



11th September 2014

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (LITTLEWORTH, MANSFIELD) (AMENDMENTS TO VARIOUS WAITING AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS) TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2014 (2169)

CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the objections received in respect of the above Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and whether it should be made as advertised with the amendments as detailed in the recommendation.

Information and Advice

2. Littleworth and Baum's Lane are main thoroughfares through a residential area just to the south of Mansfield town centre. The area comprises mainly of high-density Victorian-era housing with a local primary school, small independent businesses plus a number of large employment establishments within walking distance. This includes one large office complex, Meadow House, used by the County Council. Overall, demands on parking generally exceed capacity during working hours Monday to Friday.
3. In March 2012 a petition of 216 signatures was presented to the Chairman at the meeting of the County Council by Councillor Stephen Garner requesting the installation of parking bays outside the newsagents along Littleworth in Mansfield to prohibit all day parking by commuters preventing customers of the businesses from parking close by. In addition, requests have been received from local residents for the introduction of waiting restrictions around a number of junctions along Littleworth and Baum's Lane to prevent vehicles parking too close restricting visibility and help assist with vehicles movements around the junction.
4. The County Council originally advertised proposals in January 2013 to introduce new restrictions and amend existing parking and no waiting arrangements in the area. Due to the nature of representations that were received from local residents, business owners, commuters and other parties with an interest in this matter, the proposals were reassessed. As a result the scope and extents of the scheme were altered.
5. The revised proposals were publicly advertised between mid-November and early December 2013 and further representations were received. After reviewing all comments received

during both rounds of consultation, the scheme has been further amended to attempt to achieve a balanced solution for all users. It is acknowledged that the scheme will result in the removal of approximately five unrestricted parking spaces currently used by residents and commuters on Littleworth and three on St. Andrew Street.

6. The proposals that are recommended in the report can be seen on the enclosed drawings TRO2169/01, 02, 03 and 04.

Objections Received

7. Almost 60 responses were received during the two rounds of consultation many of these were in support of the proposals, including an 80 signature petition. However there are 32 outstanding objections which are summarised below:
8. Objections – local residents (Berry Hill Road, Littleworth, Meadow Avenue and St Margaret Street and Newton Street)

In total eighteen local residents objected specifically to the proposals with many issues having a common theme and concerns, these include:

- Local residents suggest that parking problems are experienced due to a number of issues including parents of children dropping off at King Edward's School, employees based at Meadow House, customers of shops and businesses along Littleworth and by football supporters when Mansfield Town Football Club have a home game. It is suggested that the proposed restrictions will cause difficulties for nearby residents from parking in the immediate vicinity of their properties and will only exacerbate existing problems caused by commuter parking, especially those working at Meadow House, currently encountered by residents.
- The view of a limited number of residents is that the removal of parking is a way of generating extra revenue by increasing use of Mansfield District Council's car parks and is a retrograde step by discouraging people to visit the town. It is suggested that there are very few places available to park for an unrestricted time within the town that prevent the conduct of business without having to pay parking fees.
- Objectors have suggested that the introduction of a residents' parking scheme in the area would prohibit parking not associated with local premises and alleviate many of the parking difficulties currently encountered by residents.
- The introduction of limited waiting bays on Littleworth will result in the loss of five unrestricted parking spaces for residents of the area that will only benefit business owners whilst inconveniencing residents living nearby. It is suggested that the limited waiting parking bays contain an exemption for local residents.
- It has been suggested that the proposals will displace parking further up Littleworth and into areas such as Newton Street and Berry Hill Road that currently do not experience high levels of long stay non-residential parking.

