

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 9 July 2020

Report of the Head of Service - Highways

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Morecambe North;

**Lancashire County Council (Bye-Pass Road, Bolton-Le-Sands, Lancaster City)
(Prohibition of Waiting) Order 202***
(Appendices 'A' to 'C' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposal to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for a Prohibition of Waiting which is required for the safe and effective operation of a new access to a retail unit off the A6 Bye-Pass Road, Bolton-Le-Sands. The restriction will protect the sight lines and road widths for vehicles entering and leaving the site.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the making of a Traffic Regulation Order introducing a Prohibition of Waiting on Bye-Pass Road, Bolton-Le-Sands as detailed within this report and as set out in the Schedule and Plan attached at Appendices 'A' to 'C'.

Background and Advice

Following a successful planning application to build a new retail outlet on land off A6 Bye-Pass Road, Bolton-Le-Sands, Carnforth, a new access point has been formed to a limited amount of shoppers parking and an area to service the unit. It has been identified that a length of no waiting at any time (Double Yellow Lines) parking restriction will be required to ensure the safe operation of the access point in order to provide sufficient sightlines and to preserve the road widths. The proposed order seeks to address this.

Consultations

Formal consultation was carried out between 3 March 2020 and 31 March 2020. This was advertised in the local press and notices were displayed on site. Divisional councillors were consulted along with the council's usual consultees and the consultation documents posted on the council's website.

During the consultation period an objection was received from a resident of the area along with comments from Lancashire Constabulary that support the proposal.

Objection

The local resident welcomed the waiting restrictions but is concerned that the proposal only restricts parking on the northwest side of the road that will serve the new development but fails to deal with the problems that local residents presently encounter when trying to leave their driveways.

The concerns are that during business hours, including Saturdays, sightlines are restricted by parked vehicles, including cars and vans, on the South east side of Bye-Pass Road. The parking reduces the sightlines and pushes southbound traffic to the centre of the road. This makes leaving the objector's drive difficult either south towards Morecambe or more specifically north towards Carnforth.

The objector is concerned that once the development is completed this will increase the amount of vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the area and that traffic exiting the new access will add to the difficulties for residents leaving their properties. The objector asks that restrictions are introduced in an equal manner on the southeast side of Bye-pass Road as this will improve road safety without significantly impacting on local businesses.

Police Comments

The Police have confirmed that they support the current proposal, however have advised that this location is a source of problems related to parking usually associated with the annual Bolton-Le-Sands Village Bonfire Night when hundreds of visitors descend upon the village to watch the display, park on the A6 Bye-Pass Road and often park too close to the existing pedestrian refuge making it difficult or impossible for large vehicles and buses to pass.

The Police asked if the council would consider also introducing a short length of double yellow lines on the southeast side of the road, to prevent parking adjacent or close to the pedestrian refuge.

Engineer's Response

There are no records of relevant highway problems in the area of the development or records of injury accidents in the immediate vicinity. Officers do not consider that the particular characteristics of this road would warrant further parking restrictions at this time.

The police note a problem on only one night per year. The use of a Traffic Regulation Order that would prohibit parking year round would be disproportionate to deal with such a situation. It would be more appropriate to address such a situation with either a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order or through the restrictions introduced pursuant to powers contained within the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for the annual event.

As with all new waiting restrictions the situation will be monitored and should there be new problems that arise either from the introduction of the new restriction or the development then the road will be reassessed. If it is found that there are problems then these will be fully investigated and new restrictions proposed as necessary.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Financial

The costs of the Traffic Regulation Order along with the necessary road markings will be funded by the developer of the new retail site. The costs will all be included in the cost of the Section 278 works.

Risk management

Road safety may be compromised should the proposed restrictions not be approved.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		