



23rd April 2015

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (NOTTINGHAM ROAD, EASTWOOD) (PARKING RESTRICTIONS) TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2014 (5190)

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the objections received in respect of the above proposed Traffic Regulation Order and whether it should be made as advertised with the revised amendment as detailed in the recommendation.

Information and Advice

2. Eastwood is a small town approximately 8 miles west of Nottingham City Centre and Nottingham Road connects the town to the M1 via the A610. The main shopping and business area of Eastwood is predominately situated along Nottingham Road, which has a 30mph speed limit. There is a system of street lighting present with wide footways located on both sides of the road allowing pedestrian access to the local facilities which include shops, a public house and Eastwood library. Nottingham Road, as in many similar towns and district centres, serves a variety of highway needs and to facilitate these needs a number of highway restrictions are currently in place.
3. The proposed restrictions are along part of the road between Queens Road North and Wellington Place; around this section of road are double yellow lines (No Waiting at Any Time) restrictions at side-road junctions in the vicinity of two bus stops, these restrictions extend through both stops. On-street parking on the main road is generally restricted to 30 minutes with no return within 1 hour, operating Monday to Saturday from 8am to 6pm. However, there are short sections of unrestricted parking outside the library, No. 132 Nottingham Road and to the south east of Oxford Street.
4. A number of bus services use Nottingham Road, principally Rainbow 1, Amberline and the Y10 services. Bus stops are located on both sides of the road with build-outs used to widen the footways locally to enable buses to stop and avoid issues with parked vehicles and pulling back out into the traffic lane. A local safety scheme along Nottingham Road in Eastwood included the installation of flat top road humps, build-outs and hatching was completed in 1998 and an Environmental Improvement Scheme outside Eastwood Library was undertaken in 2003, no exact date on the installation of the build-outs for the bus stops is available but it is estimated that these have been in place since at least 2003. The existing layout and parking restrictions are shown on the attached drawing 47072236/5190/400.

5. Bus services along this section of road have increased over the last few years with the introduction of the Yourbus service. In addition traffic figures from 2014 shows this section of road has an Average Daily Traffic Flow of over 9,300 vehicles which since 2012 represents an increase of 8.7%. Concerns have been raised to Nottinghamshire County Council officers that when buses are waiting at both bus stops there is insufficient room between the buses to allow traffic to pass in either direction. This results in traffic remaining stationary until a bus resumes its travel and relieves the congestion.
6. To alleviate localised congestion caused by buses waiting at the bus stops at the location the County Council proposes to relocate the bus stop on the southern side further west, remove the existing kerbed build-out on the southern side of Nottingham Road and introduce further on-street waiting restrictions. Currently along this section of road
7. The statutory consultation and advertising were carried out between 23rd December 2014 and 23rd January 2015. The document packages were held at Eastwood Library, Wellington Place, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, NG16 3GB and County Hall with copies of the notice erected at a number of locations in the area,
8. A request was received from the Funeral Directors located at No.154 to extend the proposed double yellow lines by 1 metre in order to assist visibility when accessing and egressing their premises with a hearse or limousine. This request has been accommodated and the scheme adjusted accordingly and the scheme layout is shown on the attached drawing number 47072236/5190/OB01 which incorporates this change.

Comments Received

9. During the consultation and advertising period three responses were received, two of which are considered outstanding objections.

10. Objection – Nottingham Road

The objection has been received from a local resident and business owner on the basis that restricting parking between the hours of 8am and 6pm will affect visitors to their properties and they will also have to relocate their own vehicle on to a side street to park their vehicle. The objector has suggested that parking permits should be allowed and any restrictions limited to a one hour time period to prevent all day commuter parking.

Response – Nottingham Road

The proposed traffic order is required to help reduce localised congestion caused by the existing bus stop locations being too close together and preventing other vehicles passing when buses occupy both stops by managing traffic flow and parking around this area. Relocating the bus stop on the southern side further west and removing the existing kerbed build-out will help to alleviate this problem. However, there is insufficient space around this new location to retain the existing short length of unrestricted parking (approximately 12 metres, 2 spaces) on the southern side outside 126-128 and 132 Nottingham Road.

