

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, STREET SCENE & FLOODING –
CLLR NICK HOLDER**

HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT & COMMISSIONING

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REFERENCE: HSSF-24-24

**PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF ENTRY
ORDER AT WEDHAMPTON, URCHFONT
PARISH**

Purpose of Report

1. To consider representations made to the advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in relation to a proposed prohibition of entry from Wedhampton High Street to the A342, and to recommend an appropriate way forward.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The proposed TRO meet the following priorities in the Council's Business Plan 2022 to 2032:
 - Theme 1: Empowered People - Help the people of Wiltshire to increase activity levels and improve their health.
 - Theme 2: Resilient Society – Communicate with communities in a way that promotes constructive discussion, tailored to the communities needs and developing better solutions to these. To empower communities and groups to act in their local area. This outcome has been met through the development of the proposals (to which this report relates) with members of the local community through the Devizes Area Board via the Devizes Local Highways & Footways Improvement Group (LHFIG hereafter) which is made up
 - Theme 3: Thriving Economy – Deliver infrastructure to enable local communities to live, work and play locally, businesses to invest and everyone to take responsibility for the environment. Helping to build an efficient and effective transport network, including viable alternatives to the car. This outcome has been met through addressing road safety concerns and encourage active travel.
 - Theme 4: Sustainable Environment - Support decarbonisation of existing transport and increased use of public transport options as well as walking and cycling.

Background

3. Following the establishment of Local Highways and Footway Improvement Groups (LHFIGs) Wiltshire Council has made a commitment to consider community concerns raised and supported by the LHFIGs.
4. A request made by the local community for a safety assessment of the junction on the A342 at Wedhampton with Wedhampton High Street has been considered and prioritized by the Devizes LHFIG. Upon assessment by Highway Engineers, it was considered and acknowledged that vehicle movements to and from the main road was difficult and that visibility upon leaving the High Street is compromised, both by the road layout and trees and hedgerows established on private land.
5. Whilst a full closure of this junction was an option to consider the Parish Council wished to maintain access from the main road into the village, a manoeuvre which carries less risk than exiting the High Street. Therefore, highway officers were content to promote a prohibition of exit onto the A342. This recommendation was considered by the Devizes LHFIG and Urchfont Parish Council, and it was subsequently resolved to prioritise this recommendation. A proposal plan can be found at **Appendix 1**.

Consultation

6. The TRO consultation period ran for four weeks from the 4th July 2024 to 29th July 2024.
7. During the advertisement period one representation was received by email.
8. The respondent states that exiting the High Street onto the A342 is unsafe but as a regular cyclist and horse rider, they continue to use this when weather conditions are more favourable.
9. The respondent has requested that should this order come into force that improvements are made to the bridleway (URCH23) exit at Lydeaway, the only alternative non-motorised exit from the village. The respondent has supplied photographs dated 2021 showing visibility issues from a horse rider's perspective. These photographs are included at **Appendix 3**.
10. The proposal is situated within the Urchfont & Bishops Cannings division. The Wiltshire Council elected member for this area did not offer comments during the statutory consultation period, and nor did Urchfont Parish Council. However, the proposals have been considered by the Devizes LHFIG and Urchfont Parish Council and they have resolved to contribute funding towards this change.

Main Considerations for the Council

11. To consider the representations received during the consultation period. Details of correspondence together with the officer responses to the comments can be found at **Appendix 2**.

Safeguarding Considerations

12. These proposals represent no risk to the Council.

Public Health Implications

13. There are none with this proposal.

Corporate Procurement Implications

14. There are none with this proposal.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

15. The introduction of this prohibition requires the erection of traffic signs. These signs could be considered a visual intrusion to the streetscape. However, given that there are existing signs in the locality, it is not considered that this will impact negatively with the surrounding environment.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

16. There are none with this proposal.

Risk Assessment

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

Financial Implications

17. The proposed alterations will be funded by Devizes LHFIG. Should this scheme not progress the funding would be returned to the LHFIG budget allocation and would be available to be put towards other schemes.

Legal Implications

18. Prohibition of entry requires a TRO. This 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

19. To:
- (i) Implement the proposal as advertised.
 - (ii) Implement the proposal as advertised with amendments.
 - (iii) Undertake a safety review at Lydeaway where the bridleway URCH23 meets the A342
 - (iv) Abandon the proposal.

Reason for Proposals

20. To improve road safety of the junction on the A342 at Wedhampton with Wedhampton High Street following concerns raised by the Devizes LHFIG on behalf of Urchfont Parish Council and the local community.
21. To improve road safety at Lydeaway where the bridleway at URCH23 meets the A342

Proposals

21. That:

- (i) The proposal be implemented as advertised.
- (ii) A safety review be undertaken at Lydeaway where bridleway URCH23 meets the A342
- (iii) All stakeholders be advised of recommendations.

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

None