

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING**  
**SERVICES**  
**TO THE**  
**MEETING OF OBJECTIONS & APPEALS PANEL**  
**TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2006**  
**AT 2.15PM**  
**TRANSPORTATION AND ENGINEERING**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
1	ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING, PLASNEWYDD STREET, MAESTEG

# **ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING PLASNEWYDD STREET, MAESTEG**

## **Introduction**

Informal parking currently takes place within the turning head of Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg. This can restrict turning movements for vehicles using Plasnewydd Street, particularly those servicing businesses in the adjacent unnamed lane, which connects to Talbot Street and those entering and exiting Plasnewydd Primary School.

A new disabled-friendly pedestrian bridge and associated pedestrian space is currently being constructed in the area mentioned above. The objectives of the improvements are to encourage further pedestrian activity and improve amenity and accessibility between the main car park in Llynfi Lane and Maesteg town centre area via Plasnewydd Street and the lane linking it to Talbot Street. It is considered that the existing informal parking activity may obstruct a clear pedestrian route between the new bridge and the unnamed lane.

It is proposed that this area should be reserved for pedestrian activity and turning movements only, in support of the above public realm strategy objectives.

The existing Residents Parking Order and No Waiting Order in Plasnewydd Street are unaffected and will remain. In addition, following discussions with the owners of 15 Talbot Street who use the lane for deliveries it has been agreed that vehicles should not be prohibited from using the lane under the proposed scheme although this situation will be kept under review.

## **Procedure**

In accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 the proposals do not require a Public Inquiry to be held due to their close proximity to a junction.

In accordance with the above mentioned procedures on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2005 consultation letters with attachments (**APPENDIX A**) were sent out advising of the Authority's proposal to introduce the above proposals.

A slightly different letter (**APPENDIX 6**) was sent to Mr and Mrs Hockridge 15a Talbot Street, Maesteg and Mr and Mrs Fiedler (Blue Pearl Restaurant) 15 Talbot Street, Maesteg because of the need to fix improved lighting in the unnamed lane to the side walls of their premises.

Mr and Mrs Hockridge are the proprietors of a Ladies' Leisurewear shop which is run from their premises, with the access onto the unnamed lane. They have an informal arrangement with Mr and Mrs Fiedler who permit them to park their private vehicle in front of their garage at the rear of 15 Talbot Street, the entrance doors to which lead from the turning area which is the location of the proposals.

### **Responses to Consultation**

As a result of the consultation letter, 5 written responses were received together with a telephone enquiry/response from Councillor Buttle.

Copies of the responses are attached (**APPENDIX C**) and summarised below:

1. The Ambulance Service have no objections to the proposals.
2. The Police have no objections but drew our attention to vehicles being parked in front of the garage doors, mentioned above.
3. The Town Council have no objections.
4. A Resident of, No. 11. Plasnewydd Street commented that the new proposals would only work with enforcement and wished us good luck.
5. Mr Hockridge wrote on the 24<sup>th</sup> December explaining the arrangement he had with the Fiedlers to park in front of their garages and that as a disabled person, he would have difficulty if this privilege was taken away. However as a shop owner little inconvenience would be caused to the business.
6. Councillor Buttle wanted to ensure that the new bridge structure would enable disabled persons to cross without having to use steps and that the bridge would be in place prior to the commencement of the new traffic order. He was assured this was the case and therefore has no objection.

Following on from this the Delegated Powers process was commenced. No notice of any call-in for the decision having been received, the Actual Decision to give Delegated Powers to proceed with the legal process required to introduce the waiting restrictions was received on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006. (**APPENDIX D**)

As a result of Mr and Mrs Hockridge's concerns on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 they were visited by the Regeneration Officer for Maesteg, Helen Jeffries and the Traffic Management Officer Trevor Taylor, in an attempt to explain the reasons the Order was required and the fact that the new bridge would allow disabled persons to access the car park on the opposite side of the river to Plasnewydd Street. Mr and Mrs Hockridge agreed at that meeting to explore alternative options. Mr and Mrs Hockridge were also advised of the next stage of the procedure, which involved the giving of Public Notice of the proposals. They stated that they would consider a formal written objection at that time.

Notice was subsequently published and Notices were erected on site on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 inviting objections in writing by 26<sup>th</sup> May 2006. (**APPENDIX E**)

Mr Hockridge was provided with a copy of the notice and on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006 a written objection dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006 was received from him. (**APPENDIX F**).

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006 a memorandum was received from the Legal Services Section confirming that Mr Hockridge's objection was the only one received. **(APPENDIX G)**

### **Issues raised by Mr Hockridge**

**Point 1** He is a severely disabled person, living in Flat 15a Talbot Street, Maesteg which is situated in the unnamed lane between Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street. The double garages at the point where it is proposed to implement the restrictions are owned by his neighbours Mr and Mrs Fiedler who have granted him permission to park in front of these garages.

It is difficult enough for him to walk aided the short distance from the garages to his flat. The proposals would deny him this privilege.

**Response** There is no doubt that Mr Hockridge is disabled and the current situation does make life easier for him. However the Fiedlers do not own the land in front of their garages which is maintainable highway and as such they cannot give permission to Mr Hockridge to park there. The provision of the new bridge will allow disabled persons to use this facility to cross to the car park where there are designated disabled spaces. During the meeting held with Mr Hockridge on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 he indicated these facilities were too far away and he feared his vehicle would be damaged.

It is very unusual for garage owners to consent to persons parking in front of their garages. The reverse is normal in that many complaints are received regarding vehicles obstructing garages. If the premises were sold, it is doubtful that any new owners of the garages would enter into such an agreement.

**Point 2** His request for a resident's permit for Plasnewydd Street has been turned down.

**Response** The Mid Glamorgan County Council (Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg) (Residents' Parking Places) Order, 1977 as varied by the The Mid Glamorgan County Council (Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg) (Residents' Parking Places)(Variation) Order, 1978 specifically restricts the issuing of permits to  
'a person whose usual residence is at premises, the postal address of which is Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg.' There is no exemption for disabled persons.

There are 12 houses in Plasnewydd Street and the length of highway available for vehicles to park on is only 70 metres (77 yards). Permits are restricted within the Order to one per house. **(APPENDIX H)**

On the school side of Plasnewydd Street The Mid Glamorgan County Council (Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 1977 applies. Under the terms of the blue badge scheme for disabled persons, provided no obstruction is caused, vehicles displaying a disabled badge can be left at this location for up to 3 hours with no return within 1 hour. Mr Hockridge is able to take advantage of this facility. The 'Mid Glamorgan County Council (Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order, 1977 refers. **(APPENDIX I)**

**Point 3** The proposals seem unnecessary, his present parking arrangements do not cause an obstruction.

**Response** Without the new proposals there will be nothing to discourage motorists from leaving their vehicles within the turning area. The presence of Mr Hockridge's vehicle may also encourage this. It is considered essential that this turning area which it is anticipated will be well used by pedestrians must be kept clear in order to facilitate safe interchange between pedestrian flow and turning vehicles.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Despite the difficulties which introducing the restrictions may cause to Mr Hockridge, on balance, and for the reasons given, it is considered that the proposed Order should be proceeded with.

It is therefore recommended that the objection to the County Borough Council's intention to make a permanent traffic regulation order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to PROHIBIT WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING in the turning head at Plasnewydd Street be rejected and that the Order be confirmed as advertised.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None used in this case

### **CONTACT ADDRESS**

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