

## Appendix 3 – Comments and Officer Response

### Appendix 3 - Comments and Officer Response

#### Location: Smallbrook Road, Warminster: - Comments of Support

Ref.	Comments of support received:	Officer Response:
1	<p>I support the road closure at Smallbrook Road - Warminster for the Toad season. I think it is very important to look after our wildlife and so many loose their lives crossing that road.</p> <p>There are other routes to use if the road is closed so it should be a very easy decision to make.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
2	<p>Wiltshire council has a duty to protect nature during its role as council, and as such should be actively looking to benefit nature as compensation for that lost to the thousands of new houses being built across the town.</p> <p>So far it has failed to protect or manage the ecology buffer promised at Boreham Mead development allowing encroachment into this zone breaching the conditions of the planning application, and allowing construction within 8m of the river wylve, which is not permitted, and adding to the pressure on the protected SSSI river.</p> <p>To make matters worse both the development of the Boreham mead site and the developments at Victoria rd, bath rd, Grovelands etc have allowed regular runoff pollution from these developments creating regular brown rivers filled with site material, these events often last days or weeks and prevent otters, kingfishers and other aquatic life from hunting and surviving and in addition has gone on to create large silt deposits, along the river system increasing the flood risk to everyone and costing land owners down stream a lot to deal with the issues of removing silt or managing flooding it causes.</p> <p>Smallbrook road is effected by this issue regularly flooding due to the lack of capacity in the system, so rectifying all the damage would be the best solution but in the absence of doing this, closing a road that isn't a required route for anyone for a short period of time as compensation for all the death and destruction of wildlife across the town and county is a small request easy</p> <p>To apply, effecting minimum people and compensating for a lot of the death created across the other areas, isn't this what CIL contributions should be covering as currently the entire 84 hectares of Victoria rd is fenced to 6 feet tall preventing all wildlife bigger than the fence gaps from crossing leaving no access for walkers or wildlife, why considering work is not</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>Your comments regarding other planning applications in the town are not within the scope of these proposals. Please see <a href="#">Planning and building control - Wiltshire Council</a> for further details.</p>

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	underway in most of the site which will eventually be open access for wildlife ?	
3	<p>Earlier this year I started volunteering with my 10 year old son with Warminster's toad patrol team. He has a keen interest in wildlife &amp; is passionate about helping the little creatures. We've patrolled along smallbrook meadow on many evenings, helping as many amphibians as we can to get off the road safely, but are always deeply shocked &amp; saddened to see how many get squashed by passing cars. The drivers are oblivious to what they've done as the toads/ newts/ frogs are often so small that you wouldn't see them.</p> <p>Cars are basically being allowed to drive through the middle of a nature reserve &amp; the most frustrating thing is that most of these car journeys are totally unnecessary! Apart from a few vehicles who need access to Hunters moon or The Lodge, the rest are using it as a rat run to shave off a minute or 2 from driving through the town. Often driving at speed, they make it very dangerous for those patrolling &amp; my son is always understandably very anxious about this.</p> <p>As a bare minimum I am asking for the road to be closed during the breeding season, to give the amphibians a chance at recovering their ever dwindling numbers. I am also asking for the road to be permanently closed (accept for access) for the rest of the year to stop hundreds of amphibians being run over every week. These creatures are a crucial part of our ecosystem &amp; need us to protect them.</p> <p>Smallbrook &amp; Henfords Marsh are also a beautiful area of our town and people should be able to able to walk &amp; cycle around freely, enjoying the countryside, without the constant threat of motor vehicles.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this. My son, all the little creatures &amp; I hope that the council makes the right decision.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>The restrictions will not be permanent because a compromise needs to be met between motorists and the toad crossing patrol. Wiltshire Council has taken the advice of the toad crossing patrol, who state the migratory behaviour of the toads means they are more likely to be on the roads between the time periods 5pm-5am 1<sup>st</sup> Feb-30<sup>th</sup> April, when conditions are favourable to them.</p> <p>Whilst it is impossible to predict exactly when the toads will begin to migrate, the prohibition of motorists during this time should help enable the toad crossing patrol to operate under safer conditions.</p>
4	<p>I am writing in support of the temporary closure of Smallbrook Road to allow for the protection of toads migrating to their ancestral breeding grounds.</p> <p>Biodiversity loss and species extinction is an alarming reality and we should be doing everything we can to protect the natural world. There are many precedents across the country for road closures to protect migrating toads and is a minor inconvenience for people, but a hugely beneficial action for our local ecology.</p>	Comments of support are noted.

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6	<p>I strongly support the closure of Smallbrook Road during the toads spring migration season. It is heartbreaking that these beautiful creatures are being needlessly killed on a road, which is not a vital route. There is still access to The Lodge and Hunters Moon, just not driving directly through a natural habitat.</p> <p>We will not have such beautiful creatures like toads if we keep putting our selfish needs above theirs. Please, please shut this road!</p>	Comments of support are noted.
7	<p>I wish to express my support for the proposed closure of Smallbrook Road as outlined in the above consultation document. The protection of the migration and breeding routes and areas for toads is an important adjunct to the work undertaken by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust in the maintenance of the Smallbrook Meadows Nature Reserve.</p> <p>I do wonder whether complete enforcement of the closure will be practical but the proposal is an important step in helping to preserve this important species.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
8	<p>I support the proposed closure of Smallbrook Road (Warminster) in order to protect the local Toad population.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
9	<p>I fully support any closure of this road for the safety of our wildlife &amp; already actively avoid the area despite the ongoing roadworks in town affecting my journeys.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
10	<p>I am writing on behalf of Froglife who are a reptile and amphibian conservation charity. We run the Toads on Roads project (<a href="https://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/">https://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/</a> ) which monitors toad crossings all over the country.</p> <p>We would like to officially offer our support for the road closure of Smallbrook Road during the spring migration. Not only will this protect the toads in question, but it may also inspire others to take this step in protecting their local wildlife.</p> <p>A recent study by Froglife and the University of Zurich (using Toads on Roads data: <a href="https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0161943">https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0161943</a> ) established that common toads had declined by a shocking 68% in a 30-year period. We're hoping to reverse this worrying statistic, and it will be thanks to people like yourselves that we can achieve it.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
11	<p>i support the closure as our wildlife needs to be protected from traffic. the road is only used as a rat run when it is just</p>	Comments of support are noted.

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	<p>as quick to go through the town and is often flooded after heavy rain there is a lot of wildlife close by as smallbrook meadows is adjacent to the road so toads, frogs, otters and newts are frequently crossing it during the proposed dates and times is when the toads migrate to their breeding grounds and although the toad patrollers do their best to save them there are many casualties</p>	
12	<p>As Patrol Manager of the Charlcombe Toad Rescue Group, Bath, I am writing on behalf of the Group to strongly support the proposal to close Smallbrook Road, Warminster to traffic during the period of the annual toad migration.</p> <p>As an example, since 2003 we have had an annual road closure of Charlcombe Lane, Bath to through traffic each spring for the amphibian migration. This has proved very successful making it much safer for amphibians (common toads, common frogs and newts) to reach their breeding lake. Much of the migration route at Charlcombe is bordered on one side by high stone walls with very few access points to the lake and it is also a residential road, so it is vital that volunteers are also on hand to move the amphibians to a safe spot as they cross the road. Our road closure means that volunteers feel much safer and more willing to come along on dark wet evenings during the migration period. We currently have 50 volunteers with more on the waiting list.</p> <p>I can't emphasise enough how important our road closure has been to the survival of the amphibian population at Charlcombe over the past 22 years. Prior to 2003 most of the migrating amphibians were killed by traffic whereas our monitoring since has shown annual casualty rates on average to be below 6% and our populations have remained stable in contrast to toad patrols in other parts of the country who report declining numbers. It is estimated that 20 tonnes of toads are killed on roads each year. With research published by Froglife showing a 68% decline in populations of common toads over the past 30 years, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimating that 41% of amphibians (including frogs and toads) are at risk of extinction, it is vital that we do everything we can to halt the decline. Temporary road closures where migration routes cross busy roads are a major way of achieving this.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
13	<p>All amphibians are endangered so we need to protect the ones left. This road is the site of the</p>	Comments of support are noted.

