

9th January 2014

Agenda Item:

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (CHURCH LANE / MAIN STREET, HARWORTH) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2013 (1150)

CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the objections received in respect of the above Traffic Regulation Order.

Information and Advice

2. The B6463 Main Street in Harworth is the main route through the village. At the vicinity of the junction with Church Lane it is straight and level, the actual Church Lane junction enters at almost 90 degrees to the B6463. The footway along the north side of Main Street is relatively narrow with high brick walls bounding the adjacent properties which do not allow any visibility splay. The development fronting Main Street opposite the Church Lane junction is a mixture of residential and commercial including hairdressers, beauty salon and a Public House.
3. Church Lane is a short cul-de-sac serving eight residential properties and an entrance to the Parish Church (though there is no parking available). There are a further ten residential properties on Gregory Crescent.
4. The local County Councillor, Cllr. Sheila Place, has received complaints from residents of Church Lane and Gregory Crescent (off Church Lane) regarding visibility problems when exiting Church Lane onto Main Street. There have been no accidents involving injury reported at the junction.
5. The proposal, which can be seen on the enclosed drawing no. NJG/ChurchHar, was consulted on and publicly advertised between March and July 2013. During the statutory consultation process there were ten responses received, eight of which are considered as objections. There were two comments in support of the proposals one of which was from Harworth Town Council.

Objections Received

6. Objections 1, 2, and 3 – Local Businesses

Two local businesses object on the grounds that the proposed restrictions are directly outside the business which has no off-street parking facilities. The proprietor considers that the restrictions will have an adverse effect on the business and that removal of parking in the area will lead to increased traffic speeds. A suggestion from one of the objectors is all that is needed to solve the problem is a traffic mirror.

A further commercial property owner considers that waiting restrictions outside the property will result in the property becoming less attractive commercially and will therefore be more difficult to rent to prospective businesses.

Response

The location of the businesses opposite the junction means any 'no waiting restrictions' will result in visitors unable to park directly outside. However, the proposed restrictions are kept to a minimum length to help with visibility issues of roaduses exiting from Church Lane onto Main Street. Alternative unrestricted parking is available further along Main Street in both directions.

It is the County Council's policy that traffic mirrors will not be permitted on the highways except in very exceptional circumstances and subject to special authorisation from the Department for Transport (DfT), there are also issues regarding liability and maintenance. Due to changes in regulations no special authorisations are being granted by the DfT and the proposed restrictions are aimed at improving visibility therefore not requiring a traffic mirror in addition or as an alternative.

It is considered that the restrictions proposed will clear enough parked vehicles around the Church Lane junction area to provide sufficient visibility for a safe exit from Church Lane. Traffic currently parking in this area will be displaced further along Main Street so traffic speeds shouldn't increase as a result of the proposals.

7. Objection 4 – Resident of Main Street

The objectors suggest that vehicles should be banned from Church Lane thus eliminating the problems of poor visibility exiting the road. He also suggests that the introduction of these restrictions will only move the problem farther along the road and that a Residents' Parking scheme should be introduced to prevent customers at the businesses parking on the road.

Response

Church Lane provides vehicular access to the local church and residential properties both directly off the lane and also Gregory Crescent (can only be accessed via Church Lane). Banning vehicle access along this section would receive significant local opposition and also displace more vehicles onto Main Street.

Currently parking on Main Street, Harworth is unrestricted. A balance needs to be provided to provide parking for residents, visitors and local businesses. Objections have already been received from local businesses over the loss of parking due to the restrictions and further restrictions would have a negative impact for these businesses.

8. Objection 5 and 6 – Residents of Gregory Crescent

One objector suggests that the restrictions are not enough and should extend to 50 metres each side of the junction and that a traffic mirror should be provided. The other objector suggests that the speed of traffic along Main Street is the problem and that there should be more 30 mph signs or a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph, a traffic mirror or traffic calming.

Response

It is considered the proposed restrictions will clear traffic from the junction area enough to enable safe exiting of traffic from Church Lane. Further restrictions would have a negative impact on local businesses and also have the potential of increasing traffic speeds. As stated previously it is not the policy of the County Council to install traffic mirrors on the highway.

Traffic calming is outside the scope of this consultation. Enquiries logged within the authority's Highway Asset Management System, and most reports involving traffic issues, are linked to visibility issues around the Church Lane junction.

9. Objection 7 – Residents of Church Lane

A resident of Church Lane considers that the restrictions should cover the full length of Church Lane to prevent any parking for the church.

Response

Church Lane is a narrow section of road with no footways, it is not wide enough to park and maintain access so additional restrictions are considered not to be required.

10. Objection 8 – Nottinghamshire Transport and Travel Service

The objection is on the grounds that migration of parking is likely to affect nearby bus stops.

Response

The introduction of Bus Stop Clearways will be considered for implementation along with these restrictions. Formal consultation for clearways is not required, although notification is provided to properties with a frontage affected by the works. This may raise objections, being outside residential properties.

Other Options Considered

11. Consideration was given to the introduction of restrictions along only the north side of Main Street near the Church Lane junction. This was considered unsafe as vehicles exiting Church Lane might be confronted by vehicles on their side of the road passing vehicles parked on the south side.

Comments from Local Members

12. The local County Councillor Sheila Place supports the proposals.

Reasons for Recommendations

13. The waiting restrictions are being proposed to stop parking in a location that causes visibility problems for residents exiting a residential cul-de-sac.

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 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

15. The scheme is being funded by the Traffic Management Revenue budget - Bassetlaw for 2013-14. The cost of implementing the scheme and associated works will be in the region of £1,000.

Crime and Disorder Implications

16. Nottinghamshire Police raised no objections to the proposal.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that

The Nottinghamshire County Council (Church Lane/Main Street, Harworth) (Prohibition of Waiting) Traffic Regulation Order 2013 (1150) is made as advertised and the objectors informed accordingly.

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Name of Report Author

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Title of Report Author

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Constitutional Comments (SHB)

17. Committee have power to decide the Recommendation.

Financial Comments (TMR)

18. 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 Major Projects and Improvements Team at Bevercotes House, Ollerton.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Blyth and Harworth

Councillor Sheila Place