

Report of the Strategic Director, Regeneration to the meeting of Bradford West Area Committee to be held on 28 January 2016

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Subject:

PETITION RELATING TO TRAFFIC MATTERS

Summary statement:

This report considers a petition requesting that the Council introduce various measures to reduce traffic flows and speed and to improve road safety on Altar Drive, Heaton.

Ward 12 Heaton

Mike Cowlam
Strategic Director Regeneration

Portfolio:

Regeneration, Economy & Sustainability

Report Contact: Chris Bedford
Phone: (01274) 437645
E-mail: chris.bedford@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Environment & Waste Management



1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report considers a petition requesting that the Council introduce various measures to reduce traffic flows and speed and to improve road safety on Altar Drive, Heaton.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Petition – Altar Drive, Heaton (27 signatures)

2.1.1. The petitioners are concerned that traffic on Altar Drive is on the increase; vehicles use the road as a rat run and often travel at speed bringing danger to children and residents. They are also concerned that the junctions at either end of Altar Drive are accident hotspots or potential accident hotspots due to parked vehicles blocking sight lines. There are various types of vehicle using Altar Drive and all these add to the congestion throughout the day, as a consequence, getting in / out of driveways is becoming more difficult. The petitioners are also concerned that the poor street lighting increases the risk of potential accidents. The road surface is reported to be uneven and potholed which adds to the risk of potential accidents.

2.1.2. The petitioners have requested the following measures: -

- A closure of Altar Drive at its junction with Heaton Park Drive.
- Speed calming measures restricting traffic speed to 10mph and it should be sign posted. Speed humps are not favoured by the residents. They are not considered appropriate due to the width of the road. Speed cameras could be used as enforcement.
- Improve the road surface and street lighting.
- Gate Altar Drive at both sides and make it a gated community.

2.1.3. Altar Drive is a narrow residential street. All properties have off street parking. On street parking does take place and due to the narrowness of the carriageway parked vehicles often block the footway to allow single file traffic to pass.

Two traffic surveys have been carried out on Altar Drive. The first was undertaken in 2013. The second was more recent in November 2015. The results of the surveys are as follows:

27 June 2013 – 4 July 2013

Direction	Mean speed (mph)	85 th ile speed (mph)*	Maximum Speed recorded (mph)	Average daily traffic flow	Maximum am peak flow (08:15-09:15)	Maximum pm peak flow (15:15-16:15)
North bound	19.2	24.1	37	591	63	79
South bound	19.4	24.5	39			

27 November 2015 – 2 December 2015

Direction	Mean speed (mph)	85 th ile speed (mph)*	Maximum Speed recorded (mph)	Average daily traffic flow	Maximum am peak flow (09:15-10:15)	Maximum pm peak flow (16:30-17:30)
North bound	18.9	23.8	40	570	86	76
South bound	19.4	24.5	39			

*The speed at or below which 85% of vehicles are travelling.

The results show that the mean speeds and 85thile speeds are low and have not changed significantly over the two year period between the surveys. The overall daily traffic flow has reduced, although the morning peak flow has increased slightly. The accident statistics for the most recent 5 year period have also been studied and records show there have been no injury accidents during this time.

- 2.1.4. The petitioners have requested the closure of Altar Drive at its junction with Heaton Park Drive. A turning area could not be incorporated into the closure due to the width of Altar Drive. This would present problems for refuse collections and deliveries as these vehicles would have to reverse some distance to a suitable area to turn round. A closure would also have a knock on effect on residents of Heaton Park Road and Garden Lane. A closure would therefore require the residents of these roads to also agree to such measures.
- 2.1.5. With regard to vehicles parking at the junctions at each end of Altar Drive; it is not usual practice to provide yellow lines in residential areas. This adversely affects the parking needs of residents and their visitors. Due to the processes involved in promoting a Traffic Regulation Order; with the legal requirement to advertise and

invite objections, the implementation of yellow lines would only be successful if all of the residents were in agreement.

2.1.6. With reference to the condition of the road surface, minor repairs on Altar Drive have been carried out and it is currently in a serviceable condition. The list of highways schemes in need of re-surfacing currently consists of around 270 roads throughout the district and with limited budgets only those that are deemed to be of the highest priority will be recommended for a future resurfacing scheme.

2.1.7. Gates would not be considered on a residential street or any other main access route to properties. They would only be considered in the most severe cases where crime or antisocial behaviour takes place and then only on back streets or alley ways.

2.1.8. The criteria for safety cameras are 4No. killed or seriously injured casualties over the most recent 5 year period. Altar Drive does not meet these criteria.