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	<p>toad, frog and newt migration every year and is only a cut through for vehicles so not necessary to get through town. Every year 1000's of toads, frogs and newts get killed on this road so it is imperative to stop this and protect the species.</p>	
14	<p>I support the proposal to close Smallbrook Road</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
15	<p>I'm emailing to show my support for closing the Smallbrook road for the toad breeding. Reference - LJB/TRO/WARMpmv</p> <p>They are few and far between places nowadays for the toads due to human structures and roads being built so I feel it's only fair we do our part to allow them to survive a world we have greatly altered for our own benefit.</p> <p>It will cause a slight inconvenience to some I am sure but it is our responsibility to do what we can to help. We only have one planet but we share it with many. It would be nice to know we made a difference to some in a positive way even if it's only small.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
16	<p>I totally support the closure of Smallbrook Road next year for the migration of Toads to their breeding ponds in the Smallbrook Reserve. Every year the population of precious toads are diminishing and we need to do all we can to help them, plus the thousands of newts and frogs which get squashed by cars on this road after dark. It is absolutely devastating to see so many dead amphibians on this road at night, which happens not just at the migration time around February, but at various times of the year too. Closure of this road would also help walkers and cyclists at night, and other wildlife such as otters badgers and deer. It is time we put wildlife before the motorcar. Cars can easily take different routes instead of using Smallbrook Road as a rat run. I 100% support this proposal. Thank you.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
18	<p>I would like to express my strong support for the proposed prohibition of motor vehicles in smallbrook road. I think this intervention would go far in protecting Warminster's dwindling toad population. I have seen at first hand the number of toads killed unintentionally by motor vehicle drivers. I believe that drivers can still reach their destinations whilst the road is restricted to access only.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
19	<p>I fully support the above proposal.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
20	<p>I totally support the closing of Smallbrook Road to aid the saving of toads, frogs, newts and other wildlife that use the stretch of lane to live, pass, and reach breeding grounds. The Toad Patrol</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>

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	<p>spend many hours trying to save lives and put in so much effort in adverse conditions. This could be helped by the closure, and it is not far for vehicles to detour, to help this very important cause.</p>	
21	<p>I am writing with reference to the proposed closure of Smallbrook Road, to allow the frogs and toads to safely return to their breeding ground safely. The numbers that have been killed on that particular road in recent years is absolutely shocking!</p> <p>The reason i feel the closure would be beneficial is threefold:</p> <p>Firstly, as a keystone species toads are fantastic for the environment, being brilliant pest controllers and also warning of likely pollution to the area if they choose not to return.</p> <p>Secondly, other wildlife would also be much safer and it would also benefit their numbers.</p> <p>Thirdly, the closure should be only a minor inconvenience as there are alternative routes, and the area often floods during the spring making it difficult to pass. It would also be much safer for pedestrians and the road patrollers to walk around without fear of motor vehicles.</p> <p>Please find attached 2 further letters in support of the yearly road closures.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
22	<p>The road has to be shut because a lot of baby frogs and toads have died crossing the road. My uncle helps them, when he sees a car he says "stop for the litte frogs". If we don't close the road they might die.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
23	<p>I would like to close the road because I love frogs and I don't like animals getting hurt. The toads and other creatures could breed more safely, the people walking, toad patrollers and cyclists would be much safer if the road was closed. PLEASE HELP THE FROGS.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
24	<p>I support the closure, it is important to protect our environment!</p>	Comments of support are noted.
25	<p>All nature is vital for safeguarding our very existence and the continuation of all species. Smallbrook Road is a small road- almost a lane which can easily be avoided by using better roads in the locality.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
26	<p>Having lived in Henfords Marsh for 27 years (up until Nov 2023) I know the area well and have been on toad patrol along Smallbrook Road for a number of years. It was always distressing</p>	Comments of support are noted.

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	<p>recording the number of deaths, especially pregnant toads and frogs during the mating season. Tragic. As we all know, these species are on decline anyway as national figures have shown. There has been a steady decline in numbers recorded along Smallbrook Road over the last 3 years.</p> <p>I think this is the least we can do to give these creatures a chance, such a simple thing for a relatively short percentage of the year; there are alternative routes available for traffic during the times that the road would be closed.</p> <p>I have always said that the Smallbrook Nature Reserve is a special area of our town, something to be protected, treasured and enjoyed. To loose it would be a crime!</p>	
27	<p>As County Recorder for amphibians and reptiles and Chair of Wiltshire Amphibian and Reptile Group, I fully support actions that will enable the survival of toads and their populations. Toads and other amphibians are impacted by fragmented habitats actions to prevent fragmentation, such as the seasonal closure of roads could make a big difference to the number of toads that survive. It would also mean a safer environment for the dedicated volunteers that help them.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
28	<p>Either side of Smallbrook Road is a nature reserve providing a valuable home sanctuary for toads, newts, frogs and a wide range of other creatures, including otters and deer. Toads in particular are Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and a Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. The toads live in the woodland on one side of the road, but travel annually between February and April to their breeding ponds on the other side - they have done this for as long as there have been toads in Smallbrook, but the road through the middle takes a terrible toll on their numbers, with around half of the toads seen crossing the roads being hit by cars. In the past they might have survived this decimation, but with other pressures on their habitat such as pollution in the River Wylie that runs through the woods, house encroachment on some of their historic habitat and the increasing numbers and speed of cars at night, this has led to their numbers becoming dangerously low, approaching an extinction event.</p> <p>This road is narrow, unlit and winding, only used as a rat run by cars, and at night often by youths in cars just racing around and gathering in Smallbrook car park, where they commit driving offences and anti-social behaviour. However, it's</p>	Comments of support are noted.

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	<p>the toads (and other wildlife) that pay the price for this. Closing the road at night for these few months will protect toads, other wildlife, evening dog walkers and those who live in the area from the impact of these cars. Most importantly, it will allow the toads to survive to reach their breeding ponds, breed and return to the safety of the woods, increasing their numbers year on year.</p> <p>Toad Patrollers who currently carry the toads to safety at the risk of their own lives from speeding cars could instead count toad numbers whilst also monitoring vehicles passing through the area at night and pass the details to the Police, in a scheme similar to that of Community Speedwatch.</p>	
29	<p>This is to support the closure of Smallbrook Road during the main toad/frog breeding season.</p> <p>This road is used as a cut through but only cuts a few minutes off a journey and also is not that suitable for a lot of traffic anyway due to blind corners and pedestrian footfall into Smallbrook Meadow.</p> <p>I have worked with the Toad Patrol in the past and it was very sobering to see the volume and speed of traffic after sunset and the devastation to the toad/frog/newt population.</p> <p>Please consider this short annual closure to ensure populations of these amphibians recover and continue to thrive.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
30	<p>I am writing to support the proposed TRO for Smallbrook Road, Warminster for the following reasons:</p> <p>If the TRO is approved, Wiltshire Council will be applauded for positively protecting toads as well as other priority species of wildlife in Smallbrook Meadows Nature Reserve (e.g. beavers, otters and grass snakes which also cross the road).</p> <p>The Council would be fulfilling its Biodiversity Duty and Local Nature Recovery obligations under the Environment Act 2021, as well as supporting the biodiversity goal in Wiltshire's Green &amp; Blue Infrastructure Strategy. For this reason, please could Wiltshire Council Ecology and the Cabinet Member for the Environment be consulted as part of the decision on the TRO?</p> <p>With a TRO in place Smallbrook Road would be safer for the toad patrol volunteers who patrol in the dark, as well as for evening dog walkers and</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>Whilst this report is the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene, and Flooding to approve, it is recognised that this topic also overlaps with environmental biodiversity goals. The <i>Cabinet Member for Waste and Environment has also had the opportunity to informally comment on these proposals, and has indicated support</i></p> <p>An exception to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order is to enable vehicles to be used to access off-street premises. Access to Smallbrook Lane car park (an off-street premises) is to be maintained. Access to any local businesses and farmland affected by the proposals will also be maintained because they are classified as off-street premises.</p>



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cyclists. The TRO would enable the toad patrol to carry on recording the numbers of toads to see if the declining toad, frog and newt population can recover when their spring migration is free of traffic.

