

Report of the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Culture to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 26 March 2015.

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Subject:

OBJECTIONS RECEIVED TO THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER ON WHEATER ROAD, BRADFORD

Summary statement:

This report considers the objections received to the Traffic Regulation Order recently advertised for a one way system on Wheater Road between Beckside Road and Back Beckside Road, Bradford.

Ward: 11 Great Horton

Mike Cowlam
Strategic Director
Regeneration and Culture

Portfolio:

Housing, Planning and Transport

Report Contact: Andrew Smith
Principal Engineer
Phone: (01274) 434674
E-mail: andrew.smith@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Environment and Waste Management



1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report considers the objections received to the Traffic Regulation Order recently advertised for a one way system on Wheater Road between Beckside Road and Back Beckside Road, Bradford.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting of 27 March 2014 this Area Committee approved, as part of its Safer Roads Schemes programme, the advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order for a one way system on Wheater Road between Beckside Road and Back Beckside Road, Bradford.

2.2 The proposed one way traffic order would allow vehicles to enter Wheater Road from Beckside Road and travel only in a north easterly direction to its junction with Back Beckside Road; prohibiting exiting Wheater Road onto Beckside Road. The scheme was designed to improve road safety and congestion at the junction of Beckside Road with Wheater Road. The proposals are shown on drawing No. R/S/BS/102666/TRO-1A shown in Appendix 1.

2.3 The Traffic Regulation Order was advertised between 9 January and 6 February 2015. Affected residents were notified of the proposals by letter during the advertising period, approximately 800 in total. Five letters and a petition (264 signatures) of objection have been received to the proposals and one other letter of representation regarding another element of the proposed scheme.

2.4 Concerns about the proposals were raised with Ward Members during the advertising period so a Single Issue Neighbourhood Forum was held on 26 January 2015. Leaflets about the Forum were sent to the same properties which had been sent consultation letters, approximately 800. Approximately 50 residents of the local area attended and raised a number of concerns about not being able to exit the area via Wheater Road. The residents were encouraged to write down their concerns and alternative suggestions on forms provided at the meeting. 30 written forms stated an objection to the proposals. A summary of the comments made at the meeting and on the forms is given in Appendix 2.

2.5 A summary of the valid points from the objection letters and petition, and corresponding officer comments is tabulated below:

Objectors concerns	Officer comments
<p><u>Objector 1</u> 1. The proposal will cause a lot of inconvenience for local residents. Roads in the area are busy and during peak times congestion will be caused on alternative routes. They feel the existing problems are caused by parking on Wheater Road near the junction of Beckside Road which could be resolved by the implementation of double yellow lines.</p>	<p>2. Residents would have to travel slightly further if wishing to travel to the north or west. Traffic would be transferred to Spencer Road which may increase congestion at its junction with Beckside Road. Extending the double yellow lines further along Wheater Road would allow traffic to travel more freely into and out of the junction with Beckside Road but it would not remove the conflict point created by</p>

	<p>traffic joining Becksid Road and therefore would not reduce the road injury rate.</p>
<p><u>Objector 2</u> 3. Concerned that the only through routes are Wheater Road and Aberdeen Place and as a result the proposals will increase problems of anti social behaviour, traffic congestion, neighbourhood issues and road injuries. In winter weather it is difficult to negotiate Aberdeen Place. The alternative suggestion of double yellow lines is made.</p>	<p>4. It is agreed that the proposals would increase traffic use of Aberdeen Place, however these streets are traffic calmed which should minimise the road dangers. There have been no road injuries on Aberdeen Place in the last five years and 1 on Wheater Road. All roads can become hazardous in winter weather and drivers need to drive appropriately for the weather conditions. A Traffic Regulation Order for the extension of the double yellow lines on Wheater Road could be considered.</p>
<p><u>Objector 3</u> 5. Traffic volumes are already high on Aberdeen Place. In winter weather it is difficult to negotiate Aberdeen Place. The alternative suggestion of double yellow lines on Wheater Road is made.</p>	<p>6. See Paragraph 4.</p>
<p><u>Objector 4 (Petition 264 signatures)</u> 7. Traffic volumes will increase on Aberdeen Place, Spencer Road, Farnham Road and Becksid Road. This will cause problems and nuisance for the residents especially child pedestrians going to and from local primary schools and places of worship. The alternative suggestion of extending the double yellow lines on Wheater Road to Back Becksid Road is made and implementing a yellow box marking across the full width of Becksid Road to make right turning movements safer. And they would like to see the yellow lines being enforced.</p>	<p>8. It is agreed that traffic volumes would increase on the roads listed, however Aberdeen Place, Spencer Road and Farnham Road are all traffic calmed streets which should minimise the danger to all road users. A Traffic Regulation Order for the extension of the double yellow lines on Wheater Road could be considered. A yellow box marking on Becksid Road could be considered. Enforcement would be undertaken as part of the standard duties of the Councils Wardens.</p>
<p><u>Objector 5</u> 9. Increased congestion outside the corner shop (64 Aberdeen Place) at the junction of Wheater Road with Aberdeen Place, which is already unsafe. Increased congestion at junction of Aberdeen Place with Spencer Road. Crossing Spencer Road will be more difficult. Unsafe for pedestrians during peak times particularly young children attending local amenities. Safety concerns for children attending</p>	<p>10. There have been no road injuries at the junction of Wheater Road and Aberdeen Place. Traffic volumes would increase at this junction. Traffic volumes would increase on some roads in the area; whether or not this would lead to increased congestion and pedestrian safety issues is unknown. Wheater Road, Aberdeen Place, Spencer Road and Farnham Road are traffic calmed streets which should minimise the danger to</p>

<p>Farnham and Grange Primary schools at peak times. Safety concerns for families, elderly people and disabled people using Farnham Childrens Centre and Khidmat Centre. Wheater Road has the Post Office on one side and a chemist on the other, there will be increased congestion on Becksid Road if the proposals go ahead. Problems during adverse weather conditions, particularly on Aberdeen Place. Having only one exit will leave residents worried about traffic queues and delays in time of emergencies and rush hours and if there is an incident there will be no alternative exit route. More fuel costs and time delays for motorists wishing to access Legrams Lane; increasing their carbon footprint. Parking will become an issue on side roads causing disharmony with neighbours. In general the proposal will make the roads in the area more dangerous and difficult for people and traffic.</p>	<p>all road users. There has been 1 road injury on Spencer Road in the last 5 years. There would be increased parking space available in front of the Post Office for customers and deliveries, however if all the parking spaces are full the restricted width of Wheater Road may make deliveries more problematic and be detrimental to congestion on Becksid Road. All roads can become hazardous in winter weather and drivers need to drive appropriately for the weather conditions. Residents may be inconvenienced and have to take slightly longer routes leading to slightly higher costs and time delays but there would be safety benefits in not having to negotiate the Becksid Road junction. If an incident occurred the emergency services would need to manage the situation and make any necessary contingencies. The reduction in yellow lines on Becksid Road would lead to an overall increase in parking space available, therefore the parking situation on side streets would not change. The proposals are designed to remove the conflict between vehicles at the Wheater Road / Becksid Road junction which an entry only traffic flow would achieve at this location.</p>
<p><u>Objector 6</u> 11. This will increase the traffic volume on Becksid Road. No longer being able to join Becksid Road from Wheater Road will add 10 minutes to their morning school run.</p>	<p>12. It is agreed that traffic volumes would increase on Becksid Road. Therefore their journey time is likely to increase.</p>

2.6 In the light of the opposition to the one way system for Wheater Road, some of the alternative suggestions made by objectors have been considered. A box junction could be provided on the Wheater Road side of Becksid Road. Consultation could be undertaken with residents of properties numbered 32 to 38 Becksid Road to determine if they are in agreement to an extension of the box marking across the full width of Becksid Road, however drivers wishing to turn right should not enter the box marking if their exit is not clear so should not use the box marking to join the queue for the Legrams Lane traffic signals. A parking bay and a keep clear marking could be provided as an alternative to make it easier for drivers to turn right. The construction costs and potential statutory undertakers costs for service diversions make it prohibitively expensive to remove the existing planted areas to provide parking bays. The removal of the planted area nearest to Becksid Road and its replacement with a parking bay would only accommodate two vehicles and is estimated to cost in excess of the £15,000 scheme budget. The existing 10

metres of double yellow line on Wheater Road from its junction with Beckside Road is only sufficient to enable one vehicle to turn in from Beckside Road if meeting a vehicle trying to exit at the same time. There is sufficient space between the existing double yellow lines on the Post Office side of the road to accommodate 3 parked cars. A Traffic Regulation Order could be prepared and advertised to extend the double yellow lines over this area or part of it. An alternative lining scheme is shown on the drawing attached as Appendix 3.

- 2.7 The other letter of representation is concerned about the proposed footway buildout adjacent to the newly acquired property at 3 Wheater Road. The new vehicular entrance which has been constructed onto Wheater Road from this land would be obstructed by the proposed footway buildout.

Officer comment: This entrance did not exist when the proposals were drawn up. In the event of the proposals going ahead the plan would be redrawn to accommodate access to this land.

- 2.8 Initial scheme consultation suggested that the parking bays near the shops and businesses on Beckside Road should be 30 minute limited waiting to accommodate a turn over of parking space for the businesses. It was also suggested that a daytime loading ban be introduced at the junction where the existing double yellow lines are. These suggestions are incorporated in the drawing in Appendix 3.

3.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Local ward members and the emergency services have been consulted. The comments received have been considered in the development of the proposals.

4.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The cost of the proposals will be met from the Safer Roads Budget. An original allocation of £15,000 has been made. The recommended revised scheme could be achieved within this budget. Any residual funding will be reported back to the Area committee in autumn 2015 as part of the overall 2014/15 programme review.

5.0 RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no significant risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations.

6.0 LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The options contained in this report are within the Councils powers as Highway Authority and Traffic Regulation Authority.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Due regard has been given to Section 149 of the Equality Act when determining the proposals in this report.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There is no impact on the Council's own and the wider District's carbon footprint and emissions from other greenhouse gasses arising from this report.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The restricted traffic movements proposed would reduce conflict on the road and improve road safety.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None

7.6 TRADE UNION

None

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Great Horton Ward Members have been consulted on the proposal.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the scheme supports priorities within the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan.

8.0 NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None

9.0 OPTIONS

9.1 That the Traffic Regulation Order for a one way system be implemented as advertised.

9.2 That the Traffic Regulation Order for a one way system be abandoned.

9.3 That the yellow box marking and keep clear marking at the junction shown on Drawing No. TDG/THS/102666/CON-3A in Appendix 3 be implemented.

9.4 That a Traffic Regulation Order for additional double yellow lines, 30 minute limited waiting and loading restrictions also shown on Drawing No. TDG/THS/102666/CON-3A in Appendix 3 is advertised and any resultant objections are considered by this Area Committee or in the event of there being no objections that the waiting and loading restrictions be implemented as advertised.

9.5 Members may propose an alternative course of action; in which case they will receive appropriate guidance from officers.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

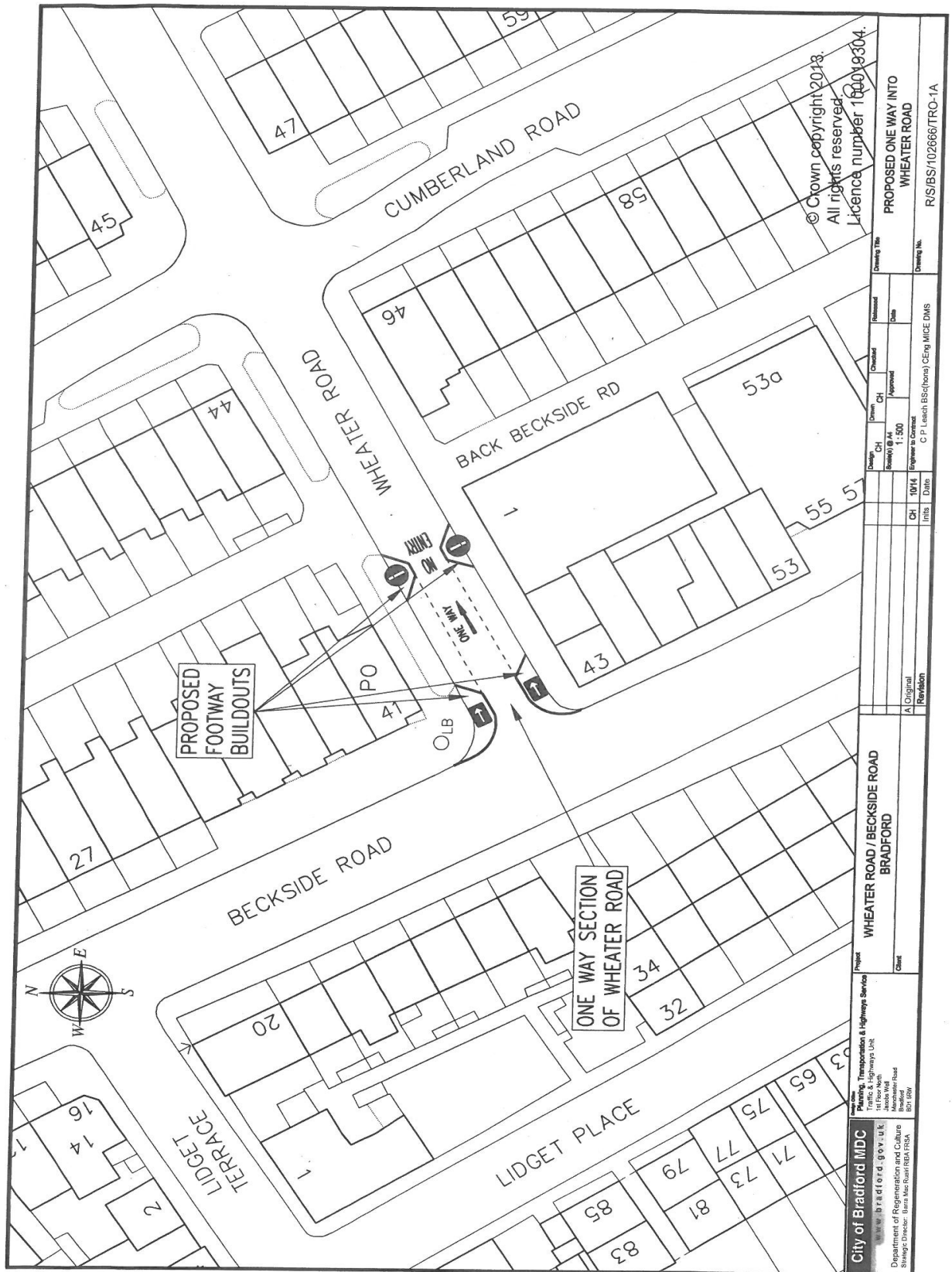
- 10.1 That the objections are upheld and that the Traffic Regulation Order for the one way on Wheater Road is abandoned.
- 10.2 That the yellow box marking and keep clear marking at the junction shown on Drawing No. TDG/THS/102666/CON-3A, attached as Appendix 3, be implemented.
- 10.3 That a Traffic Regulation Order for additional double yellow lines, 30 minute limited waiting and loading restrictions shown on Drawing No. TDG/THS/102666/CON-3A, attached as Appendix 3, is advertised and any resultant objections are considered by this Area Committee or in the event of there being no objections that the waiting and loading restrictions be implemented as advertised.
- 10.4 That the objectors be informed accordingly.

11.0 APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Drawing No. R/S/BS/102666/TRO-1A.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 – Summary of Single Issue Neighbourhood Forum 26/1/15.
- 11.3 Appendix 3 – Drawing No. TDG/THS/102666/CON-3A.

12.0 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council File Ref: TDG/THS/102666.



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SINGLE ISSUE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM 26-1-15

A single issue Neighbourhood Forum regarding the proposals for this junction was held on Monday 26 January 2015. Approximately 50 residents of the local area attended the meeting. The residents raised a number of concerns about not being able to exit the area via Wheater Road and made some alternative suggestions.

Concerns:

All of the traffic will have to exit via Spencer Road which will become more congested
Emergency vehicle access will be restricted
Local residents will be inconvenienced
Aberdeen Place is difficult to negotiate in winter ice/snow
Child safety concerns with increased traffic on Aberdeen Place and Spencer Road which is main access route for pedestrians to 2 schools and local community centre and play area
The one way being abused
Property number 3 Wheater Road is being redeveloped and if it is a car park with access from Wheater Road this will increase non local traffic through the area

Alternatives:

Remove grassed areas on Wheater Road to make parking areas
Double yellow lines further into Wheater Road with enforcement
Open an alternative exit route onto Legrams Lane
Box junction marking on Becksides Road
Access only Order
Traffic lights
Create cul de sacs of each road off Legrams Lane
Left turn only from Wheater Road

The residents were encouraged to write down their comments and hand them in at the meeting. 32 forms were handed in, the specific objections to the scheme were:

3 mentioned hazardous winter driving on Aberdeen Place
2 mentioned increased traffic on Aberdeen Place
1 stated increased congestion at the Spencer Road/Becksides Road roundabout
1 stated 3 schools are accessed from Spencer Road which will cause additional congestion
1 concerned about Sunday Market traffic to Cannon Mills
1 estimated the area has up to 700 cars and if they all have to use Spencer Road/Becksides Road these too will be more dangerous
1 stated proposal would create more traffic on inner roads of the area

Written suggestions:

Double yellow lines on Wheater Road to Back Becksides Road (3 forms)
Double yellow lines on Wheater Road to Cumberland Road
Yellow lines extended on Becksides Road to improve visibility

APPENDIX 2

One form suggested the one way would be ok if an alternative exit was made from Aberdeen Place to Legrams Lane

One form was in favour but asked how would the volume of traffic be handled

4 forms stated opposition to the one way and stated preference for double yellow lines

20 forms just stated opposition to the one way proposal.