- One objector commented that the proposed double yellow lines across the accesses to the new residential development on the site of the former Ram Inn would not be required if the accesses could be removed.
- The proposed double yellow lines around the junctions of Littleworth and the side roads along it are not required as enforcement could be carried out now since the Highway Code forbids parking within 10 metres of a road junction, and if the restrictions are not enforced, they will not work.
- A short stretch of double yellow line restrictions around an access to a disused factory site along the Littleworth-bound side of the road, located approximately 100 metres north-east of its junction with Littleworth, is considered no longer necessary and it is proposed to revoke it. One respondent objected on the basis that rather than revoking a short stretch of redundant double yellow lines along Great Central Road, if the intention is to provide commuter parking, would it make more sense to revoke the restrictions along the opposite side of the road which would could provide parking for far more vehicles.

Response – local residents

It is acknowledged that there is pressure on parking in the Littleworth due to a variety of sources as local residents have suggested. The restrictions proposed follow concerns about the lack of short term parking available for local businesses and concerns regarding parking close to junctions restricting visibility and vehicles movements affecting road safety.

The proposed double yellow lines around junctions along Littleworth and Baum's Lane, once introduced, will enable enforcement to be carried out in accordance with the restrictions.

The proposed limited waiting bays are located close to local small businesses and the 1 hour waiting time considered sufficient to meet local business needs. They will also prohibit all day commuter parking at these locations. The limited waiting bays will only be in operation from 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday reverting back to unrestricted parking outside of these times for local residents. Residents will not be exempt from the one hour maximum stay in the limited waiting bays when operational.

Off-street car parking provided by the local authority in Mansfield is the responsibility of Mansfield District Council, NCC are unable to govern costs in these car parks. Long and short term parking provision is available in nearby car parks.

The site of the former Ram Inn is currently under development, the proposed double yellow lines across the current accesses are intended to maintain access to this area.

The proposed double yellow line restrictions do not prevent loading from taking place. The proposed restrictions will allow a clear section of road that can be used for loading activities. Areas of unrestricted parking remain available along Littleworth and adjacent streets.

Great Central Road forms the access road to a number of industrial and commercial premises on one side of the road and to Mansfield Central Police Station on the other. The width of the road is not sufficient to allow for parking along both sides of it and still maintain two-way traffic to pass with ease.

Double yellow line restrictions are proposed on the junction of Meadow Avenue and Baum's Lane, no further restrictions along this road are included in the proposals.

9. Objection – local workers

Thirteen local workers from Meadow House are objecting to the proposals. Concerns raised include limited parking on site results in staff having to find alternative parking on nearby street; charges within local car parks have been increased and add an extra burden to commuting that many find unaffordable. Some of the staff have highlighted the need that some workers are required to have immediate access to their vehicles to conduct urgent site visits and / or have to report to Meadow House at short notice. It has been highlighted that on occasions parking is only for short visits to the office in between site visits and alternative sites for additional parking have been suggested.

Response – local workers

A key issue raised by local residents and small businesses is the issues of all-day commuter parking. This is supported by the original petition and subsequent support received through the consultation process for the proposed restrictions.

In total approximately five unrestricted parking places will be removed along the nearby section on Littleworth. Alternatively short term and long term parking provision is available in nearby off-street car parks operated by Mansfield District Council. The County Council is unable to govern costs in the car parks. Limited waiting bays can be used by any road user providing the one hour limited waiting restrictions are followed.

10. Objections – Local Business

To prevent vehicles from parking too close to the junction of Littleworth and St Andrew Street, it was proposed to introduce double yellow line restrictions around this junction (replacing existing single yellow lines and extended further in St Andrew Street). It was also proposed to introduce a parking bay along St Andrew Street adjacent to the business with similar hours of operation and restrictions as the two proposed bays along Littleworth.

The owner of the business objected to the proposed parking bay and extension of the double yellow lines along the side of his premises. The business suggests that at least five parking spaces are required for the whole day and has requested the introduction of a permit parking scheme.