As the road would be open from 5am to 5pm, motorists going to work or on the school run (to and from school) would not be inconvenienced, nor would day time visitors going to the Smallbrook Nature Reserve car park. The traffic survey commissioned by Wiltshire Council in November 2023 showed most traffic between 6am and 5pm and under 20 cars an hour after 6pm.

Smallbrook Road is flooded by the river Were in Spring and is frequently impassable to traffic during the period of the proposed TRO.

The toad patrollers have observed and reported drug dealing in Smallbrook car park at night so restricted access 5pm to 5am might help to disrupt this. There is also some speeding at night along the straight section of Smallbrook Road.

Businesses and residents at Henford Marsh would have an alternative route to and from town via Lower or Upper Marsh Road. The distance from Turnpike Cottage to the High Street via Upper Marsh Road is approx. 1453m and via Smallbrook Road it is approx. 1729m via Gipsy Lane and Plants Green.

The current access only restrictions along the northern section of Smallbrook Road and on Chain Lane might be more effective when the TRO is in place as there would be less reason to use these roads providing police enforcement produces enough of a deterrent.

Comments on the TRO documents:

1. Should the Order mention that landowners may access their land to feed animals or maintain their land? There are several landowners who either have horses or who manage their land as nature reserves and need access through field gates along the road.

2. In initial discussions it was thought that Section 22, para 2 of Road Traffic Regulation Act might be used for the TRO as it allows local authorities to take special measures to protect wildlife on roads through or near nature reserves and SSSIs

In response to the comments on the TRO documents itself, it is noted Wiltshire Council's Biodiversity and Local Nature Recovery duties under the Environment Act are benefitted by this proposal, as well as the Nature Reserve which Smallbrook Road crosses. However, it should be noted the main driver of the TRO is the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1994. The proposals will enable the toad crossing patrol to carry out their tasks in a safer manner.

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	<p>(Section 22 (v). <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/27/section/22">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/27/section/22</a>). However, this section is not mentioned in the order.</p> <p>3. The statement of reasons for the order does not mention the Council's Biodiversity and Local Nature Recovery duties under the Environment Act, nor does it mention the Nature Reserve through which the road passes.</p>	
31	I strongly support the closure of Smallbrook Road during toad breeding season, to reduce the mortality of these endangered species.	Comments of support are noted.
32	I fully support the closure of Smallbrook Road to protect the biodiversity of this area and to allow toads to be able to gain safe access to their breeding ponds. I have seen the devastation that cars driving through after dark on wet evenings can cause to our endangered toad population, having been a member of the Toad Patrol in the past. I would support complete closure of Smallbrook Road being used as a through road, as a pedestrian who uses this road frequently cars often speed and use it as a rat run both day and night, making me feel quite unsafe walking here after dark.	Comments of support are noted.
33	<p>I am totally in favour of closing this road for the protection of amphibians.</p> <p>I am a toad patroller and see first hand the carnage that even a single car can cause. It is heartbreaking and unsustainable. The toads innocently like the tarmac surface of the road which hold the day's warmth so linger there on their way to their breeding ponds.</p> <p>The majority of the cars I see on patrol are using it as a 'cut-through' believing it saves them time because they avoid the traffic lights in the centre of town. As a resident of Warminster all my life this is not the case. This road was never meant for this purpose, just simply a back road to a few properties/businesses. The road floods several times a year when there has been heavy rain. No one complains about not being able to use it then.</p> <p>I regularly walk this road in the daytime as well and it is quite dangerous at times for pedestrians. Ideally it should be a no-through road for the safety of pedestrians as well as amphibians.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council has a duty to protect nature. Protect it by agreeing to this order.</p>	Comments of support are noted.

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I fully support the proposed Order for Smallbrook Road, Warminster - Prohibition of Motor Vehicles (except for access). Reference LJB/TRO/WARMpmv. I would also like to suggest addition measures outside its original remit to be considered and hope you can forward them onto the appropriate persons or committee on my behalf.

Since living in Warminster for nearly 60 years, I remember when this road was once a quiet country lane enjoyed by many types of users but has unfortunately now become unbalanced favouring the motorists. As a result it has become an increasingly hazardous stretch road, in this beautiful part of Wiltshire, for reasons other than just a short-cut when the traffic flow through the town high street gets snarly or as a supposedly time-saving rat-run for commercial vehicles or parents taking children to and from school.

This narrow single-carriageway minor road with sharp bends and in a particularly dark unlit wildlife-rich part of the countryside, presents an unacceptable risk to the current users such as walkers, runners, cyclists, equestrians, dog walkers and toad patrollers both day and night by vehicles which often exceed the current limit of 30mph. I feel that this TRO could go further by extending the access only which currently runs from the Boreham Road to the northern end of this proposed TRO.

I believe a recent Highways traffic assessment of Smallbrook Road provides evidence of motorists regularly exceeding the 30 mph limit and I feel it is time to reduce the speed to 20mph and consider other traffic calming measures, which currently is only when two cars meet head-on. This should also be extended to the narrow urban roads of the Higher and Lower Marsh roads to Gypsy Lane and Plants Green where two residential care-homes reside and experience the same amount of heavy traffic and speeding – this would also benefit the safety of the aged, disabled and wheelchair users.

The Department for Transport states that; Important benefits of 20 mph schemes include quality of life and community benefits, and encouragement of healthier and more sustainable transport modes such as walking and cycling. There may also be environmental benefits as, generally, driving more slowly at a steady pace will save fuel and reduce pollution,

Comments of support are noted.

The proposed TRO starts at the junction of Smallbrook Road, Gypsy Lane and Southleigh View, which closely coincides with the existing Prohibition of motor vehicles (except for access) on Chain Lane and the spur of Smallbrook Road leading to Boreham Road. It is not possible to extend the proposed TRO further into the housing estate, because it would deter from the primary purpose of the existing TRO, which covers the narrow roads leading into the estate and discourages drivers to use these roads unless they need to gain access.

Any requests for a 20mph speed limit or for Vehicle Activated Signs needs to be considered by Warminster Town Council and requested through the Warminster LHFIFG. Please see [Local Highway and Footway Improvement Groups - Wiltshire Council](#) for details.

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	<p>unless an unnecessarily low gear is used. Walking and cycling can make a very positive contribution to improving health and tackling obesity, improving accessibility and tackling congestion, and reducing carbon emissions and improving the local environment.</p> <p>It would be useful to install Vehicle Activated Speed Signs to warn drivers of a potential hazard or to remind them of the speed limit in force, when the road is closed from this TRO, when road is flooded (which it has over 5 times this year so far) and that wildlife is at risk, acknowledging it runs through a local nature reserve.</p> <p>I hope you can help redress the imbalance in favour of human safety and wellbeing as well as our environment and the ecosystem services it provides.</p>	
35	Would welcome closure of the road to allow migration of amphibians	Comments of support are noted.
36	I support the temporary closure of Smallbrook Road between 5pm and 5am in order to avoid toads and other amphibians being killed during their migration. Far too many of these innocent creatures are killed every year so that a few people can use the road as a cut through at night. Toads are threatened as a species with ever declining numbers and we should do whatever we can to protect this important part of Warminster's natural heritage. The road is being closed only at night time so this should not affect people who use the Smallbrook Road car park when walking around the nature reserve.	Comments of support are noted.
37	<p>The population of toads has been identified as near extinction and we should be taking action to protect our native species. A temporary closure of the road will give the toads a chance to recover, it will also be a huge plus for nature conservation, the Smallbrook Nature Reserve and a massive positive PR action for Wiltshire Council who would be fulfilling their legal duty to protect our biodiversity.</p> <p>The road closure will also bring huge benefits to all the other wildlife that are in/and around the Smallbrook Reserve that cross this road. It will be safer for the toad patrollers and the cyclists and all the many walkers who will still be able to use the road when it's closed to vehicles.</p> <p>The road is a known 'rat run' and I have witnessed several 'near misses' of vehicles</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>The restrictions will not be permanent throughout the year because a compromise needs to be met between motorists and the toad crossing patrol. Wiltshire Council has taken the advice of the toad crossing patrol, who state the migratory behaviour of the toads means they are more likely to be on the roads between the time periods 5pm-5am 1<sup>st</sup> Feb-30<sup>th</sup> April, when conditions are favourable to them.</p> <p>Whilst it is impossible to predict exactly when the toads will begin to migrate, the prohibition of motorists during this time should help enable the toad crossing patrol to operate under safer conditions.</p>

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	<p>driving at speed along the road and driving straight out onto Gipsy Lane. It is very often flooded in spring and people always moving the signs and driving down regardless.</p> <p>The landowners along Smallbrook Road and the residents of Wheeler's Lane support the closure.</p> <p>I would also fully support a total closure of this road. We need to protect and enhance our wildlife areas not only for the multitude of different species and biodiversity but also for the people of Warminster to use and enjoy.</p>	
38	<p>I am writing in to support the closure of Smallbrook Road during the toad migration period. The statistics show that if we do not help the toads and other amphibians, they are currently at a tipping point and this can make all the difference to enable these ancestral migrations to these ponds to continue into the future.</p> <p>Earlier this year the road was closed due to flooding and drivers coped with that inconvenience so it is possible to change habits when necessary. This can be the town's Unique Selling Point, also the County Council to be aware of environmental issues that matter to local residents.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
40	<p>The population of toads &amp; other wildlife is under threat nationally and many are killed by motor vehicles as they cross Smallbrook Road in Warminster as they go to breed on the nature reserve. The three month closure in spring will cover the whole toad breeding season which should allow their numbers to recover - a big plus for nature conservation, the Smallbrook Nature Reserve and Wiltshire Council who would be fulfilling their legal duty to protect biodiversity.</p> <p>Road closure will benefit other wildlife (e.g. frogs, newts ) all of which are in Smallbrook and which cross the road. It will also be safer for the toad patrollers, walkers and cyclists who can still use the road when it's closed to cars.</p> <p>The closure will only be at night so many drivers will not be inconvenienced. The effects of climate change mean the road can be flooded so drivers are used to diverting via the town centre</p>	Comments of support are noted.
41	<p>I wish to support the above application to close a small portion of Smallbrook Road at the appropriate times to enable the survival of the endangered amphibians. There is a very minimal</p>	Comments of support are noted.

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	disruption to residents and access to Smallbrook Meadows Nature Reserve can easily be accommodated.	
42	During the pandemic the traffic on this road was non existent, the wildlife sightings and birdsong increased so much, it was amazing. If a temporary closure can help just a fraction of the wildlife in the area then I support it wholeheartedly .	Comments of support are noted.
43	I am in full support of the closure of Smallbrook Road to give our amphibians a chance of survival on there migration to the heritage ponds. This is a mass annual amphibian migration and lots of them loose there life, we are not just talking about one or two but numbers not acceptable. Every year February onwards for a period of time, thousands of toads, frogs and newts all around the country make their way across the road all going in the direction of the ponds for breeding. They brave the traffic in the hope of reaching there perfect breeding ground and continuing the amphibian population for the future. This is not new, but something that has been going on for generation & it is obvious that numbers are declining rapidly, we need to do anything we can to stop the decline and give the migration a chance. Let Warminster make a mark on saving these amphibians & making a difference. Let's show what Warminster can do to support these toads, frogs and news and be part of helping the biodiversity of our local area.	Comments of support are noted.
44	I am fully in favour of the closure of Smallbrook Road for the saviour of the amphibians. Please accept this as my support for the proposal.	Comments of support are noted.
45	We very much support this traffic order as it will help to protect the falling population of amphibians in our county. Any move by WC which helps wildlife is to be applauded	Comments of support are noted.
46	I approve of the road closure at night to save the newts and frogs, who are killed in their hundreds . I am sure drivers can take the slightly longer route around , it is only for a short while and imperative we save more wildlife .	Comments of support are noted.
47	I very much support the proposal to close Smallbrook Road for the toad migration season. This will not only be of massive benefit to the wildlife, but also make the road a lot safer for members of Toad Patrol. I also approve of the plan to close it overnight but leave it open in the day.  The section of road in question only includes	Comments of support are noted.  There is no physical barrier planned, because access to off-street premises within the restricted area is to be maintained. However, there will be clear and concise signage at the start of the restrictions and during periods of toad migration, the toad crossing patrol will be present.

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	<p>access to one dwelling house, but is frequently used as a rat run by drivers wanting to avoid the town centre.</p> <p>I have not found any information on how the road closure will be policed. If the policing is effective (e.g. perhaps ANPR), then it should make a massive difference. If however it relies on road signs, then the carnage will probably continue. I have witnessed drivers squeezing past Police “Road Closed” signs when the road has been shut due to flooding, and in one case just driving straight over the road sign.</p> <p>Thank you so much for putting forward this proposal. It is good to see Wiltshire Council taking biodiversity issues seriously.</p>	<p>Wiltshire Police have been consulted and are in support of the closure. They will be advised if there are drivers ignoring the restrictions.</p>
48	<p>I strongly support this move. Our local wildlife needs to be protected for future generations.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
50	<p>This proposal will help protect the toads that cross this road and keep getting mowed down unnecessarily. There are other routes that cars can easily take, but not for the toads. We must try and save these creatures.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
51	<p>Warminster has a declining population of amphibians (Toads, Frogs, Newts), which are species at risk nationally and are therefore protected with directives nationally to preserve. The toads disperse into the neighbourhood but travel back to their ancestral pond to breed in the spring, and their traditional route is via Smallbrook Road to the ponds in the area of the Nature reserve.</p> <p>They travel on Spring evenings when it is preferably damp and is above about 6 degrees. The females are usually heavy with eggs and , if they have encountered a male, probably carrying the male which will have clamped itself to the female.</p> <p>This means that they are not quick at moving out of the way of approaching vehicles. For this reason volunteer patrollers have endeavoured to assist them by moving them off the road towards the pond.</p> <p>However Smallbrook Road from the Hollow to Lower Marsh road is effectively single track with few passing points and therefore a serious risk to both toads and volunteers to fast moving vehicle. For these reasons I therefore support the periodic closure of the road to vehicles</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
52	<p>I wholeheartedly support the prohibition of motor vehicles (except for access) during the hours of 5pm to 5am between 1st February and 30th April. This is a well known spot for migrating</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>

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	<p>amphibians at this time of year, and each year it's evident that many get killed as they attempt to cross the road to get to their mating / spawning spot. Sustainable Warminster do a great job in trying to rescue as many as possible but they cannot be there all night every night and as a result there are inevitably a high number of casualties. It's critical that we protect our dwindling wildlife as much as possible. This road closure would help.</p>	
55	<p>It has been impossible not to notice media reports of the devastating population decline that has been suffered in the toad and amphibian populations in recent years, with Froglife reporting that the common toad populations have declined across the UK by 68% over the past 30 years. This is a shocking statistic and anything that can be done to assist some sort of population recovery must be supported.</p> <p>In Warminster we are lucky to have a toad population, but their numbers are being catastrophically eroded by the high number who are killed on the Smallbrook road as they try to make their way to their breeding grounds.</p> <p>The three month closure of this road in spring, which will cover the whole toad breeding season, would really help in supporting their numbers to recover, along with a multitude of other wildlife (such as frogs, newts and even otters) who use this route.</p> <p>All of this can be done with little to no inconvenience to the motorist who has alternative routes which can be used. Furthermore, as I understand it, those who would possibly be most inconvenienced (the landowners along Smallbrook Road and the residents of Wheeler's Lane) are fully supportive of this closure.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
56	<p>I support the closing of Smallbrook road to help save the toads during their nighttime migration</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
57	<p>1. I fully support the proposal to close Smallbrook Road to enable the Toad Patrol to operate safely in their endeavours to assist toads (and other amphibians) to reach their ancestral breeding ponds and to return to their usual terrestrial habitat.</p> <p>2. In view of the substantial casualties caused by vehicular traffic throughout the year, but particularly during the Spring breeding season, it is essential that the proposed closure period (1st February – 30th April) is retained.</p> <p>3. Although I fully support closure of the road between 5.00pm and 5.00am for the 3-month</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>There will be no permanent physical barrier because access to off-street premises within the restricted area is required. However, there will be clear and concise signage at the start of the restrictions and during periods of toad migration, the toad crossing patrol will be present.</p> <p>Wiltshire Police have been consulted and are in support of the closure. They will be advised if there are drivers ignoring the restrictions.</p>



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period I have concerns about the method of closure. Presumably, road closure signs and barriers would need to be erected and removed at the times specified in the Order. This obviously involves manpower and could be subject to unexpected delay or omission through illness, accident or other reasons. It is imperative that a robust system is implemented to avoid such issues.