2.1.9. The low traffic speeds and limited potential benefits in terms of casualty reduction means that traffic measures cannot be justified on Altar Drive at the present time.

3.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The local ward members have been consulted and any comments they make will be available at the meeting.

3.2 Garden Lane is a residential street that runs parallel to Altar Drive therefore any restrictions to traffic on Altar Drive would have an impact on Garden Lane.

4.0 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 There are no direct financial or resource implications arising from this report. If members resolve to add this request to the list of potential future schemes, consideration of funding implications will be given when the next scheme programme selection report is presented.

5.0 RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report.

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 Councils power as Highway Authority.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

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

There are no issues arising from the Initial Equality Impact Assessment.

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 gasses arising from this report.

7.4. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no community safety implications of this report.

7.5. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None

7.6. TRADE UNION

None

7.7. WARD IMPLICATIONS

Thornton and Allerton ward members have been consulted on this petition.

7.8. AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

None

8.0 NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9.0 OPTIONS

9.1. That no action be taken on the requests made by the residents of Altar Drive.

9.2. That the request to close Altar Drive be added to the Bradford West Area Committee's list of potential schemes for inclusion in a future Safer Roads Schemes Programme subject to funding being available.

9.3. Members may propose a different course of action to those listed and, in that case, will receive appropriate guidance from officers.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1. That no action be taken on the requests made by the residents of Altar Drive.

10.2. That the petitioners are informed accordingly

11.0 APPENDICES

11.1. Appendix 1 Altar Drive, Heaton – Petition

11.2. Appendix 2 Altar Drive, Heaton – Location Plan

12.0 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1. none

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PETITION

Dear Resident;

Traffic on Altar Drive is on the increase, vehicles use our road as a rat run and often travel at speed from one end to another, bringing danger for children and residents.

As residents, can we improve the situation by asking Bradford Local Authority to install some type of access restriction to act as a safety measure?

Please read our suggestions and add your family details to our petition.
We will aim to collect your form during the week commencing 13th July 2015.

We 'the residents' of **ALTAR DRIVE in HEATON** would like to propose that changes are made which should take into consideration our concerns which are as follows;

- 1- **Speeding on Altar Drive**; this is a concern throughout the day and can also occur through the night, increasing the **risk of serious accidents**.
- 2- **The increase in the flow of traffic** through Altar drive is a significant concern generally which is also used as a short cut during peak hours.
- 3- Altar Drive joins onto Heaton Park Road at one end and Heaton Park Drive at the other. The bend at the end of Altar Drive and Heaton Park Road is considered an **accident hotspot** mainly because of **speeding and the increased traffic flow**.
- 4- The junction at the end of Altar Drive where it joins Heaton Park Drive is also considered a **potential accident hotspot**, in part because of **parking at the junction of Altar Drive and Heaton Park Drive..**
- 5- Altar drive is a **very narrow road** and in addition to the **amount of traffic** the **size of vehicles is also variable**. Minibuses, heavy goods vehicles and PSV buses add to the **congestion throughout daytime hours**.
- 6- As a consequence, **getting in/out of driveways for residents is proving more difficult and unsafe**.
- 7- **Poor street lighting** along Altar Drive increases the **risk of potential accidents**
- 8- **Poor road surface** which is **uneven and full of potholes** also adds to the **risk of potential accidents**.
- 9- Numerous families on Altar Drive have very young children.

Residents would like ACTION NOW to prevent potential accidents/deaths from the increased risks as identified.

Suggestions for change include the following:

- X 1- **A closure of the road** at the end of Altar Drive where it joins Heaton Park Road which should promote access only for residents; or

- 2- A closure of the road at the end of Altar Drive where it joins Heaton Park Drive which should promote access only for residents
- 3- Speed calming measures should also be introduced which should include restricted speed limits to 10mph and should be signposted. However this may be difficult to enforce without speed cameras in situ
- 4- Road/ speed humps are not favoured by the residents which are also not considered appropriate due to the width of the road at Altar Drive.
- 5- Improved road surface and street lighting are also considered essential when considering road safety.
- 6- Any other suitable options proposed by officers of Bradford Council.
- 7- *Bura Jaleed Community from both sides*
Your Support would be greatly appreciated



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City of Bradford MDC www.bradford.gov.uk Department of Regeneration and Culture Strategic Director Mike Cowlam BA (Hons) Town and Country Planning, Dip M, Dip EPP (over 20yrs) Planning, Transportation & Highways Service Traffic & Highways Unit 1st Floor North Manchester Road Bradford BD1 5BV		Design MAG	Drawn MAC	Checked MAC	Released Date	Project ALTAR DRIVE, HEATON PETITION
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