

Report to Director of Highways, Transport and Planning

Date: May 2021

London Road Pyecombe - Proposed Parking Traffic Regulation Order

Report by Director of Highways, Transport and Planning and Head of Highways Operations

Electoral division: Hurstpierpoint & Bolney

Summary

The proposal relates to a request from Pyecombe Parish Council and residents requesting parking restrictions on London Road and neighbouring smaller roads in the vicinity of the fuel station.

The proposal was approved by the Central and South Mid Sussex County Local Committee (June 2018) for delivery in the 2020/21 Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) works programme. Delay to progression of the TRO was because of the Covid19 virus restrictions during 2020/21.

Obstructive and inconsiderate parking on the bend, close to junctions and pedestrian crossing point negatively affect general safe use of this area. Pyecombe Parish have made contact raising concerns about HGVs mainly obstructing visibility on the bend, general parking on footways leading to the local bus stop and a lack of give and take opportunities contributing to traffic flows and highway damage. The introduction of parking restrictions on junctions, the bend and narrow sections of neighbouring roads will encourage safe pedestrian and traffic use in the area.

Following the Statutory Public Consultation, between 4 February and 4 March 2021, there were 2 objections received, along with 4 expression of support. The objections are included in Appendix B to this report.

Recommendations

That the Director of Highways, Transport and Planning authorises the Director of Law and Assurance to make the Order as advertised.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 London Road runs parallel to the A23, serving the fuel station and Plough Inn Public House as well as the neighbouring community and linking with the A273. Due to the convenience of this location, HGVs, coaches, trailers and car sharing groups park along the road for hours and sometimes days or weeks and it is utilised as a lorry park.

- 1.2 Larger vehicles, mobile homes and trailers that park over long periods in London Road, create pinch points when other oncoming large vehicles attempt to pass and repass. With no available gaps and by avoiding damage to parked vehicles large vehicles end up routinely mounting kerbs and verges. Critically HGVs also park on the bend to gain the shortest walking distance to the fuel station amenities, obstructing forward sightlines and damaging the highway asset.
- 1.3 The Central and South Mid Sussex County Local Committee (CLC) selected this scheme (June 2018) within its list of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) priority measures to address the problems identified at this location.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 It is proposed to introduce double yellow line waiting restrictions in and around the junctions and bend, reinforcing The Highway Code rule 243. A long section of London Road will be provided with give-take opportunities by way of regular restricted intervals to improve flows and avoid highway damage. This will include protecting the footway leading to the bus stop. This scheme is designed to discourage drivers from parking in and on unsuitable locations. Mid Sussex District Council Parking Team will be responsible for enforcement in the event, those who contravene the waiting restrictions.
- 2.2 The restrictions proposed included lengths of road that were the subject of the proposed Order, as shown on plans [TQ2812NES](#) (PDF, 516KB), [TQ2912NWS](#) (PDF, 686KB) and [TQ2912SWN](#) (PDF, 689KB). The original advertised plans are shown in Appendix A.

3 Other options considered

- 3.1 The other option considered is to do nothing at the present time. However, Pyecombe Parish and the local community have expressed long term concerns regarding continual obstructive parking and damage to the public highway, indicating that the proposal has wider safety and community benefits.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

- 4.1 An extended 28 day statutory consultation period took place from 4 February 2020 to 4 March 2020 due to Coronavirus restrictions. Between this period copies of the drawings and statements of reasons were placed on the County Council website and a Notice was placed in the County Times newspaper. Notices were also posted to residents by Pyecombe Parish and placed on site subject to the proposal.
- 4.2 The local member Cllr. Joy Dennis was consulted and expressed her support for the scheme.
- 4.3 Sussex Police, the County Council Parking Strategy Team and Mid Sussex District Council were consulted and expressed no objection to the proposals.
- 4.4 Following the Statutory Public Consultation between 4 February 2020 to 4 March 2020, 2 objections were received, along with 4 expressions of support. The objections are included in [Appendix B](#) (PDF, 48KB) to this report.

5 Finance

- 5.1 The estimated cost for installation of this scheme is £600. This will be managed within the £50,000 capital funding for Traffic Regulation Orders in the Highways and Transport Delivery Programme 2020/21. Future maintenance will be met Parking Strategy revenue budget.
- 5.2 The proposal has been assessed against the TRO scoring system and demonstrated it offers good value.
- 5.3 The proposal will be processed within existing staff resources. Future maintenance costs are not expected for at least 10 years as and when the lining needs to be refurbished.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Should the TRO be made, the risk to the County Council is that vehicle drivers will need to find alternative parking provision and may migrate further into other areas and into neighbouring roads.	Some local roads may experience a small amount of parking displacement. The scheme is designed to encourage safer parking, any contravention of these restrictions will be supported with enforcement from Mid Sussex District Council Parking Team.
Due to obstructive parking behaviours affecting junctions and bends, should the proposed TRO not be made the risk to the County Council is that parked vehicles will continue to obstruct access and damage the public highway for safe public use.	To install the restrictions as planned.

7 Policy alignment and compliance

- 7.1 Waiting prohibitions are subject to civil enforcement; it is not considered that the modest increase in their extent proposed will introduce any significant legal implications for the County Council.
- 7.2 It is considered that the proposal does not raise issues under the Crime and Disorder Act. Sussex Police has been consulted and raised no concerns in this respect.
- 7.3 One respondent during the consultation raised concerns that the proposed restrictions were unnecessary as parking was needed in the area. It was clear that some negative parking was causing highway damage and creating an unsafe environment for the public, hence restrictions are proposed.
- 7.4 Another respondent raised concerns regarding displacement and the necessity of including an HGV ban in Pyecombe Street. However, an HGV ban was not originally requested as parking was the main concern. Further to this, an HGV ban would have still permitted genuine HGV access, therefore would not have

addressed the point raised by the respondent that HGV were unsuccessfully turning around in Pyecombe Street.

- 7.5 It is considered that any remaining effect of this proposal on those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act is minor in nature and is justified by the need to preserve safety and access in the area through which the affected roads run, particularly in the event of an emergency.
- 7.6 There are no human rights, climate change or public health implications associated with this proposal.
- 7.7 There is social value to this scheme, which complies with the Council's policy of providing a Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place, as it seeks to address an issue that has safety implications for all residents of the affected roads.

Matt Davey

Director of Highways, Transport and Planning

Michele Hulme

Head of Highway Operations

Contact Officer: Nick De Sousa, Assistant Highway Manager, Tel: 0333 022 26366

Appendices

Appendix A – Plans showing the existing and advertised restrictions ([TQ2812NES](#) (PDF, 516KB), [TQ2912NWS](#) (PDF, 686KB) and [TQ2912SWN](#) (PDF, 689KB))

[Appendix B – Summary of comments and objections](#)

Background papers

None