4. I am concerned about potential unauthorised removal of road closure signage and barriers allowing the continued use of the road by vehicular traffic. I understand that this has occurred during temporary closures prompted by flooding of the road. What, if any, measures will be put in place to monitor unauthorised use of the road? Also, what response would there be from the local authority to reports of signage and barriers being removed and from the Police to reports of vehicles using the road during closure periods?

5. As mentioned in point 2. above toad casualties on Smallbrook Road are not confined to the breeding season. I reference a letter to the Warminster Journal (13th September 2024) from a concerned member of the public who had recently witnessed 39 dead toads and 8 dead newts on a single early morning walk. I personally visited during darkness on the morning of Monday, 7th October 2024 and recorded 21 dead toads and 2 dead frogs. Other statistics that I have seen from recent Toad Patrol activity are horrific, (e.g., 16th October 2024 – 22 live toads, 29 dead / 7 live frogs, 12 dead / 8 live newt, 6 dead). This level of carnage is totally unacceptable and for this reason there must be a case for permanently closing Smallbrook Road to vehicular traffic for the protection of these endangered and protected species. All these species (Common Toad / Common Frog / Smooth Newt) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Common Toad is a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. As members of the Toad Patrol regularly visit the road throughout the year to monitor toad activity and record fatalities, particularly on mild, damp nights / mornings, I would suggest that a permanent means of allowing the patrol to operate safely is required.

6. As Smallbrook Road is nothing more than a single track, country lane with a few pacing places it is not an essential part of the local road

The restrictions will not be permanent throughout the year because a compromise needs to be met between motorists and the toad crossing patrol. Wiltshire Council has taken the advice of the toad crossing patrol, who state the migratory behaviour of the toads means they are more likely to be on the roads between the time periods 5pm-5am 1<sup>st</sup> Feb-30<sup>th</sup> April, when conditions are favourable to them.

Whilst it is impossible to predict exactly when the toads will begin to migrate, the prohibition of motorists during this time should help enable the toad crossing patrol to operate under safer conditions.

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	<p>network and could be permanently closed without undue hardship or inconvenience to residents and current users of this route. I would recommend seeking an Order to permanently close part of Smallbrook Road (between the Nature Reserve Carpark and the junction with Henfords Marsh / Upper Marsh Road) to vehicular traffic using the provisions of Section 249 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.</p>	
59	<p>I would like to register my support to close Smallbrook road in Warminster to aid the toad population.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
60	<p>With reference to the planned temporary closure of Smallbrook Road in Warminster to help maintain the level of wildlife (especially toads), I should like to offer my full support to this. I have always lived around the Warminster area, and have been walking those roads since about 1976. In recent years I have helped assist the toads crossing the road. My garden is designed around the wildlife, which includes a wildlife pond. I think there is something very special about frogs, toads and newts and I am always trying to promote the benefits of having a pond on the garden to family and friends.</p> <p>The fact that local people go out on cold wet nights to assist amphibians crossing the road after a hard day at work tells you something about how passionate some people are about frogs and toads. That part of Warminster is quite special to the town as it clearly attracts a lot of wildlife. There are also areas around there that are visited by local schools and other organisations for nature studies.</p> <p>I cannot imagine that closing the road at certain times will cause too much disruption to the flow of traffic. It is great that you are considering this, and the fact that the area is recognised as being important to wildlife is a positive thing, so going a step further to do this for the toads would be so beneficial.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
62	<p>I am writing to advise that I fully support the temporary road closure for Smallbrook Road to protect the toads during their critical migration season. This initiative is a meaningful step towards preserving a species that has experienced a devastating population decline over the last three decades. The toads in Warminster are not only a unique part of our local biodiversity but are also ecologically valuable, contributing to the health of the ecosystem by controlling insect populations and supporting</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>

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	<p>other wildlife.</p> <p>The potential loss of toads each year due to road traffic on this migration route is not a small issue - people need to think beyond themselves and realise that we need to preserve as much of our local ecosystems as possible. By temporarily closing the road, we would offer a simple but effective way to ensure a safer migration for the toads and help support the broader biodiversity of Smallbrook Meadows.</p> <p>The benefits of helping a threatened species and preserving our local natural heritage far outweigh the costs and minor traffic disruptions. Let's take this opportunity to act responsibly, set a precedent for wildlife conservation, and show that Wiltshire and Warminster values its natural inhabitants.</p>	
63	<p>We support the road closure to protect the vital eco-system and bio diversity in Smallbrook Meadows. The reason people are unaware of the toads/ newts and frogs being killed by cars is that the crows come and eat the carcasses in the early morning before most people are about and destroy the evidence. Warminster council must put the environment first and lead by example on protecting animals and the precious environment around us.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
64	<p>I positively support the closure of Smallbrook Road between the hours of 5pm and 5am annually between the 1st February and the 31st April.</p> <p>The local toad population needs to be preserved and closing the Small room road during the breeding season at the times when toads will be crossing this road to reach their ancestral ponds is vital in order to do this.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
65	<p>It very important that the toads that cross the road during this season are not crushed by oncoming traffic. The traffic in this case can always find an alternative route. Even the wording of "except for access" worries me because everybody I have spoken to understands that to mean if they need to get to the other side then they have the right to go through. I know this because I live in an "access only road" and even a traffic warden I spoke to didn't know that vehicles should not be going through without stopping for access to something within the area. When I spoke to the police about educating drivers I was told all drivers should be aware of the highway code, but sadly they are not.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>An exemption to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order is to enable vehicles to be used to access off-street premises on Smallbrook Road within the restriction.</p> <p>Access to Smallbrook Lane car park is to be maintained.</p> <p>The Hensford Marsh area is to be accessed via Upper Marsh Road and the estate around Gypsy Lane is to be accessed via Boreham Road.</p>

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		Drivers should adhere to the rules of the Highway Code, motorists should only use Smallbrook Road to access a property on that road, not to drive through.
66	<p>I positively support the closure of Smallbrook Road between the hours of 5pm and 5am annually between the 1st February and the 31st April.</p> <p>The local toad population needs to be preserved and closing the Smallbrook road during the breeding season at the times when toads will be crossing this road to reach their ancestral ponds is vital in order to do this.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
67	<p>I am very much in favour of the closure of Smallbrook Road as proposed to aim to REDUCE THE CARNAGE inflicted on the local amphibian populations: toads in particular, but frogs and newts as well.</p> <p>The use of the road as a cut-through by motorists is wholly unnecessary and the alternative routes from one side of the area to the other are perfectly suitable, on well managed roads, and add only minimally to vehicles' transit times.</p> <p>Many motorists are presumably unaware of the destruction that their passage makes to the toad numbers, which have been reliably recorded as rapidly diminishing in recent years. If the toad numbers continue to be reduced by the actions of road traffic, they will reach an unrecoverably low point and the colonies will simply die out. They will be gone. WE WILL HAVE KILLED these creatures that have been living in the valley outside Warminster since time immemorial.</p> <p>Many locals strongly support the closure, being aware of the distressing trail of crushed animal bodies left on the roadway.</p> <p>Our natural biodiversity is precious and is dwindling. We all have a responsibility to preserve it, including Wiltshire Council as the relevant authority. Once lost, animal populations such as the toads of Smallbrook, as well as the other amphibians and other animals that are affected by the tyres of the traffic on Smallbrook Road, will not return and will be lost to ourselves and to future generations FOREVER.</p> <p>I implore Wiltshire Council to take this easy step to uphold your responsibility to protect our local biodiversity and to gain real credit for having done so (and having been seen to have done so). Our wildlife and the inheritance which we leave for the future NEEDS you to uphold this proposal.</p>	Comments of support are noted.

