

**Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**  
**Report submitted by: Director of Community Services**  
**Date: 23 January 2017**

**Part I**

Electoral Division affected:  
Accrington West

**Introduction of a One Way Traffic Order (South to North) on Wordsworth Road, Accrington, Hyndburn Borough**  
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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**Executive Summary**

This report sets out a proposal to introduce a One Way Traffic Regulation Order along the entire length of Wordsworth Road, Accrington - from South to North - from its junction with the centreline of Fern Gore Avenue to its junction with the centreline of Willows Lane as shown on the attached schedules at Appendix 'A' and location plan at Appendix 'B' and to which an objection has been received.

**Recommendation**

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to approve the making of a Traffic Regulation Order which introduces a One Way Traffic Restriction along the entire length of Wordsworth Road, Accrington.

**Background and Advice**

The county council has received a request from the local residents association to restrict vehicle movements along Wordsworth Road in the form of a one way traffic order running from South to North. There are concerns about congestion and vehicle conflicts along the length of road particularly at school start and end times. The road is relatively narrow at 4.6 metres and is narrowed further by parked vehicles which, due to grassed verges on both sides, park wholly within the carriageway on the majority of occasions.

The proposal is for a one way traffic order from South to North. The provision of the restriction will reduce congestion on the highway and reduce the potential for vehicular conflicts therefore improving overall road safety in the area.

## **Consultations**

### **Informal Consultation**

An informal consultation exercise was undertaken between 16 July and 14 August 2015 through sending 64 letters to local residents, The Fern Gore Residents Association, Mount Carmel Roman Catholic High School, the local County Councillor and District Councillors.

The results of the informal consultation are summarised below:-

3 responses were received with 2 responses in support and 1 objection to the proposal.

### **Objection**

The objection to the proposals at Wordsworth Road listed the following issues;

1. Concerned that this would create a detour for the residents and emergency vehicles that would have to drive around the block to get to their properties/patients.
2. Concerned that the emergency vehicles would lose valuable time driving around the detour which may cost lives.
3. The objector was also concerned that there would be an increase in traffic on the roads that run off Wordsworth Road, e.g. Dunnyshop Avenue which is the road that they would use to access their property.
4. Concerned that the proposed One Way system will not stop vehicles speeding or vehicles being parked on the footway.
5. Suggested we would be better off clamping down on speeding vehicles and stopping vehicles parking on the footways.

### **Response**

Officers considered the comments and have the following responses.

1. The additional distance the resident would be required to drive for the proposed one way system is approximately 345 metres which is deemed reasonable given the benefits the scheme would bring. The many residents who don't have driveways will currently drive in along Wordsworth Road and due to the direction their vehicle is facing, will already drive out via Dunnyshop Avenue or one of the other side streets.
2. The emergency services have been consulted (as part of the formal consultation) and no objections were received.
3. It is felt that the increase in traffic would be minimal and would have very little impact on the residents' journeys.
4. Officers are not aware of any speed related complaints for Wordsworth Road. Whilst one way systems can lead to an increase in speed, Wordsworth Road is narrow, has a 20mph speed limit and has traffic calming in the form of speed humps along its complete length.
5. The enforcement of speeding vehicles is a Police matter, they also have the powers to move vehicles that are parking on footways in an obstructive or inconsiderate manner.

Following consideration of the comments received the proposals were subject to a formal public consultation, with the objection being carried forward and treated as an objection as part of the formal consultation.

### **Formal Consultation**

A formal consultation was carried out between 15 July 2016 and 13 August 2016 for the One Way Order on Wordsworth Road. Notices were posted on site and an advert was placed in the local press. The County Councillor, District Councillors and Lancashire Constabulary were informed. The consultation raised no further objections.

The objection received during the informal consultation to the proposal at Wordsworth Road has been carried forward and included as a formal objection. The officer response to that objection is detailed above.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

The provision of the restriction will reduce congestion on the highway whilst improving overall road safety in the area by reducing the potential for vehicular conflicts.

If the proposals are approved, the works on the highway will be carried out in accordance with the County Council's Health and Safety Policy and Guidelines.

### **Financial**

The cost of the works will be funded from the 2016/17 existing Signs and Lines revenue budget.

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A