

Lancashire County Council

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 20th May, 2014 at 2.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Alyson Barnes (Chair)

County Councillors

C Crompton	D T Smith
R Newman- Thompson	V Taylor
D O'Toole	C Wakeford
M Parkinson	D Watts
N Penney	G Wilkins

1. Apologies

County Councillor E Oades, County Councillor B Winlow.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Interests

There were no interests declared.

3. Proposal to Make Permanent an Experimental One-Way Traffic Regulation Order Rawstone Road, Penwortham Consideration of Objection

The Committee considered the request made by five members of the County Council that the decision made by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport on 12 May 2014 on the proposal to make permanent an experimental one way Traffic Regulation Order on Rawstone Road, Penwortham, be "Called In".

The Committee welcomed County Councillor Michael Green, County Councillor Barrie Yates, Penwortham Town Councillor Joan Burrows, Mr Peter Snook and Mr Sandy Milne (both local residents), who outlined why they felt that the decision should be reconsidered. Concern was expressed about the level of engagement with the local community, and attention was drawn to the fact that, of 135 responses made to the County Council, 114 were objections to the proposal. Staff at the local health practice had also objected. It was felt that the diversion caused by the One Way signs caused significant delays to local people on their

daily car journeys, and that there were no concerns about safety, with no accidents reported on the stretch of road being made one way.

The Committee then invited County Councillor John Fillis, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to speak. He explained that His decision had followed on from a trial period and consultation and that he had considered the objections on a point by point basis. He had considered that, on balance, the benefits to residents on Rawstorne Road and the surrounding streets outweighed any negative impact in the area. He confirmed, however, that he would give full consideration to the views of the committee, should the matter be called in.

The Committee heard from Phil Barrett, Director of Lancashire Highway Services, and Paul Dunne, Public realm Manager. It was made clear that the scheme would not have been prioritised in the council's mainstream plans. However, the council did set aside a small contingency fund for local issues, and it was this fund that was used, following an initial approach from Penwortham Town Council.

The process of making an experimental Traffic Regulation Order was explained, including the opportunities this gave to local residents to provide comments and suggestions about a scheme. This had taken place over an 18 month period. Attention was drawn to the report circulated which provided responses to both objections and comments in support received.

In discussing the matter, the committee noted that the position of the Town Council was neutral on the proposal. The strength of feeling, as demonstrated by the large number of local residents at the meeting, was emphasised. It was also noted that, whilst there had been a large number of objections, analysis indicated that these came from 32 out of the 124 properties written to. It was made clear that the local County Councillor for the decision had played no part in the decision.

Following the debate, it was moved and seconded that the Cabinet Member should not be asked to reconsider his decision made on 12 May 2014 on the proposal to make permanent an experimental one way Traffic Regulation Order on Rawstorne Road, Penwortham.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried, and it was therefore

Resolved: that the Cabinet Member should not be asked to reconsider his decision made on 12 May 2014 on the proposal to make permanent an experimental one way Traffic Regulation Order on Rawstorne Road, Penwortham

4. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

5. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be at 10.30 on Friday 13 June at County Hall, Preston.

I M Fisher
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston