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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

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REFERENCE: HSB-31-14

PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS IN LOWER ROAD, LOWER BEMERTON

Purpose of Report

1. To:
 - (i) Consider objections to the proposed introduction of waiting restrictions in Lower Road, Lower Bemerton.
 - (ii) Recommend the making of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) with the minor amendment that the No Waiting 8am to 6pm restriction is introduced as a No Waiting Monday to Saturday, between 8am and 6pm inclusive.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The proposed TRO meets two priorities of the Council's Business Plan.
 - Outcome 2 – People in Wiltshire work together to solve problems locally and participate in decisions that affect them.
 - Outcome 6 – People are as protected from harm as possible and feel safe.

Background

3. In March 2013 a feasibility study was undertaken as part of Wiltshire Council's Taking Action on School Journeys Project, to investigate ways in which cycling and walking to school could be improved and to reduce traffic congestion on Lower Road, Lower Bemerton. At this time, the school had secured an agreement with a neighbouring Church and Sports ground to provide pupils and parents with a safe walking route through the respective grounds and the use of the car park in the Sports Ground.
4. Following an assessment by Wiltshire Council Highway Engineers it was identified that constructing a short section of footway opposite the school would allow a safe place for pedestrians to wait when exiting the churchyard and waiting to cross Lower Road. Extensions to the waiting restrictions were proposed in response to address the school's concerns with regards to inconsiderate parking in the area immediately outside of the entrance to the school.
5. The TROs for the proposals were advertised during August 2014 with the consultation closing on 8 September 2014. The consultation was a week longer than is normal to allow for the fact it commenced during the school holidays. During this

formal consultation period, four letters of objection were received, including comments from Salisbury City Council Member, Margaret Willmot.

Summary of Proposals

6. A No Waiting At any Time restriction is introduced to protect the new footway outside of the entrance to the church.
7. The existing No Waiting 9am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday restriction is changed to a No Waiting 8am to 6pm in the immediate vicinity of the school entrance.
8. A no stopping on the keep clear markings is introduced to ensure that the school keep clear marking is fully enforceable.
9. Plans, showing the Council's advertised proposals, are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Summary of Responses

10. A summary of the correspondents who wrote in opposition to and commenting on the TRO is attached as **Appendix 2**. A full summary of the comments raised by objectors, together with officer comments, is attached as **Appendix 3**.

Safeguarding Considerations

11. There is no risk to the Council as a result of these proposals.

Public Health Implications

12. There are none in this scheme.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

13. The introduction of waiting restrictions will require the laying of yellow lines on the public highway. Doing so will have an impact on the visual aspect but has to be balanced against the need to maintain a right of passage. There are currently waiting restrictions in existence therefore any increase on the visual impact will be negligent.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

14. There are none in this scheme.

Risk Assessment

15. There is no risk to the Council as a result of these proposals.

Financial Implications

16. There is an allocation in the 2014-15 Local Transport Plan (LTP) Integrated Transport budget for design, construction, supervision and monitoring works.
17. If a decision is taken to delay current proposals, this may result in the loss of the budget.

Legal Implications

18. The introduction of new waiting restrictions requires the processing of a TRO. The process of introducing a TRO 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 proposals as advertised.
 - (ii) Abandon the proposals.
 - (iii) Implement the proposals with the minor amendment that the No Waiting 8am to 6pm restriction is introduced as a No Waiting Monday to Saturday, between 8am and 6pm inclusive.

Reason for Proposal

20. It is felt that the Council's proposals offer a balanced approach between addressing the problem of maintaining safety outside of the entrance to Bemerton St John's School during the school pick up and drop off times, whilst maintaining the maximum amount of on-street parking for local facilities and residents.

Proposals

21. That:
- (i) The TRO be implemented as advertised with the minor amendment that the No Waiting 8am to 6pm restriction is introduced as a No Waiting Monday to Saturday, between 8am and 6pm inclusive.
 - (ii) Objectors be informed accordingly.

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

Letters of objection