The local business objects to the introduction of limited waiting bays to the side of the business on St Andrews Street, suggesting bays are implemented for business only by the nature of deliveries received. The business has also raised concern about the loss of parking due of the extension of the existing double yellow lines around the junction with Littleworth

Response – Local Business

The extent of the proposed restrictions along the side of the business premises have been reduced and proposed parking bay extended. Currently the unrestricted parking can result in all day commuter parking removing opportunity of parking for visitors and deliveries to the business. It is considered that the limited waiting bay will provide more availability of short term parking. The double yellow lines do not restrict loading and unloading activities and

there are areas of unrestricted parking still available towards their rear access to the business. The introduction of a parking scheme is beyond the scope of these proposals.

Comments – King Edward Primary School

Feedback from King Edward Primary School confirms support for the proposals which the school feels will be of benefit to the safety of pupils at the school and also to local residents and businesses. The also enquired whether the zig-zag markings outside the school could be made enforceable and made a number of suggestions relating to traffic management measures which may improve road safety.

Response – King Edward School

The County Council is currently in the process of advertising the necessary traffic regulation order to allow for the enforcement of school keep clear zig-zag markings in this area of Mansfield.

11. Objections – Road between the rear of properties along Littleworth / St. Margaret Street

Following comments made by local residents about vehicles being left unattended along the road that leads between the rear of properties along Littleworth and St Margaret Street, it was proposed to introduce double yellow lines along this access road to discourage this activity from causing obstructions to motorists wishing the drive along it. Through the consultation process three residents have objected on the basis that:

- Residents use the back-street as a short duration parking area and also as an area to carry out cleansing and maintenance work on their vehicles;
- The removal of stationary vehicles along it would create another route for motorists to reach King Edward School which could possibly present difficulties for pedestrians walking along it.

As part of the first consultation one resident of Littleworth objected suggesting that double yellow lines are installed along the road as they encounter people parking and restricting access as these have been removed from the recommendation it is considered that this request is now an outstanding objection.

Response – Road between the rear of properties along Littleworth / St. Margaret Street

As local residents have conflicting options on this particular matter, it has been decided not to proceed with the introduction of double line lines along the back-street this will enable residents to carry out maintenance and loading / unloading activities as per the current situation.

Other Options Considered

12. Other options considered relate to the extents / types of restrictions and these have been reflected in the multiple rounds of consultation undertaken by the County Council.

Comments from Local Members

13. County Councillor Stephen Garner promoted the scheme, has been kept informed regarding modifications and supports the proposals. County Council Andy Sissons did not comment on the proposals.

Reasons for Recommendations

14. It is considered that sections of limited waiting would benefit local businesses by encouraging passing trade and provide a greater level of short term parking provision. Areas of junction protection for minor roads onto Littleworth and Baum's Lane are intended to keep junctions free from parked vehicles to aid vehicle movements.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. The scheme is being funded through the 2014/15 Traffic Management revenue budget - Mansfield at a cost of £5,000.

Crime and Disorder Implications

17. Nottinghamshire Police raised no objections to the proposals.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

The Nottinghamshire County Council (Littleworth, Mansfield) (Amendments to Various Waiting and Parking Restrictions) Traffic Regulation Order 2014 (2169) is made as advertised with amendments and objectors advised accordingly.

Amendments are:

- Excluding the proposed 'No Waiting At Any Times' restrictions on the road between the rear of properties along Littleworth / St Margaret Street;
- Shortening the proposed 'No Waiting At Any Times' restrictions along St. Andrew Street / Littleworth junction to match the extents of the current 'No Waiting 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday' restrictions (single yellow lines);
- Extended the proposed '1 hour limited waiting bay, 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday along southside of St. Andrew Street to match the extents of the current 'No Waiting 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday' restrictions (single yellow lines);
- Exclude the two proposed 'bus stop clearway' markings along the section of Littleworth between Fisher Lane and Windsor Road / Forest Road.

Andrew Warrington
Service Director (Highways)

Name of Report Author

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Title of Report Author

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Constitutional Comments (SHB 20/08/14)

18. Committee have the power to decide the Recommendation.

Financial Comments (TMR 01/09/14)

19. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 16 of the report.

Background Papers

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.

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

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Mansfield South ED

Councillor Stephen Garner and Andy Sissons