

REPORT OF INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES**A453 ADJACENT ROADS-PROPOSED RED ROUTE, RATCLIFFE-ON-SOAR****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to undertake a consultation on a proposed red route (stopping of vehicles prohibited at all times) restriction on roads around Ratcliffe power station that are subject to regular car 'meets'.

Background

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has been approached by the Police and Uniper Energy (operators of Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station), concerning dangerous and obstructive parking on and around the roundabouts shown in Appendix 1. The significant parking issues are caused by car 'meets' where large numbers of participants gather to carry out various driving manoeuvres in front of often large numbers of spectators. These events cause danger to the participants, the spectators as well as members of the public using the highway at the same time. Based on evidence from the Police who regularly attend to try and address the issue, the events consist of many vehicles dangerously and obstructively parking on the carriageway with the occupants spectating whilst other vehicles take turns at manoeuvring around the roundabouts often at speed. Other spectators also gather on the roadside and in the bridge inspection area.
3. One solution to these issues is the consideration of a local 'red route'. Red routes prohibit all stopping, waiting, and loading and they can be enforced by ANPR camera. The expectation is that a red route in operation at all times (double red lines) coupled with camera enforcement will effectively discourage all parking around these roads. There is no evidence that parking occurs at these locations except when the car meets take place so it is not anticipated that there will be any displaced parking nor that the proposal will result in significant local opposition.
4. The Police and Uniper are fully supportive of these proposals and, should the proposal be introduced, Uniper have committed to funding the TRO and associated cameras.
5. The power station itself is due to cease operation in September 2024 and the site is identified as the proposed East Midlands Freeport. Freeports are a government initiative to encourage innovation and job creation and the location of this site adjacent to the A453 and close to the M1, East Midlands airport and the East Midlands Parkway offers excellent accessibility. Consequently, the regular parking of vehicles around the access roads adjacent to the site not only creates a safety hazard but adversely impacts commerce and industry.
6. For the proposal to be effective, it will need to extend onto non-highway land owned by Network Rail that forms the access to the East Midlands Parkway. Network Rail have been approached and have also indicated their support for the proposals.

7. A plan of the proposed extents is shown in Appendix 1. The scheme is extended to cover the whole area where the car cruising takes place. The existing road layout with three roundabouts coupled with a bridge inspection area understood to be informally used as a viewing gallery during car 'meets' are each features used to facilitate / promote the dangerous driving etc and the inherent parking issues.
8. Highways England have also been contacted to establish their initial views on the extent of the proposals and any impact upon the A453.

Communications

9. The usual Traffic Regulation Order process will be followed and supported with appropriate communications.

Other Options Considered

10. Traffic calming was also considered in the form of road humps around the affected roads to slow speeds and potentially make the location less attractive for the meets which could then remove the parking issue. These measures though are not considered appropriate on roads that form the access to the A453 as they would potentially cause access difficulties for large vehicles accessing the Marina and the power station/future Freeport. Public Space Protection Orders instigated by the Borough Council have also been considered but based on evidence elsewhere, these have only a limited impact and require Police attendance to disperse an event. In view of the specific and significant issues at this location where the parking of vehicles is causing or promoting a road safety hazard (either directly or indirectly) and the traffic issues are impacting upon commerce, it is felt that the proposal to consider a red route restriction coupled with a number of ANPR cameras offers a solution at removing the problem at this particular site. Rushcliffe Borough Council are also considering the deployment of PSPOs in conjunction with this specific remedy to reduce the possibility of displacing the meet elsewhere locally.

Reasons for Recommendations

11. The proposed scheme is considered to be an appropriate and effective scheme to mitigate the identified road safety issues. Normal road users will not be impacted by the proposals as vehicles would not ordinarily park in this location.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability, and the environment 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

13. If the proposed restriction and cameras are installed after consultation. the scheme would be funded through a donation from Uniper Energy Ltd. at a cost of circa £65,000. This figure will be dependent on number of cameras and their placing. This figure could increase if more cameras are needed or if engineering difficulties are encountered when installing them. Uniper Energy Ltd. are aware of this.

Human Rights Implications

14. The implementation of the proposals within this report might be considered to have a minimal impact on human rights (such as the right to respect for private and family life and the right to peaceful enjoyment of property, for example). However, the Authority is entitled to affect these rights where it is in accordance with the law and is both necessary and proportionate to do so, in the interests of public safety, to prevent disorder and crime, to protect health, and to protect the rights and freedoms of others. The proposals within this report are within the scope of such legitimate aims.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

15. As part of the process of making decisions and changing policy, the Council has a duty 'to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not' by thinking about the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not.

16. Disability is a protected characteristic, and the Council therefore has a duty to make reasonable adjustments to proposals to ensure that disabled people are not treated unfairly.

17. The proposals have been considered against the protected characteristics and the conclusion is that there should not be any adverse impact.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment:

- 1) Approves the commencement of a formal consultation on the introduction of a red route restriction to address parking issues associated with car meets at Ratcliffe power station.

Mark Walker
Interim Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Gareth Johnson, Traffic Manager,
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Constitutional Comments (SJE 27/06/2024)

18. This decision falls within the portfolio of the Cabinet Member (Transport & Environment) to whom responsibility for the exercise of the Authority's functions relating to parking provision and to road safety have been delegated.

Financial Comments (GM 27/06/2024)

19. As covered in Paragraph 13, there are no direct financial implications for the Council from this proposal.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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.

- None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Leake and Ruddington

Councillor Reg Adair
Councillor Matt Barney

