



12th February 2015

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (SHERWOOD RISE AREA, MANSFIELD) (BUS PROHIBITION AND ENVIRONMENTAL WEIGHT LIMIT) TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2014 (2166)

CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the objections received in respect of the above Bus Prohibition and Environmental Weight Limit Orders.

Information and Advice

2. The wider Sherwood Rise area of Mansfield is an area of local residential roads bounded by three principal roads these being the A6075 Debdale Lane, A60 Woodhouse Road and the A6191 Chesterfield Road South. The area is also bounded by the Mansfield to Worksop railway line to the north-east. Sherwood Rise is located off the A6075 Debdale Lane and has historically been a private road, but has been subject to improvement works as part of the continued residential development of a former colliery site by Bellway Homes. This has included improvement works to the A6075 / Sherwood Rise junction with the construction of an enlarged traffic signal controlled junction onto the A6075 this route has become a more attractive route for road users. Part of this route is publicly maintained with the remaining section subject to a legal agreement for adoption (from A6075 to Dunsil Road).
3. There are now two main routes through this area, the first is Sherwood Rise / Dunsil Road / Birding Street which provides a short route connecting the A6075 Debdale Lane and the A60 Woodhouse Road, and the second is West Bank Avenue / Haddon Road which provides a short route connecting the A6191 Chesterfield Road South and the A60 Woodhouse Road. This West Bank Avenue / Haddon Road route currently has signing stating that a 7.5 tonne environmental weight limit restriction is in place.
4. Access to the new residential development at the former colliery site is predominantly off Dunsil Road and the established residential areas can be accessed via West Bank Avenue and Westdale Road off Birding Street. All these roads within the Sherwood Rise area are single carriageway generally with footways along each side, street lighting and are subject to a 30mph speed limit. Many of the roads have vertical and horizontal traffic calming measures. The Rebecca Adlington swimming pool is also situated in the centre of the Sherwood Rise area at the junction of Westdale Road and Birding Street.

5. Nottinghamshire County Council has received complaints from local residents and concerns have been raised by both the county and district councillors regarding buses using the Sherwood Rise area routes as a shortcut between their depots which are located to the north of the area and their prescribed routes. Correspondence has been sent to the bus companies advising them not to use these shortcuts. However, the problem has continued. Therefore, it is proposed to introduce a bus prohibition traffic regulation order in the area and amend the current 7.5 tonne environmental weight limit to counteract this problem and to prevent unnecessary heavy good vehicles using these routes. The current weight limit area is along the West Bank Avenue through route between the A6191 and A60 with signage at the West Bank Avenue / A6191 and Haddon Road / A60 junctions.
6. The area covered by the proposed traffic regulation order for both the bus prohibition and environmental weight limit is the same and provides exemptions for access to premises within the restriction. For the bus prohibition there is an exemption for bus services that take children to and from the Rebecca Adlington swimming pool, and any future local bus service that may be provided to the new local residential area. There are currently no local bus services that operate within the area.
7. The statutory consultation and public advertisement were carried out between 12th March and 4th April 2014. The document packages were held at the Mansfield Central Library and County Hall and copies of the notice were erected at a number of locations in the area board. The attached drawings 2166.500 and 2166.501 represent an overview and detailed plans of the proposals.

Objections Received

8. During the consultation and advertisement period, one objection was received by e-mail from Nottinghamshire Police and this is being reported to the committee as it has been received from a statutory consultee.

9. Objection – Nottinghamshire Police

The objection states that a prohibition for buses whilst still allowing bus services and bus with access (such as school buses etc.) to lawfully access the area, creates enforcement problems for Police officers as they would routinely have to stop any bus in the area to see if it has lawful access. In addition, other bus drivers seeing buses accessing the area would reasonably assume there was no restriction for them and drive through regardless of the prohibition. Nottinghamshire Police consider that with increasing demands on officer time for crime related incidents, enforcement of a bus restriction is an inappropriate use of resource. It is suggested that this restriction could be enforced by the local authority using technology (Nuthall bus plug is an example of this) and this is where the responsibility should lie.

Response – Nottinghamshire Police

The predominant problem experienced in the area that the scheme has been designed to address is buses using Sherwood Rise / Dunsil Road / Birding Street as a short cut between the A6075 Debdale Lane and A60 Woodhouse Road. The scheme, although an area-wide proposal, has been designed with a short plug type restriction of only approximately 110 metres in length located on Dunsil Road and Birding Street, either side of their junction with Westdale Road. This type of scheme aids enforcement as a bus passing through this short length of restriction can be observed easily from either end of the

restriction. Additionally, in order to have a legitimate reason for entering the restriction, a bus along this length would have to stop and access a premises (of which there is only 1), or pick up/drop off passengers or turn into Westdale Road (which provides access to the Rebecca Adlington swimming pool). There are currently no local bus services that operate in the area and any buses entering the area should be accessing the swimming pool.

Nuthall bus gate is not considered an appropriate comparison in this case as at Nuthall cameras are used to enforce contravention of the bus gate by non-authorized vehicles (anything other than buses). This is done under powers for enforcement under the Transport Management Act. The County Council do not have such powers for bus prohibition gates and this contravention is a moving traffic offence that can only be enforced by the police. The section of bus prohibition is also covered by an Environmental Weight Limit and contravention of this element of the order is enforceable by the County Council's Trading Standards team who enforce our other weight limits under other legislation.

In order to minimise the risk of contravention and alleviate concerns raised by Nottinghamshire Police it is also proposed to introduce advisory signing to aid compliance. These signs would be located on both the A6075 Debdale Lane and A60 Woodhouse Road in the vicinity of their junctions with Sherwood Rise and Birding Street stating that there is "no access for buses to the A60 or A6075" respectively.

Other Options Considered

10. Other options regarding alternative extents to the bus prohibition and retaining the existing 7.5 tonne environmental weight limit have been considered.

Comments from Local Members

11. County Councillor Joyce Bosnjak requested and supports the proposals.

Reasons for Recommendations

12. The proposals are to be introduced to remove unnecessary trips from buses and heavy goods vehicles using the Sherwood Rise area as a short cut.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. 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

14. The scheme is being funded from the 2014/15 Traffic Management – Mansfield revenue budget and will cost in the region of £2,000.

Crime and Disorder Implications

15. Nottinghamshire Police have raised no objection to the extension of the 7.5 tonne environmental weight limit but have formally objected to the bus prohibition as discussed in paragraph 9.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

The Nottinghamshire County Council (Sherwood Rise Area, Mansfield) (Bus Prohibition and Environmental Weight Limit) Traffic Regulation Order 2014 (2166)

is made as advertised and the objector advised accordingly.

Andrew Warrington
Service Director (Highways)

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 14/01/2015)

16. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Transport & Highways Committee to whom responsibility for the exercise of the Authority's functions relating to traffic management has been delegated.

Financial Comments (TMR 13/01/2015)

17. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 14 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 North ED

Cllr Joyce Bosnjak

Mansfield North ED

Cllr Parry Tsimbiridis