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68	<p>The closure of Smallbrook Road will cause minimum inconvenience but will help the toad, frog, and newt population to survive. I fully support the temporary closure of the road at appropriate times.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
69	<p>I write in support of the seasonal closure of this narrow, winding lane bisecting a nature reserve.</p> <p>Toad populations, particularly in the south of the country, have been in serious decline and sometimes there are obvious things which can be done to stop or at least slow the loss.</p> <p>Deaths on the road are considerable, and thanks to the dedicated voluntary work undertaken by the community they are well documented. They are in part avoidable, at some questionable 'inconvenience' to rat-runners and some acknowledged but tiny inconvenience to the human population served by the road.</p> <p>There are three roads from Warminster to the populated areas en route to Henfords Marsh. The other two are the Upper and Lower Marsh Roads. All three begin in residential areas. The temporary loss of the one is a tragedy of bearable proportions. It will also cut out needless use.</p> <p>There are known peak toad migration times, action during which will have a significant impact.</p> <p>Or we can just do nothing. We can just describe to our children and grandchildren what toads used to look like.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
70	<p>Closing the road would not cause any problems for residents of Warminster. It would be extremely beneficial for our native wildlife and ensure the safety of those trying to protect such wildlife. People who drive along that road do so with little care and attention for wildlife and walkers, usually speeding and using it as a cut through. I'm wholeheartedly behind the proposal to close it for the time requested.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
71	<p>SW Wiltshire Green Party would like to give support to the application for the closure of Smallbrook Road, Warminster for the hours of 5pm to 5am from 1st Feb to 30th April 2025 and then annually.</p> <p>The issue of the dangers to Toads that cross Smallbrook Road annually during their breeding period is an example of where Councils have an opportunity to take positive action in support of</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>The request for "Toad Tunnels" would need to be considered by Warminster Town Council and requested through the Warminster LHFIG. Please see <a href="#">Local Highway and Footway Improvement Groups - Wiltshire Council</a> for details.</p>

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	<p>necessary nature projects. As a party we fully support the closure and endorse the efforts of the Sustainable Warminster Group who have been so active in campaigning for this. I would suggest that Warminster Town Council would be advised to commission a report on the cost and viability of installing "Toad Tunnels" to save the necessity for road closures in future years.</p>	
72	<p>I am responding to the consultation about the proposed road closure of Smallbrook Road. The proposal is to close the road when there are likely to be most toads and other amphibians crossing the road.</p> <p>I fully support the measures to close the road for 3 main reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The toads are "natural capital". Few other towns are blessed to have a diverse nature reserve placed as close to the town centre and it is something that could be made into a tourist feature for the town. Much as I really appreciate living near Warminster and enjoy the town, there isn't currently much to make it worth a visit, which local businesses will also say.</li> <li>2. Significant numbers of toads and amphibians are killed when they travel to and from the ponds and we need to keep their numbers up as a town, otherwise we will lose that aspect of our natural capital.</li> <li>3. Amphibians are under a huge threat globally, as I am sure the committee is already aware. Again, that makes it all the more important to protect the natural capital which is already here.</li> </ol>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
73	<p>I fully support the closure of Smallbrook Road for the benefits of the reptilians, especially the toads, as their numbers are decreasing. The reason I came to this decision - is on one damp night, whilst driving my car along Smallbrook Road, there was a vast number in the road. Me being a careful driver, I was unable to fully navigate a safe passage through without causing more casualties. This road is used as a rat run with a very bad road surface, so now I avoid it altogether with no problem and take an alternative route through town</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
75	<p>Warminster Town Council considered the proposal, TRO Consultation for Smallbrook Road, Warminster - Prohibition of Motor Vehicles (except for access) at their meeting on 30th September 2024.</p> <p>Members resolved to make the following</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>An exemption to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order is to enable vehicles to be used to access off-street premises.</p> <p>Access to Smallbrook Lane car park (an off-street premises) is to be maintained. Access</p>

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	<p>comments in response to the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council is generally supportive of the proposed TRO</li> <li>• Clarification is required over access to properties, businesses and the car park at Smallbrook Meadows</li> <li>• Confirmation of the costs payable by the town council is required</li> <li>• Details of any diversion route are requested</li> </ul> <p>Taking each point in turn.</p> <p>1. The town council is supportive of the reasons given for the road closure, i.e to protect the toads and other amphibians and had asked for similar measures to be put in place. The option put forward in the TRO is actually a better for the needs of the toads, particularly as the start and end of the toad migration season is weather and climate dependant. It is known from a metro count from 2023 that use of the road declines in the evening and is extremely limited at night, so the disruption to traffic is proportionate. The proposal also allows the road to be used during the day and with access for those who need it, which is welcomed.</p> <p>2. This was clarified in the final version, the council was considering a draft. It would be helpful if it was clarified that just using the car park at smallbrook was not sufficient reason to gain access.</p> <p>3. It is understood the town council is liable for the cost of the TRO, of £3,000. It would be helpful to have that confirmed and that there are no other costs expected to fall on the town council.</p> <p>4. It seems that there is no diversion, simply that access is severely restricted to access and emergency services only. Can it be confirmed that there is no diversion.</p>	<p>to any local businesses affected by the proposals will also be maintained because they are classified as off-street premises.</p> <p>Drivers should adhere to the rules of the Highway Code, motorists should only use Smallbrook Road to access a property on that road, not to drive through.</p> <p>The total costs associated with this project, including the TRO and the associated changes to signing in the area, is estimated at £5000. There are no annual charges to the Town Council associated with this proposal.</p> <p>There is no official signed diversion route during the period the restriction operates. Given the very localised nature of the road, it is considered that motorised will have sufficient knowledge to seek an alternative route during its time of operation.</p> <p>The alternative routes in the local area are likely to be via the B3414 and Weymouth Street and vice versa. These are routes better suited to traffic and likely utilised by those unfamiliar with the local road network.</p>
76	<p>I hope the road can be closed at the breeding time and as long as possible. We have really got to help wildlife, that is my feeling. People use this road as a rat run but can manage well without it for a few weeks, months.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
77	<p>Wessex Rivers Trust is an environmental charity dedicated to the conservation of chalk streams and</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>

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	<p>rivers in Wessex, working towards healthy rivers for wildlife and people.</p> <p>On behalf of the Wessex Rivers Trust, I offer our support for Warminster Toad Patrol's request. The overall aims and objectives of their proposal closely align with those of Wessex Rivers Trust and the Hampshire Avon Catchment Partnership. As highlighted by the State of Nature Report (2023), amphibians (and reptiles) are declining at an alarming rate. Local action by the Toad Patrol is therefore increasingly valuable to biodiversity in the Wylde river catchment.</p>	
78	<p>Wessex Water is the statutory sewerage and water supply infrastructure provider in the Warminster region. Within Smallbrook Road and the immediately adjacent environs (in the area covered by the TRO), we have numerous assets, including both gravity and pumped sewers, surface water sewers and Calveswater Sewage Pumping Station.</p> <p>We have met with the Warminster Toad Patrol group and overall, are supportive of the proposals. At our meeting with the group, we explained that Wessex Water would require access to both the road, immediately adjacent area and to Calveswater Sewage Pumping Station at all times (including between 1st February and 30th April each year) in order to maintain/operate our infrastructure and to respond to any emergency incidents. This was accepted by the Group and we have put in place internal measures to ensure that Wessex Water vehicles try to avoid routine access during the most important amphibian passage periods (and particularly overnight), whenever possible.</p> <p>However, we wish to ensure that this access requirement is accurately reflected in the proposed Traffic Regulation Order. As indicated, Wessex Water and its contractors must be able to undertake required maintenance visits during the restricted period. This may involve access with vans or tankers and any requirement for emergency maintenance or tanker access to our Sewage Pumping Station and sub-surface infrastructure. Our teams need their vans at site when attending as they require access to equipment that cannot be carried to site.</p> <p>Having reviewed the draft TRO, we would like to see the Order amended slightly to fully reflect the access needed for Wessex Water. We have therefore attached a version of the TRO with</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>An exemption to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order is to enable vehicles to be used to access off-street premises on Smallbrook Road within the restriction. This includes access to the Wessex Water premises including the pumping station at all times and there will be no permanent barrier in place.</p> <p>Wessex Water are a statutory undertaker. There is a clause in the TRO which states nothing on the order shall apply to a vehicle being used "in pursuance of statutory powers" as stated in Section 2 of the Order, they are a statutory undertaker; therefore this clause applies to them and covers their wish to ensure their access requirement is accurately reflected in the order.</p>



