



9th February 2017

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR - PLACE

PROPOSED BUS STOP CLEARWAY (LYNDHURST AVENUE, BLIDWORTH – STOP REF. NS0369)

CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the objections received in respect of the above proposed bus stop clearway and whether it should be implemented as proposed.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has over 5,700 bus stops throughout the County and continually invests in the network's infrastructure as part of the County Council's ongoing commitment to improve public transport.
3. The County Council works closely with all public transport operators across the County to identify bus stops that suffer from indiscriminate parking. To address this problem bus stop clearways can be installed that prohibit cars from parking or waiting in the bus stop during specific times and these are clearly identified with new road markings and signage. The main benefits of bus stop clearways are to:
 - Help the bus align with the kerb to enable level access for disabled passengers and pushchair users;
 - Ease congestion as a correctly aligned bus will not block the road for other road users;
 - Ensure that bus drivers discharge their duty to drop passengers off on the kerb and not on the road;
 - Ensure that the investment in raised kerbs, (as previously required under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and now required by the Equalities Act 2010), is not negated by indiscriminate parking at bus stops;
 - Ensure that bus services operate on time and are not delayed.
4. Lyndhurst Avenue is a local road within a residential area of Blidworth. Bus stop NS0369 is located on the section between Dale Lane and Grange Road and approximately half the properties have off-street parking provisions, although not all have dropped kerbs. The County Council has received reports from the local residents and bus operator that parking at this location is causing accessibility issues as a result it is proposed to introduce a bus stop clearway to this stop, which would be active at all times (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). During site visits and initial investigations, it was established that one of the residents adjacent to the proposed clearway is a blue badge holder and from the information provided, it appears that they may be eligible for an advisory disabled parking bay to be marked on the

highway outside the property. Subject to successful application by the resident this will be incorporated in the proposed scheme.

5. The consultation took place between 29th October 2016 and 24th November 2016 and the attached drawing LR/P.H.IB.31617.02/002 represents the advertised proposals.

Objections Received

6. During the consultation period four responses were received and three are considered as outstanding objections.

7. Objection – Loss of on street parking

Two objections to the clearway are due to the loss of on street parking provision and subsequent displacement of vehicles. Concern has been expressed that displaced vehicles will park outside the objector's properties causing issues of loading / unloading and also difficulties due to young children needing to be dropped off / picked up.

8. Response– Proposed Residents Parking Scheme is not required

The purpose of the bus stop clearway is to provide an area clear of parked vehicles to enable buses to pull up and allow passengers to board and alight from the footway. Whilst the primary purpose of the Highway is to facilitate the movement of people and vehicles, it is recognised that parking on the highway does occur, particularly for households with no alternative parking provision. However, unrestricted on-street parking is available nearby on Lyndhurst Avenue, offering alternative parking provision without obstructing the bus stop.

Of these two objectors, both have a drive that could enable off street parking. There is currently no vehicle dropped crossing installed and residents can apply for one to be installed.

9. Objection – Lack of need for clearway

Two objections received consider there was no need for a clearway in this location, including remarks that the bus stop is used infrequently as passengers tend to board at stop NS0351, closer to the shop on Lyndhurst Avenue. One local resident suggests that the problem is with vehicles parking both sides of the road and that double yellow lines on the opposite side to the bus stop would resolve access difficulties.

10. Response – Lack of need for clearway

This particular bus stop (NS 0369) has been identified by bus operators as a location where buses are frequently obstructed from pulling up alongside the kerb due to parked cars that is causing accessibility issues for local bus users. There have also been occasions when parked vehicles on both sides of the road have prevented the buses from driving along Lyndhurst Avenue and police have had to be contacted to resolve the situation. Stagecoach have confirmed that this stop and others in the immediate area are well used with patronage averaging over 100 passengers per day using the stops, this includes school children attending Joseph Whitaker School in Rainworth.

The implementation of 'No Waiting At Any Time' (double yellow lines) would prevent parking on one side and keep a lane clear. However, this would further reduce parking provision and still not resolve the issue of parked vehicles at the bus stop.

Currently this stop is served by Stagecoach services 28 and 28B, which run 7 days a week and it is considered that the times of the buses serving the stop prevent it being practical to reduce the hours the clearway is active.

Other Options Considered

11. Other options considered relate to the length of time and numbers of days that the bus stop clearway is in force.

Comments from Local Members

12. County Councillor Yvonne Woodhead did not comment on the proposals.

Reason for Recommendation

13. The proposals are considered appropriate taking into account a balanced view of the needs of all road users and for facilitating the safe passage of traffic, particularly buses.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, 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

15. This scheme is being funded through the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Measures budget for 2016/17 with an estimated cost to implement the works and traffic order of £700.

Crime and Disorder Implications

16. Nottinghamshire Police has raised no objection to the proposals.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

17. The Council has a duty to provide a fair service to all users of the town. However, the Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies 'to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not'. Disability is a protected characteristic. Therefore, the Council has a duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can continue to use the facilities of the town.
18. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposal, the results of the consultation and any appropriate mitigation. This equality impact assessment is included as a background paper to this committee report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is **recommended** that:

The bus stop clearway on Lyndhurst Avenue, Blidworth (reference NS 0369) is made as advertised (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) and objectors notified accordingly.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director – Place

Name and Title of Report Author

Mike Barnett - Team Manager Major Projects and Improvements (Via East Midlands Limited)

Constitutional Comments (SJE – 18/11/2016)

19. 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 both traffic management and road safety, and the provision of passenger transport services, including bus initiatives, has been delegated.

Financial Comments (GB – 18/11/2016)

20. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 15 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 Environmental Management and Design Team at Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ.

Equality Impact Assessment

Transport and Highways Committee - Proposed Change to the Process of Managing Objections to Bus Stop Clearways, 11th September 2014 (Agenda Item 5)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Blidworth ED

County Councillor Yvonne Woodhead