

Report to Councillor Joy Dennis, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

November 2021

Haywards Heath – Wealden Way and Lucastes Lane - Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders

Report by Matt Davey, Director of Highways, Transport & Planning

Electoral Division: Cuckfield & Lucastes

Summary

At its meeting of the 29 November 2016, the then Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee (CLC) was presented a report on Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) prioritisation.

Proposals for Wealden Way, Climping Close and Lucastes Lane were considered and approved at that meeting for inclusion in the works programme. Subsequently these roads fell within an area which was the subject of a wider ranging review of parking within the Haywards Heath area and postponed pending its outcome. Subsequently the decision was taken not to progress the wider scheme and the proposals were therefore resurrected

During the formal consultation stage, 46 objections were received, together with 1 individual letter of support and 1 letter of qualified support.

The comments made by the residents were reviewed by the Local Member for Cuckfield and Lucastes (Cllr Bradbury). Given the overall lack of support for the proposals, Cllr Bradbury has agreed that the programme should not proceed and additional consideration should be given once further work has been done on local parking strategy, when local residents' views will be taken into account.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, having considered that the concerns raised by the objectors outweigh the possible benefits to the community, agrees that the proposed Traffic Regulation Order should be withdrawn.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 At its meeting of the 29 November 2016, the then Central Mid Sussex County Local Committee (CLC) was presented a report on traffic regulation order prioritisation.
- 1.2 Proposals for Wealden Way, Climping Close and Lucastes Lane were considered and approved at that meeting for inclusion in the works programme. Subsequently these roads fell within an area which was the subject of a wider ranging review of parking within the Haywards Heath area and postponed pending its outcome. Subsequently the decision was taken not to progress the wider scheme and the proposals were therefore resurrected.
- 1.3 All roads described in the proposed Traffic Regulation Order are residential in character, on the periphery of the town centre where the roads are subject to parking restrictions. Consequently, the roads are subject to high levels of on-street commuter parking.
- 1.4 The County Council had received representations from local people about the congested on street parking, which restricts visibility at road junctions and inhibits the passage of through traffic. It was proposed to introduce a suite of parking restrictions at strategic locations in order to better manage the on-street parking.
- 1.5 The proposals would have introduced a prohibition of waiting at all times at strategic locations and a prohibition of waiting, Monday to Friday; 9am – 10am; 1pm -2pm on various lengths of road in the following locations:

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 The proposals would have introduced a prohibition of waiting at all times at strategic locations and a prohibition of waiting, Monday to Friday; 9am – 10am; 1pm -2pm on various lengths of road in the following locations:

Wealden Way
Climping Close
Lucastes Lane

- 2.2 The lengths of road which were the subject of the proposed Order are shown in Appendix A to the report with the following drawing numbers:

- TQ3223nen
- TQ3223nes
- TQ3223sen
- TQ3224nws
- TQ3224swn

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 The proposal related to the introduction of new parking restrictions, requiring the introduction of a TRO as the only legal mechanism for delivering enforceable parking restrictions. Consequently, there are no other options that would deliver the desired outcome.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

- 4.1 **Members** - At the design stage, the Member for Cuckfield & Lucastes (Cllr Pete Bradbury) was consulted, and supported the proposals as outlined, approved the wider consultation and public advertisement.
- 4.2 **External** - Sussex Police were consulted and raised no objection.
- 4.3 **Public** –The four week formal consultation period for the traffic regulation orders to support the scheme ran between 15 July 2021 and 12 August 2021. This included the Police, Mid Sussex District Council, Haywards Heath Town Council and motoring organisations. During this consultation period, notices were erected on site; copies of the notice sent to frontagers immediately abutting the proposals; the advertisement placed in the local press and on the County Council’s website. Due to current social distancing requirements during the COVID-19 restrictions, paper copies of documents were not made available in council offices or libraries. People without access to a computer who wished to view of the scheme details were advised to telephone the West Sussex County Council to receive the documents by post.
- 4.4 During the consultation period 46 objections were received to the proposals together with one letter of support and one letter of qualified support.
- 4.5 The comments made by the residents were reviewed by the Member for Cuckfield and Lucastes. Given the overall lack of support for the proposals, Cllr Bradbury has agreed that the programme should not proceed, and additional consideration should be given once further work has been undertaken on the local parking strategy, when local residents’ views will be taken into account.

5 Finance

There are no financial implications as the proposed scheme is to be withdrawn.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

| Risk | Mitigating Action (in place or planned) |
|---|---|
| Should the proposed TRO be made the risk to the County Council is that parked vehicles will create problems in other roads in the locality. | The proposal is to be withdrawn |
| Should the proposed TRO not be made, the risk to the County Council is that the concerns raised by the local community through its CLC and local member will not have been addressed. | Following public advertisement, the level of objection is such that there is little demonstrable support for the proposal and the risk is therefore assessed as low |

7 Policy alignment and compliance

- 7.1 There are no issues under the Crime and Disorder Act as the proposals are to be withdrawn.
- 7.2 There are no human rights, climate change or public health implications associated with this proposal as the status quo is preserved.
- 7.3 The social value to this scheme, is preserved as public consultation has determined that there is little local support for the proposals as advertised and therefore they should be withdrawn

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Appendices

Appendices A1 to A5 – Plan showing the existing and advertised restrictions

Background papers

None