

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO THE APPEALS PANEL

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

23 JANUARY 2012

#### PROPOSED INTRODUCTION / REVISION OF TRAFFIC ORDERS EWENNY ROAD/WYNDHAM CRESCENT/FAIRFIELD ROAD / ST MARIE STREET / BRYNTEG AVENUE / GROVE ROAD- MERTHYR MAWR ROAD, BRIDGEND

#### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek a resolution in respect of to the formal objections received in relation to the traffic regulation order proposals at Ewenny Road/Wyndham Crescent/Fairfield Road/St Marie Street/Brynteg Avenue/Grove Road/Merthyr Mawr Road.

#### 2.0 Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 The introduction of new traffic management and road safety measures cross-cuts a number of aims in the Corporate Improvement Plan. This includes the Strategic Themes *Strong Communities*, where the aim is to 'build safe and inclusive communities' and *Young Voices*, where we want all children and young people to be safe. Road safety also forms part of the aims of the Community Strategy to have Strong Communities where there is a reduction in crime and people feel safer in their communities.

#### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 Cabinet considered a report on Local Traffic Management Schemes Prioritisation (Minute No. 329). The report confirmed that, to assist in developing a list of local Traffic Management schemes and to ensure that they are targeted to meet the needs of the community, all Ward Members were invited to submit up to three schemes which they considered important. Ward Members were also invited to prioritise the schemes to allow the initial focus to be on the most important issue. One of the Members for Oldcastle Ward, Councillor EM Hughes, indicated that the introduction of waiting restrictions in Wyndham Crescent, Ewenny Road and Fairfield Road was her number 1 priority scheme. The other Oldcastle Ward Member, Councillor RD Burns, indicated that the introduction of waiting restrictions in Ewenny Road, Merthyr Mawr Road and Brynteg Avenue was his number 2 priority scheme. In addition, representations regarding obstructive parking in the same area of Bridgend

had been received from Bridgend Town Council, the Head teacher of Brynteg Comprehensive School, local residents and members of the public.

- 3.2 At its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 Cabinet approved 10 schemes which warranted priority consideration in 2010/11, including the introduction of waiting restrictions in the Wyndham Crescent, Ewenny Road and Fairfield Road area of Bridgend. The parking issues in that area were subsequently investigated by the Traffic Management Team and an appropriate scheme was drawn up. It was considered that the provision of additional waiting restrictions at a number of locations would be of benefit to road safety and would assist in the free flow of traffic. Additional waiting restrictions were therefore proposed along Ewenny Road, Wyndham Crescent, Fairfield Road, Brynteg Avenue and also at the Grove Road/Merthyr Mawr Road junction.
- 3.3 In addition, Oldcastle Primary School has no school transport and as a result of representations from local residents officers were of the opinion that the proposals should also include the removal of the part time restrictions in St Marie Street which were introduced in 1976 to accommodate buses involved in school transport. Officers also take the view that to alleviate some of the difficulties that residents have encountered in finding parking spaces, the proposals should include the removal of the 'No Waiting 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday' restrictions alongside numbers 7 to 31 St Marie Street. The original scheme proposed on that basis is shown on Drawing Number T/10/03 and attached as **APPENDIX 'A'**.
- 3.4 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, consultation letters and a plan showing the proposals (Appendix A) were sent to the statutory consultees in August 2010. At the same time, letters and plans were sent to a wide range of additional persons/organisations, including the occupiers of all properties along Ewenny Road, Wyndham Crescent, Fairfield Road, St Marie Street, Brynteg Avenue, Grove Road and Merthyr Mawr Road that fell within the extent of the proposals and also to the Local Ward Members.
- 3.5 As a result of the consultation process 20 representations were received. The responses have been listed and summarised and the document is attached as **APPENDIX B**.
- 3.6 The Panel will note that one of the consultation responses is from the Police in support of the scheme. Responses have also been received from some of the residents of St Marie Street over the proposal to remove the 'No Waiting 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday' restrictions alongside numbers 7 to 31. They were concerned that the absence of restrictions would merely encourage more parking by non-residents and would create additional problems in the street. The responses from the residents of St Marie Street were duly considered to be valid and the proposal to remove the 'No Waiting 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday' restrictions was removed from the scheme.
- 3.7 With regard to the remaining responses, many of the residents requested the implementation of additional/alternative measures that were not part of the

original consultation proposals. Officers are of the opinion that it would not be appropriate at the present time to consider requests that were not part of the consultation proposals. Drawing Number T10/03/A which is attached as **APPENDIX 'C'** shows the final, revised version of the proposals that officers have developed.

