

Report to Director of Highways Transport and Planning

February 2022

Horsham - Needles Close - Proposed Waiting Restrictions

Report by Head of Local Highway Operations

Electoral Division: Horsham Riverside

Summary

On the 10 December 2020, the North Horsham County Local Committee (CLC) approved, under Urgent Action, recommendations for traffic regulation order prioritisation. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure reviewed all outstanding requests and authorised additional resources to allow proposals for Needles Close to be included in the 2021/22 TRO works programme. The proposals were advertised between 23 September 2021 and 21 October 2021 and 2 objections were received which have been summarised and responded to in [Appendix B](#) (PDF,56KB) to this report.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Director of Highways Transport and Planning, having considered the objections to the proposals, authorises the making of the Traffic Regulation Order as advertised and for the restrictions to be implemented.
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Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 On the 10 December 2020, the North Horsham County Local Committee (CLC) approved under Urgent Action recommendations for traffic regulation order prioritisation. Proposals for Needles Close were considered but did not achieve a high enough priority for inclusion in the works programme. Subsequently the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure reviewed all outstanding requests and authorised additional resources to allow proposals for Needles Close to be included in the 2021/22 TRO works programme.
- 1.2 Needles Close is a residential cul-de-sac located at, but not within, the perimeter of the Horsham Controlled Parking Zone.
- 1.3 The County Council has received representations from local residents that consider that parking problems that occur in Needles Close causes access problems. When cars are parked, only single file traffic can pass. Local opinion

is that the road is not wide enough for parking and as a result, vehicles such as refuse lorries have to drive on the grass verge causing damage.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 The on-street parking causes localised obstruction and access difficulties. To alleviate the problem, it is proposed to introduce a traffic regulation order (TRO) to prohibit parking on both sides of the road on the north/ south section of Needles Close and opposite where vehicles currently park on the east /west section of Needles Close. The introduction of the TRO will better manage parking at this junction and address the problem of obstructive parking. Any displaced parking will be able to redistribute in the adjacent roads.
- 2.2 The lengths of road which are the subject of the proposed Order is shown in [Appendix A](#) (PDF,974KB) to the report with the following drawing number: tq1630ses

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 The proposal relates to the introduction of new parking restrictions, requiring the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order (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 then local member for Horsham Riverside was consulted; supported the proposals and 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 23 September 2021 and 21 October 2021. This included the Police, Horsham District 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 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 2. objections were received to the proposals which have been summarised in [Appendix B](#) (PDF, 56KB) to this report together with comments from the Director of Highways, Transport & Planning.
- 4.5 The general points raised by the objectors were:
- Concerns about displacement of parking
 - Preventing access to properties.
 - No reasonable alternative for residents to use.
- 4.6 The local County Councillor has confirmed his continued support for the proposals.

5 Finance

- 5.1 The estimated cost for installation of this scheme is £132. This will be managed within the £50,000 capital funding for Traffic Regulation Orders in the Highways and Transport Delivery Programme 2021/22. Future maintenance will be met from the Highways Maintenance budget.
- 5.2 The proposal represents good value as it has been scored in accordance with the STEP scoring system.
- 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 road markings signs need to be replaced.

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 Council will monitor the situation and propose further restrictions if necessary.
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.	To implement the parking restrictions as determined following public advertisement

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 Anyone who holds a disabled persons' Blue Badge would be able to park on the proposed yellow lines for up to three hours, if they do not cause an obstruction to other road users. It is considered that any remaining effect of this proposal on those with protected characteristics under the Disabilities or Equality Acts 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.

- 7.4 There are no human rights, climate change or public health implications associated with this proposal.
- 7.5 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 and improving access requirements for all residents of the affected roads.

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Appendices

[Appendix A – Plan showing the existing and advertised restrictions](#) (PDF, 974KB)

[Appendix B – Summary of comments and objections](#) (PDF, 56KB)

Background papers

None