessary and proportionate to do so, in the interests of public safety, to prevent disorder and crime, to protect health, and to protect the rights and freedoms of others. The proposals within this report are considered to be within the scope of such legitimate aims.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

20. As part of the process of making decisions and changing policy, the Council has a duty 'to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not' by thinking about the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who don't;
- Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who don't.

21. Disability is a protected characteristic and the Council therefore has a duty to make reasonable adjustments to proposals to ensure that disabled people are not treated unfairly.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

22. The proposals are intended to have a positive impact on all highway users.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

23. The proposed waiting restrictions are designed to facilitate the safe operation of the junction of Norman Avenue/Station Road and the wider highway network for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. Improving the environment for vulnerable highway users, such as pedestrians and cyclists, may encourage modal shift to sustainable modes of transport.

RECOMMENDATION

It is **recommended** that:

- 1) The Nottinghamshire County Council (Norman Avenue and Station Road, Sutton-in-Ashfield) (Prohibition of Waiting and Parking Places) Traffic Regulation Order 2018 (4220) is made as advertised and the objectors informed accordingly.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments [SJE 04/09/2018]

37. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Communities & Place Committee to whom responsibility for the exercise of the Authority's functions relating to the planning, management and maintenance of highways (including traffic management) has been delegated.

Financial Comments [SES 05/09/2018]

38. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 18 of the report.

Background Papers

39. All relevant documents for the proposed scheme are contained within the scheme file which can be found in the Major Projects and Improvements section at Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

40. Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Sutton Central and East ED Councillor Samantha Deakin