- 3.8 As a consequence, Delegated Powers to proceed with the revised proposals were obtained on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010. In accordance with the legislative requirements, Public Notice of the proposals was subsequently published in the local press and Notices (**APPENDIX D**) were erected on site on numerous street lighting columns within the extents of the proposals on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011. In addition, letters attaching copies of the Public Notice were sent to all of those who had responded at the consultation stage (**APPENDIX E**). The notices invited objections in writing by 25<sup>TH</sup> March 2011.
- 3.9 By the closing date, 124 formal objections to the proposals were received. 113 of the responses were in the form of a standard letter circulated to his parishioners by Father Isaac, the Parish Priest of St Mary's Catholic Church and Dean of Bridgend objecting to the proposals to introduce waiting restrictions along Ewenny Road due to the unreasonable hardship which they considered would be caused to users of his Church. A copy of the list of the formal objectors, together with a summary of those objections, is attached as **APPENDIX F** and copies of the objection letters themselves are attached as **APPENDIX G**.

#### **4.0 Current situation / Proposals**

- 4.1 The Local Members, Councillor R Burns and Councillor E M Hughes were sent the above mentioned summary of the objections including a standardised response from church parishioners.
- 4.2 The Local Members met twice with Father Isaac to discuss the objections raised on behalf of the Church and it became clear at a meeting with Father Isaac on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011 that he had mistakenly thought that the 'No Waiting' proposals would extend along both sides of Ewenny Road alongside Heronsbridge School and thus considered that this would have severely hampered worshippers attending religious events throughout the week and on Sundays.
- 4.3 As a result of the August meeting with Father Isaac it became clear that the current view of the Church is one of understanding the overall needs and the reasons behind the proposals but that Father Isaac suggested the need for time control over the length of Ewenny Road that is to remain unrestricted to ensure that it would not be "commandeered" by Staff and Pupils of Brynteg School. The Panel should be aware that it cannot agree to make such a change to the proposed scheme due to the Church's objections. This is because what is being suggested is more restrictive than the current proposal to leave that length of Ewenny Road unrestricted and, had that change been part of the original proposals, it may have a fundamental impact on the

views/objections received from other people. As such, making such a change would require a new consultation process to be undertaken.

- 4.4 Although Father Isaacs' suggestion may be of benefit to parishioners who attended church it would undoubtedly have a negative impact on residents who would be denied long-term parking opportunities along that section of Ewenny Road. In addition, while Brynteg School is open 188 days a year, the impact on residents could be felt up to 365 days a year. The issue relating to the Church's proposals is whether the adverse impact on residents, combined with the likelihood that school parking would simply migrate to other locations, would outweigh the benefits to church-goers.
- 4.5 Officers are of the opinion that, despite these implications and subject to the availability of funding, the implementation of limited waiting restrictions along Ewenny Road could be considered separately as a future scheme. However, any such proposals would be subject to a statutory legal process requiring consultation and invitation to object and there could be no guarantee that the desired change would be made. It was agreed that Father Isaac should be advised of the potential to bring forward a separate scheme in future but that he should also be advised that, as part of the current proposals, the short section of Ewenny Road south of the access to St Mary's Church would become subject to a prohibition of waiting and would have an exemption permitting waiting by vehicles directly associated with weddings and funerals at the Church. It is hoped that these exemptions would be of benefit to churchgoers.
- 4.6 A further letter was sent to Father Isaac on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011 summarising the above-mentioned points with an offer to meet him again to further explain the proposals and to listen to any points he may have wished to make. However, no response has been received.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 There have been significant parking problems in this area over a considerable period of time. The proposals take a balanced view, both about the need for the changes and the positive or adverse affects that will arise from making those changes. The proposals have been developed by experienced officers who have witnessed many of the issues that they wish to resolve by introducing the changes. In the circumstances, although the objectors' comments and concerns are an important consideration for the Panel, there have been long-standing issues and complaints about significant parking problems in this area. It is therefore considered essential that, in order to address such issues, and in the interests of maintaining the free flow of traffic and an acceptable level of road safety, the objections be rejected and the proposals detailed in Appendix D be implemented in their entirety.

## **6. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules**

- 6.1 This report has no effect upon the Policy Framework or the Procedure Rules.

## **7. Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 There are no negative equality implications.

## **8. Financial Implications.**

8.1 The costs of the proposed scheme will be funded from within the Authority's allocated budget for 2011/12 to implement Local Traffic Management schemes, as supplemented by contributions from Brynteg School and Bridgend Town Council, who both support the proposals.

## **9.0 Recommendations**

9.1 It is therefore recommended that the objections to the County Borough Council's intention to make a permanent traffic regulation order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to restrict parking in Ewenny Road/Wyndham Crescent/Fairfield Road/ Brynteg Avenue/Merthyr Mawr Road-Grove Road Junction and to remove the part time restrictions for school transport in St Marie Street, should be rejected and the Order be made as proposed in Appendix D.

**LOUISE FRADD**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES**  
**28<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

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**Background documents:**  
Cabinet report - 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009