

# Agenda Item IMD38

## INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: IMD 2018/38

<b>TITLE</b>	Traffic Regulation Order - Luckley Path, Wokingham, Prohibition of Driving
<b>DECISION TO BE MADE BY</b>	Executive Member for Regeneration - Philip Mirfin
<b>DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME</b>	11 December 2018 SF2 at 11.30am
<b>WARD</b>	Wescott;
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Director of Locality and Customer Services - Interim Sarah Hollamby

### OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The closure to motorised traffic of Luckley Path will improve the safety of pedestrians who currently have limited visibility when trying to cross this narrow road. It will improve the congestion in the town centre as vehicles will not block two lanes of traffic when trying to exit Luckley Path onto Peach Street.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Highways and Transport:

- 1) approve the making of the Wokingham Borough Council (Luckley Path) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2018 and;
- 2) instructs the Director of Locality and Customer Services to inform those persons who objected accordingly.

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report looks for approval to remove motor vehicles from exiting Luckley Path onto Peach Street, Wokingham.

## **Background**

Further to the regeneration currently being carried out in Wokingham town centre, Luckley Path has been temporarily closed to vehicles to assist with the traffic flow within the centre. Following on from this temporary closure it has been requested by a number of Town Councillors and members of the public, that this closure become permanent. Pedestrians feel safer not having to look for vehicles in an area where visibility is not very good. It has also improved the use of the area for disabled wheelchair users and pushchairs.

The regeneration of Market Place area has also resulted in an extended pedestrian area which effects the exit path of vehicles onto Peach Street towards Broad Street.

Accident history has revealed that there have been 5 injury accidents within 20 metres of Luckley Path exit within the previous 5 years.

## **Objectives**

It is proposed that the closure of the route to motorised vehicles will mean a short detour for local traffic and they will enter Peach Street via Easthampstead Road.

The Council advertised a Traffic Regulation Order proposing the alteration to the Luckley Path in the Wokingham Paper newspaper on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Street notices were also erected along the route at the proposed restrictions. Letters were sent to all properties fronting onto this section of road and similar letters were sent to statutory consultees including the Police, Parish Councils and local ward members. The advert, notices and letters all stated that any objections or comments to the proposals should be sent to the council's Traffic Management Team no later than the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018, which complies with the statutory 21-day objection period laid down in the regulations.

A number of local residents and Councillors have responded to this consultation and their comments are shown in full at Appendix 1.

The majority of objections refer to the additional time and environmental impacts of the extra travel, should Luckley Path be prohibited to vehicles, however, there is more impact of environmental issues where a vehicle is waiting to exit at Luckley Path, is held up by moving traffic along Peach Street and the vehicles emissions are then collected in a small area. This is not the case in Easthampstead Road as it is a full junction with a footway on each side of the carriageway which carries two way traffic. This is further compounded by the new layout of Market Place and the ability to exit Luckley Path towards Denmark Street, meaning vehicles will now need to use both lanes to turn left into Market Place, Eastern Arm towards Denmark Street.

A further consultation has been carried out with elected members delivering documents to all of the properties who may wish to use Luckley Path, but may not have objected to the proposal as part of the legal process, these comments are shown in full at Appendix 2. Elected members also consulted with members of the public using the route through Luckley Path at its junction with Peach Street, for a period of 2 days.

## **Conclusion**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation showed a 50/50 split with many of the local residents being concerned about the extra travel around the town centre, whilst the 50% in favour regarded the safety impacts far outweighed the disruption that it may create.

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation, Ward Councillors advised they would like to see the road re-opened to traffic, and that this should then be monitored and traffic counts collected before again consulting on a prohibition order. This was considered but consideration was also given to the number of non-motorised users who would not expect a vehicle to exit this junction and have become compliant with the current situation, many of whom no longer look for traffic.

It is the officer's proposal that Luckley Path be prohibited to motor vehicles as proposed. Many local residents and visitors are now used to the detour and pedestrians expect that they can cross without the fear of vehicles. On this basis, this would be the safest option.

It is therefore proposed the decision of the Executive Member is to make the order as advertised.

### **Recommendation**

That the proposed "Prohibition of Driving" along Luckley Path be approved and objectors be informed of the decision.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£5,000	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	-	-	-
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	-	-	-

<b>Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision</b>
None

<b>Cross-Council Implications</b>
None

<b>SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES</b>	
<b>Director – Corporate Services</b>	Sarah Hollamby- none received
<b>Monitoring Officer</b>	Andrew Moulton – none received
<b>Leader of the Council</b>	Pauline Jorgensen – none received

<b>For Highways use only</b>	
<b>Town and Parish Councils</b>	
Wokingham Town Council	None received
<b>Local Ward Members</b>	
Wescott	None received
<b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b>	
N/A	
<b>List of Background Papers</b>	
None	
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