

Report of the Strategic Director, Place, to the meeting of Bradford West Area Committee to be held on 20 September 2017

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Subject:

DUCHY AVENUE, BRADFORD – REQUEST FOR A ROAD CLOSURE

Summary statement:

This report considers the results of a survey, carried out with local residents, to determine if there is support for a road closure on Duchy Avenue.

Ward 12 Heaton

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Portfolio:

Regeneration, Planning & Transport

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Environment & Waste Management

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report considers the results of a survey, carried out with local residents, to determine if there is support for a road closure on Duchy Avenue.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Duchy Avenue was originally included in the (wider) Duchy Drive area scheme but objections were received to the proposal to traffic calm this particular street; the alternative measures of either a closure or one-way system were requested. As a result a questionnaire was circulated to the residents of the surrounding area to determine an agreed scheme. Traffic Calming received the most votes but the cumulative votes for other measures were higher. The results were reported to the meeting of this Area Committee on 20 March 2013 where it was resolved "that a further consultation with residents of Duchy Avenue be undertaken to determine whether or not the proposed road humps on Duchy Avenue should be omitted from the scheme". At the time there was an overwhelming vote against traffic calming, therefore it was omitted from the scheme and only the 20mph speed limit was implemented.
- 2.2. Since the decision made in 2013 there have been further complaints about speeding traffic. One recorded collision has also occurred, due to inappropriate driving.
- 2.3. At the meeting on 20 April 2016 this committee approved, as part of its Traffic Management Schemes Programme, a scheme to introduce Traffic Calming on Duchy Avenue. Residents were subsequently consulted by letter drop in July 2016.
- 2.4. On the 5 July 2017 this committee considered a petition from the residents of Duchy Avenue objecting to the proposals to introduce traffic calming and requesting that the road should be closed to through traffic. The committee members were concerned that a closure would transfer the dispersed traffic onto other residential streets in the area. One of the most likely routes being Lynton Drive, which would bring about new problems for these residents and more than likely result in further complaints to the Council. The committee resolved to consult with the residents of Duchy Avenue and the surrounding area before a conclusive decision is made on the closure.
- 2.5. A consultation exercise was carried out between the 27 July and the 18 August 2017. Over 400 letters were distributed, by Council Wardens, to the households highlighted on the plan attached as Appendix 2. 105 questionnaires were returned, 64 indicated that they would not like Duchy Avenue closed and 41 voted for a closure. A breakdown of the survey results is shown in the table attached as Appendix 3.

3.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. Should this committee resolve to close Duchy Avenue a further consultation with the residents would be required to decide on the most appropriate location of the closure. Given the recent consultation exercise results, it is anticipated that this would lead to objections from some dissatisfied residents of Duchy Avenue along with other local road users and residents who could be affected by the displaced traffic.

4.0 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1. A sum of £10000 has been allocated for traffic calming from the Safer Roads budget. The cost of a point closure would be comparable to that of traffic calming at this location.
- 4.2. In the event of it being resolved not to undertake any further action at this location, reallocation of any residual funding would be considered as part of the future overall Safer Roads programme budget.

5.0 RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1. Any measures to restrict vehicular movement on Duchy Avenue would have an adverse impact on other local residential areas.
- 5.2. A proposal to introduce a road closure on Duchy Avenue would meet with a significant level of objection that would result in a high risk of abortive costs associated with processing a Traffic Regulation Order.

6.0 LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1. There are no specific issues arising from this report. The course of action proposed is in general accordance with the Council's power as Highway Authority.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

There are no issues arising from the Council's Equality & Diversity Strategy.

7.2. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant 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 gases arising from this report.

7.4. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

A point closure on Duchy Avenue would be unlikely to lead to a net improvement in road safety as any through traffic would transfer to other local routes.

7.5. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None

7.6. TRADE UNION

None

7.7. WARD IMPLICATIONS

Ward members have been consulted on the advertised proposals.

7.8. AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

None

8.0 NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9.0 OPTIONS

9.1. Members may propose an alternative course of action to that recommended on which they will receive appropriate officer advice.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1. That no further action be taken on the request to introduce a road closure on Duchy Avenue.

10.2. That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

11.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Location plan of the surveyed households.

Appendix 2 – Survey results

12.0 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1. none

Plan showing properties surveyed



Duchy Avenue – Road Closure Questionnaire Results

		RESPONSES		
ROAD NAMES	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES PER STREET	CLOSURE	NO CLOSURE	TOTAL
Duchy Avenue	76	23	12	35
Duchy Crescent	20	3	0	3
Duchy Drive	80	2	16	18
Duchy Grove	14	1	4	5
Duchy Villas	3	0	0	0
Coniston Grove	37	2	5	7
Lynton Avenue	24	0	5	5
Lynton Drive	34	2	2	4
Lynton Grove	4	0	1	1
Lynton Villas	10	0	1	1
Wheatlands Avenue	11	2	1	3
Wheatlands Drive	51	2	10	12
Wheatlands Grove	28	1	4	5
Wheatlands Square	10	3	2	5
Wheatlands Crescent	9	0	0	0
Heights Lane	2	0	0	0
Toller Lane	4	0	0	0
Haslingden Drive	9	0	0	0
Anon		0	1	1
Totals	426	41	64	105