

SALISBURY AND LAVERSTOCK: PIGGY LANE - BYWAY
OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC ORDER

Purpose of Report

1. To consider objections to a Traffic Regulation Order for Piggy Lane and to recommend that the Order be implemented with an amendment to permit motorised two wheeled vehicles.

Background

2. Piggy Lane is situated off the A36 Southampton Road and provides a route from this area of Salisbury through to Laverstock. It is currently obstructed by a mound of earth, which makes it difficult to use this byway on foot and by cyclists, and prevents use by other vehicles. Following a public inquiry to confirm the status of the route there is now pressure to remove the obstruction to make the route more readily useable. It is also proposed to re-surface part of the route and provide street lighting along with the erection of bollards/gate to improve safety along the path (shown in the plan in **Appendix 1**). These proposed works are to encourage alternative modes of transport to be used in accordance with the Salisbury Transport Plan.
3. If the works go ahead without the introduction of an Order to prohibit motor vehicles then the safety of pedestrians and cyclists could be put at risk as the path may be used as a 'rat run' by motor vehicle users. A railway line passes over Piggy Lane and the tunnel under the bridge is long and narrow, the approaches to the bridge are askew thus making visibility very poor for those entering and leaving the 'tunnel'.
4. During a consultation exercise in March 2001, a number of comments were made. The overall view of those commenting was that they have no objection to prohibiting four wheeled motorised vehicles with the exception of access rights for the nursing home, farmer and railtrack. The Order as proposed allows for this access to occur. There were comments that two wheeled motorised vehicles should be permitted as well as bicycles.
5. However it was considered that use by certain type of powered two wheeled vehicles could result in hazards to pedestrians and cyclists and it was considered appropriate to pursue an order that prohibited these vehicles and assess any objections received as a result of the advertisement.

Objections

6. As a result of the advertisement of the proposed restrictions on use of Piggy Lane, 14 letters of objection have been received. Full copies of the objections are available in the **Members' Room** and from the Environmental Services Department prior to the meeting. The objectors and their points of objection are summarised in **Appendix 2**. The comments on the objections are contained in **Appendix 3**. In summary, 11 of the objections relate to use by powered two wheeled vehicles and 3 relate to use by horse drawn vehicles. One objector wishes to see the route remain open to all vehicles.

Consideration

7. It is considered that use by motorised two wheeled vehicles could be permitted, if certain measures are introduced to contain the speeds of these vehicles at critical points, without causing undue hazards to other users. It would be appropriate to permit this use and monitor the operation of the Order. This would cater for 11 of the objections.
8. If gaps wide enough to permit horse drawn carriages were introduced it is considered that other motorised vehicles would be able to use the route and this would certainly be to the detriment of other legitimate users.

Options considered

9. Implement the Order as advertised.
10. Implement the Order with an additional exemption for powered two wheeled vehicles.
11. Implement the Order with additional exemptions for both powered two wheeled vehicles and horse drawn carriages.

Recommendation

12. That :-
 - (i) The Order be implemented as advertised with an additional exemption for powered two wheeled vehicles;
 - (ii) The operation of the Order be monitored; and
 - (iii) The objectors be informed accordingly.

Reason for Recommendation

13. It is considered that the introduction of the Order with the proposed amendment is, on balance, the most appropriate way forward to provide a practical and safe route for the vulnerable road users.

RICHARD J. LANDER

Director of Environmental Services

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

Letters of comment following consultation in March 2001.

Letters of objection following advertisement of proposed TRO changes.

Environmental Impact of the Recommendations contained on this Report:

The changes to the Traffic Regulation Order would encourage the use of other modes of transport besides car use. If successful this would have a positive effect on the environment in terms of a reduction in congestion, air and noise pollution in Salisbury.