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	<p>some minor changes we would like to see incorporated in the final version. These changes ensure that the exception granted by section 2 of the Order adequately reflects the required activities associated with our infrastructure.</p> <p>We would also like to ensure that no physical barrier is deployed during the prohibited period (1st February and 30th April each year) which would prevent access to our infrastructure. This was mentioned during our meeting with the Warminster Toad Patrol group and was agreeable to them.</p> <p>I do hope that these minor amendments can be incorporated into the TRO.</p>	
79	<p>I have met with the proposers of this TRO.</p> <p>The motivations for the proposal are in line with the community policing priorities to create safer public spaces.</p> <p>There are no public safety concerns identified here and the local neighbourhood team are supportive of the proposal.</p>	Comments of support are noted.
80	<p>This is a letter in support of the above spring road closure to mitigate killing of toads, frogs and newts crossing Smallbrook Road in both directions as they emerge from hibernation and head for their ancestral breeding ponds.</p> <p>Wiltshire Wildlife Community fund has awarded funding to the Warminster Toad Patrol on two occasions and commends the work of this active group of volunteers to conserve amphibians in the area. Toads are a 'species of principle importance for biodiversity' (NERC Act Section 41) and are included in the list of the top 100 critical species in Wiltshire:  <a href="https://www.wsbrc.org/projects/wiltshires-critical-species/">https://www.wsbrc.org/projects/wiltshires-critical-species/</a>.</p> <p>This closure supports nature recovery in Wiltshire, linking to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Smallbrook Meadows nature reserve, a rare wetland habitat in Wiltshire with great wildlife value.</p> <p>The group have strong support from the local community and the work they have done since 2019 to rescue and record amphibians has informed national research. Research which documents the 68% decline in UK toad numbers over 30 years, particularly in the number of pregnant female toads.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p> <p>Whilst this report is the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene, and Flooding to approve, it is recognised that the this topic also overlaps with environmental biodiversity goals. The <i>Cabinet Member for Waste and Environment has also had the opportunity to informally comment on these proposals, and has indicated support .</i></p>

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	<p>We urge you to consult the Cabinet member for the Environment in making this decision and note that this road closure would support the Councils' legal Biodiversity Duty under the Environment Act 2021 and Green &amp; Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire.</p>	
81	<p>I am writing in regard to the above proposal to close Smallbrook Road in Warminster during the period of the toad breeding seasons. I am probably one of the most chiefly affected by the proposed closures however I fully support and encourage these closures. I see first hand the carnage and devastation on these poor creatures and their populations each year. Our ecosystems are at such risk and these simple actions, with very little disruption to peoples daily drive, could make a real impact.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>
82	<p>I wish to fully support the proposed road closures in Warminster to help protect the towns native Toad and other at risk amphibians. The population of Toads is declining each year and with the growth of human population of Warminster set to continue to substantially increase we may completely loose this important species if we continue to ignore their decline due to road traffic on their breeding routes to the pond's.</p>	<p>Comments of support are noted.</p>

## Appendix 3 – Comments and Officer Response

### Location: Smallbrook Road, Warminster: - Objections

Ref	Comments of objection received	Officer Response
5	<p>Reported numbers for spring 24 in this small area only.            80 toads died            385 lived            38 frogs lived            3 died            99 newts lived            54 died...</p> <p>So clearly loads more than that are surviving as it's obvious to how they can keep a record of the dead frogs. Millions are surviving but the small number that are dying warrants a road closure - are what cost?            Who is paying for this?            Who is going to man it?            Do you think signs are enough to stop people passing through this road?            Who will put the signs out and take them in?            Why are humans are now wanting to intervene with nature?            I absolutely don't agree with the road closure.</p>	<p>This proposal is being fully funded by Warminster Town Council.</p> <p>An exemption to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order is to enable vehicles to be used to access off-street premises on Smallbrook Road within the restriction. Therefore, no physical barrier is planned, However, there will be clear and concise signage at the start of the restrictions and during periods of toad migration, the toad crossing patrol will be present.</p> <p>The Hensford Marsh area is to be accessed via Upper Marsh Road and the estate around Gypsy Lane is to be accessed via Boreham Road.</p> <p>Enforcement will be the responsibility of the Police.</p>
17	<p>No I do not agree to this order being made            It is too early at 5.pm – and for too long a period            It will inconvenience all those who live in areas of diversion            Does not consider the inconvenience to residents, cyclists and pedestrians            Who is to pay ?? hopefully none from the town or county council tax</p> <p>(additional comment of objection from same address see ref. 61)</p>	<p>An exemption to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order is to enable vehicles to be used to access off-street premises on Smallbrook Road within the restriction. Therefore, no physical barrier is planned, However, there will be clear and concise signage at the start of the restrictions and during periods of toad migration, the toad crossing patrol will be present.</p> <p>The Hensford Marsh area is to be accessed via Upper Marsh Road and the estate around Gypsy Lane is to be accessed via Boreham Road.</p> <p>The proposals do not affect the movement of cyclists or pedestrians, who will be able to use Smallbrook Road at all times.</p> <p>This proposal is being fully funded by Warminster Town Council.</p>
39	<p>Much as I understand the concern of people for toads crossing the lane I cannot help but feel that any full time closure of the road or even temporary closure is not</p>	<p>This project has been approved by Warminster LHFIFG and is being fully funded by Warminster Town Council.</p>

### Appendix 3 – Comments and Officer Response

	<p>cost effective. These amphibians have managed to negotiate the perils of the lane for many years and seem to be thriving. Has anyone considered that the increased amphibian deaths are due to an increased population? The cost, so far, has been excessive just for the scoping of possible plans. The eventual cost will no doubt be even higher and I am not sure that in today's difficult financial conditions Warminster Council or Wiltshire can afford it.</p>	
49	<p>I write with reference to the above consultation to close a section of highway at Smallbrook Road for a number of weeks during toad migratory season, for many reasons I object to this proposal. Firstly, whilst I am in full support of these endangered species, vehicles have been travelling along this road and I myself as a resident have seen very few casualties. The Toad Patrol group do a great job and surely the money proposed in actioning this closure could be spent wiser in other areas of our town. It is my understanding that the road will be closed from 5pm - 5am? Surely this is going to add for more congestion in town, therefore causing more emissions to the environment - somewhat a viscous circle! Please Wiltshire Council at a time when we as a country are facing deficits in budgets, use common sense and reallocate this huge sum of money to a more worthy cause!</p>	<p>This project has been approved by Warminster LHFIFG and is being fully funded by Warminster Town Council.</p>
53	<p>I write concerning the current consultation regarding the proposal to close Smallbrook Road to traffic from 1st February to 30th April between 5pm and 5am. I am totally against this proposal which only looks at one aspect of our environment in isolation. I declare an interest in that I use that road most days of the year to avoid driving through the town. It is stated that dozens of toads are killed by cars every year on that road between Gypsy Lane and Upper Marsh Road. What is the exact number of toads actually killed by traffic each year and what is the estimated total number of these creatures in the areas of Smallbrook and Henfords Marsh? It is important to understand what percentage of the toad population is being</p>	<p>At the last migratory season, the volunteers patrolled Smallbrook Road for 62 hours, moving amphibians in buckets to save them from being killed by traffic. The patrollers rescued 797 male and 120 female toads as well as 144 frogs and 166 newts.</p> <p>According to Sustainable Wiltshire, in Spring 2024, the toad patrol recorded 82 deceased toads. It is uncertain how many more toads could have been killed if the toad patrollers were not operating. It is also stated by some residents that the deceased toads are quickly eaten by other animals, so there is also potential for unrecorded additional toad deaths.</p>