Currently there is also a section of unrestricted parking on the north side of Nottingham Road outside the area fronting the library (approximately 22 metres, 4 spaces) and the proposal is to convert this length to 30 minutes limited waiting, this will be supplemented by reducing the current length of double yellow lines outside the Wellington Inn east of King Street by (approximately 6 metres, providing one additional parking space). The aim of these changes

being to increase the turnover of available parking spaces at this location for visitors accessing the local facilities and businesses. This proposal is also in line with the on-street parking restrictions further along the road. There is also unrestricted parking available on the side road close to this location.

11. Objection – Eastwood Town Council

The Town Council supports all the changes proposed on the south side of Nottingham Road but has objected to the proposed traffic order on the north side. This includes the bus stop outside the library being used as a timing point with buses waiting for up to 30 minutes and suggests the build-out is also removed on this side of the road to increase available road width and increase traffic flow. In addition the parking bay is supported but only if it was for one hour and has suggested that on street parking restrictions within Eastwood should be increased to 1 hour from the current 30 minutes.

Response – Eastwood Town Council

Nottinghamshire County Council Passenger Transport Unit and the bus operators both confirm that that these stops are not bus stand timing points and that buses do not use the stop for longer than 5 minutes. It is considered that by removing the kerbed build-out on the southern side of Nottingham Road, relocating the bus stop further west and with the introduction of additional no waiting at any time (double yellow line) restriction on the side south side then the two bus stops will be separated and traffic flow should not be impeded.

In order to mitigate the loss of these few parking spaces, it is proposed to introduce limited waiting restrictions in the remaining spaces, which will increase turnover of the spaces and therefore the supply of free on-street parking. The spaces on Nottingham Road are very well used and generally operate near capacity. Increasing the on-street waiting period to one hour on this and the other bays on the main road would effectively reduce the supply of this parking, as vehicles would wait for longer. For longer visits there are a number of local short and long-stay off-street car parks located just off the main road; all of which offer free parking for one-hour. There is also a number of free, one and two hour, on-street parking bays on nearby side roads, such as Alexandra Street and Wellington Street, which adjoin Nottingham Road. This provision means that there is ample availability of both on-street and off-street parking in locations adjacent to Nottingham Road, for waiting periods in excess of 30 minutes. It is considered that effectively reserving the most convenient parking, directly on the main road, for short visits makes best use of the highway in ensuring the availability of this limited resource.

Other Options Considered

12. Other options considered relate to the length of the waiting restrictions proposed, which were increased in response to a request from a local business and location of the bus stop on the southern side of Nottingham Road.

Comments from Local Members

13. No comment was received from County Councillor Keith Longdon.

Reason for Recommendation

14. The proposals contained in the proposed traffic regulation order are considered appropriate taking into account a balanced view of the needs of all road users, the County Council's network management duty and safety concerns.

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 included in the 2015/16 Integrated Transport Measure (ITM) budget and the cost of implementing the scheme will be in the region of £15,000.

Crime and Disorder Implications

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Nottinghamshire County Council (Nottingham Road, Eastwood) (Parking Restrictions) Traffic Regulation Order 2015 (5190) be made as advertised with amendments and objectors advised accordingly. Amendments are:

- Extend 'No Waiting At Any Time' (double yellow line) restrictions on southern side of Nottingham Road by 1m outside 150 Nottingham Road.

Neil Hodgson
Service Director (Highways)

Name of Report Author - Mike Barnett

Title of Report Author - Team Manager (Major Projects and Improvements)

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Helen R North – Improvements Manager Tel: 0115 977 2087

Constitutional Comments (SJE 20/03/2015)

18. 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 (GB 23/03/15)

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

Background Papers

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.

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

Eastwood ED

Councillor Keith Longdon