

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND WASTE –
CLLR BRIDGET WAYMAN**

HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND WASTE SERVICE

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REFERENCE: HTW-06-21

AVON TERRACE / ROTHERSTONE, DEVIZES
PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Purpose of Report

1. To:
 - (i) Consider the correspondence received during the formal consultation to the proposed prohibition of motor vehicles and parking restrictions.
 - (ii) Recommend the making of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to implement the parking and waiting restrictions

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The use of consultation to help inform decision making aligns to the Business Plan – Strong Communities. *“We want people in Wiltshire to be encouraged to take responsibility for their well-being, build positive relationships and to get involved, influence and take action on what is best for their own communities - we want residents to succeed to the best of their abilities and feel safe where they live and work”.*

Background

3. The area of Rotherstone and Avon Terrace has been an area of longstanding concern for Devizes Town Council due to the number of vehicles using the road as an alternative route to the A361, and the perceived poor provision for pedestrians in the locality.
4. Following informal discussions with Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police a number of options were developed which would seek to resolve these concerns. These included Traffic Calming; A prohibition of Motor vehicles; One Way Flow. During these discussions, Wiltshire Police advised that it would only be able to support a proposal which minimised any need to proactively enforce a restriction.
5. Based on these discussions, Devizes Town Council undertook initial consultation with residents in September 2017 to ascertain the level of local support for the introduction of a scheme which prohibited the use of motor vehicles, supplemented with a physical feature to aid enforcement. This consultation was initially limited to those residents in the immediate vicinity. This consultation outlined support from 40% of residents, with a further 25% conditionally supporting the proposal.
6. In November 2017, Devizes Town Council submitted its request to the Devizes Community Area Transport Group (CATG) to implement a prohibition of motor vehicle restriction. Due to other priorities within the community the CATG were unable to progress the request until 2019. Due to the time elapsed, the CATG enquired if the Town Council still supported the requested to which the Town Council advised that “Council continues to support the principle that Rotherstone should be closed at one end to all motor vehicles, and that the closure is by the Cemetery”.

7. Prior to the advertisement of the associated TROs, the CATG requested that the Town Council undertake a consultation exercise with residents of the town as a whole. The Town Council completed this exercise by publishing details of the proposal within its town magazine inviting residents to comment. During this exercise the Town Council received 102 responses, with 90 supporting the proposal.

Consultation

8. The formal TROs were advertised between 27 August 2020 and 21 September 2020. During this period 16 responses to the proposal were received. 12 outlined support for the proposal, 3 outlined objections to the proposal, and 1 response passed comment on the proposal without indicating support or objection.
9. A summary of those who commented are set out in **Appendix 1**.
10. Devizes Town Council's Planning meeting on 19 January 2021 resolved to continue to support the proposal.

Main Considerations for the Council

11. Consideration needs to be given to the comments received.
12. A summary of all the comments received and officer comments is included at **Appendix 2**.

Safeguarding Considerations

13. There is no risk to the Council because of these proposals.

Public Health Implications

14. The introduction of the proposal will reduce vehicular traffic utilising Avon Terrace and Rotherstone which may help to encourage sustainable measure of travel. Increases in sustainable travel can lead to improved health through active travel and improvements with air quality through reductions in vehicle emissions.

Corporate Procurement Implications

15. There are none in this scheme.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

16. The introduction of measures which promote sustainable measure of travel can lead to improved health through active travel and improvements with air quality through reductions in vehicle emissions.
17. The removal of traffic from one part of the network is unlikely to remove the need for the journey, and users of the route are likely to utilise other roads within the network. The alternative route follows the A361 which forms part of the county's strategic network and more appropriate for traffic with an onward destination.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

18. There are none in this scheme.

Risk Assessment

19. There is no risk to the Council arising from these proposals.

Financial Implications

20. The proposal is being funded in partnership with Devizes Town Council utilising funding from the authority's Integrated Block allocated to the CATGs. Failure to progress this project may risk the funding being reallocated to other projects.

Legal Implications

21. All changes to waiting and parking restrictions on the highway network require new TROs. The process is governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Associated Procedural Regulations. Failure to adhere to the statutory processes could result in the restrictions being successfully challenged in the High Court

Options Considered

22. To:
- (i) Implement the proposals as advertised.
 - (ii) Not implement the proposals.

Reason for Proposals

23. Following consideration of the correspondence received alongside the officer's comments it is considered appropriate to implement the proposals as advertised. The proposed scheme has been identified within the local community and supported by the locally elected council who have undertaken extensive consultation.

Proposals

24. That:
- (i) The proposals be implemented as advertised.
 - (ii) The objectors be informed accordingly.

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

None