

Agenda Item IMD1

NOTICE OF INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

ITEM NO.	IMD 2015 – 18
TITLE	Baslow Road and Chatsworth Avenue - Winnersh
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Councillor John Kaiser, Executive Member for Planning and Highways
DATE AND TIME OF DECISION	Thursday 30 April 2015 at 11:30am
VENUE	SF1 Meeting Room, Council Offices, Shute End, Wokingham
REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED ON	Wednesday 22 April 2015

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION
REFERENCE IMD: 2015 – 18

TITLE	Baslow Road and Chatsworth Avenue - Winnersh
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Councillor John Kaiser, Executive Member for Planning and Highways
ON	Thursday 30 April 2015
TIME	11:30am
WARD	Winnersh
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Heather Thwaites, Director of Environment

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

- Deter parking within proximity of the junction of Baslow Road and Chatsworth Avenue
- Allow the vehicles to remain on the correct side of the road when negotiating the junction
- Allow for a raised splitter island to be constructed at the junction to deter vehicles from cutting the corner

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Planning and Highways:

- Approves the formal sealing and advertisement of the Baslow Road, Chatsworth Avenue (Winnersh) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2015.
- Informs those who have responded to the consultation accordingly.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Wokingham Borough Council has been in discussion with the Winnersh NAG regarding parked vehicles close to the junction of Baslow Road and Chatsworth Avenue. The roads are an alternative route for traffic to avoid Winnersh Crossroads; this can lead to congestion at peak times, or incidents of cars cutting across the junction.

Wokingham Borough Council agreed with Thames Valley Police to place parking restrictions around the area, which would allow advisory markings to be placed to control traffic flow.

Background

Baslow Road and Chatsworth Avenue serve a residential area in Winnersh; however the roads are an alternative route for vehicles going from B3030 King Street Lane to A329 Reading Road, as it avoids Winnersh Crossroads.

During peak times there have been incidents of vehicles queuing on Baslow Road and over-hanging the exit route for the northern section of Chatsworth Avenue. Furthermore there have been incidents where cars turning right from Chatsworth Avenue into Baslow Road have cut across on the wrong side of the junction markings.

Baslow Road and the area around the junction is used for parking as well; the source of this is anecdotally given as local residents, either having a lack of off road parking or too many cars per property. An alternative suggestion has been that some of the parking is commuter related; however Wokingham Borough Council has no way of confirming either of these.

While the road is public highway and these vehicles are entitled to use it and park on it; there have been circumstances whereby cars parked within close proximity of the junction have exasperated the traffic flow problems.

It was these concerns that led the Winnersh NAG to contact Wokingham Borough Council to help improve the situation.

Proposal

Due to the current road width it is not possible to put splitter island at the mouth of Baslow Road, which would provide a deterrent to vehicles cutting across the junction. However it was considered to place an area of raised tarmac, coated in white thermoplastic, at the mouth of Baslow Road. It is anticipated that this will deflect traffic onto the correct side of the junction, but still permit larger vehicles to make the turn by mounting the island.

A white KEEP CLEAR marking on the southbound carriageway opposite Baslow Road will also be provided. This will advise turning traffic during times of congestion to not block the exit route for residents of the northern section of Chatsworth Avenue.

To coincide with these advisory markings; parking restrictions were proposed in the vicinity of the junction. These restrictions will reinforce the Highway Code guidance of not parking within 10m of a junction to deter obstructive parking. While these restrictions extend further than the prescribed 10; it is intended that they will ensure the area is kept clear to allow vehicles to be on the correct side of the road, when negotiating past the raised splitter island.

The restrictions were agreed with Thames Valley Police prior to any public consultation.

Response to TRO Consultation

The TRO was announced on the 29th of January 2015 with a closing date of the 22nd of February 2015. From this consultation Wokingham Borough Council received 7 replies, which are detailed in Appendix A.

2 responses were from local ward councillors, (Prue Bray and Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey) who were in support of the proposed restrictions.

2 residents objected to the proposal. It should be noted that one resident sent 2 objections.

2 residents expressed support for the restrictions, but commented that more should be

considered.

Recommendation & Conclusion

The objections received were in relation to residents wishing to retain parking close to their property. The objectors also mention that the congestion issue is only at peak times and so the restrictions should reflect this and only operate during peak times.

There were also comments about residents of Baslow Road and Calver Close, despite having access to off street parking, using the area for parking should be prevented. It is not for Wokingham Borough Council to dictate to residents where they should park, nor could this be enforced. With regards to vehicles parking on Baslow Road; Wokingham Borough Council considers them to be members of the public parking on a public highway.

It is not for Wokingham Borough Council to guarantee residents with convenient parking on the highway and we reserve the right to restrict parking where considered necessary. While it is recognised that the congestion and overrunning issues mostly occurs during peak times. The prohibitive measures (raised island and KEEP CLEAR) will be permanent, therefore in order to maintain their effectiveness the restrictions should be at any time.

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Highways and Planning approves the formal sealing of this Traffic Regulation Order, and review them after 6 months of operation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£2500	Yes	Revenue Budget
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?)

Does not impact on other services.

Does not impact on any of the council's priorities.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Strategic Director - Resources	No response
Monitoring Officer	No response
Leader of the Council	No response
Town and Parish Councils	
Winnersh Parish Council	The Parish Council considered the proposals to be a reasonable attempt to improve a congested junction.

Local Ward Members	
Prue Bray	No response
Philip Houldsworth	No response
Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	No response

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix A • Drawing 5049-2035-A • Notice of Intent

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