### Appendix 3 – Comments and Officer Response

	<p>killed by traffic - no actual figures seem to have been made public to date in support of the closure proposal. If, as I suspect, there are thousands of toads in the area, and judging by the numbers seen in my garden alone, there are, then the environmental and financial costs of closing this road, let alone the significant inconvenience to motorists, may be totally disproportionate.</p> <p>What effect will the road closure have in a wider context? Traffic that currently uses Smallbrook Road will in all probability have to drive through the town centre, a significant increase in mileage and hence fuel use, with the additional problem of increased fumes with their affect on human health. I believe in this respect an Environmental Impact Assessment must be undertaken before any sensible decision can be taken.</p> <p>What is the cost of imposing and managing this closure every day for three months at 5 pm and 5am; who will be responsible for undertaking the emplacement of barriers and the policing of the closure? In the past when the road has been closed due to flooding, a fairly frequent happening in the winter months, irresponsible drivers have just moved the closure signs and driven along the road.</p> <p>In summary, there seems little hard evidence to support road closure, the environmental impact of diverting more traffic through the town has not been taken into account and the means and cost of managing the closure have not been made clear.</p>	<p>According to the WSBRC “Wiltshire’s critical species project” the Common Toad is important to conserve because it is classed as an “umbrella species” which means their conservation helps protect other species within the ecosystem. It is listed as one of Wiltshires Critical Species.</p> <p>The proposed traffic regulation order will enable the toad crossing patrol to operate in a safer manner.</p> <p>No physical barrier is planned however, there will be clear and concise signage at the start of the restrictions and during periods of toad migration, the toad crossing patrol will be present.</p> <p>Requirements for Environmental Impact Assessments are set out in the Town &amp; Country Planning Act (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulation 2017. The promotion of Traffic Regulations Orders are not considered as development for which an assessment is required.</p> <p>It is recognised that the restriction of motor vehicles from a road will result in the displacement of traffic to alternative routes, and that this may cause some additional delay to motorists.</p> <p>This project has been approved by Warminster LHFIC and is being fully funded by Warminster Town Council.</p>
54	<p>Regarding the purposed closure of Smallbrook Road during the toad breeding season, I see this as a waste of our council tax, which could be spent on better things in Warminster.</p> <p>The toads have been crossing this road since I have lived in this part of Warminster (28 years), without a massive decline in numbers.</p> <p>There is already a volunteer “toad patrol” in place. If the Council wants to do anything to assist the toads crossing then a tunnel under the road would help along with a barrier to guide the toads to the tunnel entrance.</p> <p>There are better things money could be</p>	<p>At the last migratory season, the volunteers patrolled Smallbrook Road for 62 hours, moving amphibians in buckets to save them from being killed by traffic. The patrollers rescued 797 male and 120 female toads as well as 144 frogs and 166 newts.</p> <p>According to Sustainable Wiltshire, in Spring 2024, the toad patrol recorded 82 deceased toads. It is uncertain how many more toads could have been killed if the toad patrollers were not operating. It is also stated by some residents that the deceased toads are quickly eaten by other animals, so there is also potential for unrecorded additional toad deaths.</p>

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	<p>spent on in Warminster, such as youth clubs for youngster, hot spots for the old (especially as they have had their heating allowance taken away). Common sense needs to be applied to this, what next, bridges for squirrels to cross roads!</p>	<p>According to the WSBRC “Wiltshire’s critical species project” the Common Toad is important to conserve because it is classed as an “umbrella species” which means their conservation helps protect other species within the ecosystem. It is listed as one of Wiltshires Critical Species.</p> <p>The proposed traffic regulation order will enable the toad crossing patrol to operate in a safer manner, by reducing the amount of traffic during the toad migratory period, as well as directly benefitting the toads migrating to their breeding areas.</p> <p>This proposal is being fully funded by Warminster Town Council and the cost for a permanent Traffic Regulation Order is a one-off payment of £3000. The additional signing and electrical elements associated with this project are estimated at £15, 750.</p> <p>The request for “Toad Tunnels” would need to be considered by Warminster Town Council and requested through the Warminster LHFIFG. Please see <a href="#">Local Highway and Footway Improvement Groups - Wiltshire Council</a> for details.</p>
58	<p>Lived here over 70 years Toads have managed. Further to drive around</p>	<p>At the last migratory season, the volunteers patrolled Smallbrook Road for 62 hours, moving amphibians in buckets to save them from being killed by traffic. The patrollers rescued 797 male and 120 female toads as well as 144 frogs and 166 newts.</p> <p>According to Sustainable Wiltshire, in Spring 2024, the toad patrol recorded 82 deceased toads. It is uncertain how many more toads could have been killed if the toad patrollers were not operating. It is also stated by some residents that the deceased toads are quickly eaten by other animals, so there is also potential for unrecorded additional toad deaths.</p> <p>According to the WSBRC “Wiltshire’s critical species project” the Common Toad is important to conserve because it is classed as an “umbrella species” which means their conservation helps protect other species within the ecosystem. It is listed as one of Wiltshires Critical Species.</p>

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		<p>The proposed traffic regulation order will enable the toad crossing patrol to operate in a safer manner, by reducing the amount of traffic during the toad migratory period, as well as directly benefitting the toads migrating to their breeding areas.</p>
61	<p>I wish to object to the closure of this road for toads especially since it commences at 5.00 pm as the traffic at this time will be horrendous and having to go through town and other residential areas. The safety of other road users, pedestrians and children should be a priority and what about toads elsewhere in towns and villages . And who is to pay for it??? not I hope out of my council tax either from Town or County</p>	<p>At the last migratory season, the volunteers patrolled Smallbrook Road for 62 hours, moving amphibians in buckets to save them from being killed by traffic. The patrollers rescued 797 male and 120 female toads as well as 144 frogs and 166 newts.</p> <p>According to Sustainable Wiltshire, in Spring 2024, the toad patrol recorded 82 deceased toads. It is uncertain how many more toads could have been killed if the toad patrollers were not operating. It is also stated by some residents that the deceased toads are quickly eaten by other animals, so there is also potential for unrecorded additional toad deaths.</p> <p>According to the WSBRC “Wiltshire’s critical species project” the Common Toad is important to conserve because it is classed as an “umbrella species” which means their conservation helps protect other species within the ecosystem. It is listed as one of Wiltshires Critical Species.</p> <p>The proposed traffic regulation order will enable the toad crossing patrol to operate in a safer manner, by reducing the amount of traffic during the toad migratory period, thus benefitting the toads migrating to their breeding areas.</p> <p>Smallbrook Road is predominantly a local road which motorists use as an alternative to travelling through Warminster town centre at peak times. It is recognised that the restriction of motor vehicles from a road will result in the displacement of traffic to alternative routes, and that this may cause some additional delay to motorists.</p> <p>This proposal is being fully funded by Warminster Town Council. Council Tax is collected and distributed in line with the relevant Councils aims and objectives.</p>

## Appendix 3 – Comments and Officer Response

### Location: Smallbrook Road, Warminster: - General comments

Ref.	General comments received:	Officer Response:
74	<p>1. The traffic restriction at the eastern end should be moved westward to permit continued access to Smallbrook Lane car park.</p> <p>2. Please advise what continuing arrangements will be made to ensure access to local businesses. The businesses should not suffer from the proposed closure.</p>	<p>An exemption to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order is to enable vehicles to be used to access off-street premises on Smallbrook Road within the restriction.</p> <p>Access to Smallbrook Lane car park is to be maintained.</p> <p>The Hensford Marsh area is to be accessed via Upper Marsh Road and the estate around Gypsy Lane is to be accessed via Boreham Road.</p>