

Agenda Item IMD24

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: 2019/24

TITLE	Hyde End Lane, Shinfield - Objection to Prohibition of Driving Order 2020
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Executive Member for Highways and Transport - Pauline Jorgensen
DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME	23 rd January 2020 SF2 at 19:00
WARD	Shinfield South;
DIRECTOR / KEY OFFICER	Director of Locality and Customer Services - Sarah Hollamby

PURPOSE OF REPORT (Inc Strategic Outcomes)

To consider the comments and objection to the proposed Prohibition of Driving Traffic Regulation Order on a section of Hyde End Lane, in relation to the building of a new housing development and sustainable bus link in the local area. The closure to motorised vehicles will improve the safety and access for non-motorised users such as pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Highways and Transport:

- 1) approves the making of the Wokingham Borough Council (Hyde End Lane, Shinfield) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2019 and;
- 2) instructs that officers within Locality and Customer Services inform those persons who objected accordingly.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report considers the objection raised in relation to the proposed closure to motor vehicles along Hyde End Lane, which in a one-way narrow rural lane currently linking Croft Road (South) with Ryiesh Green Lane (North).and recommends that the objection is noted, but that the order is made as proposed to allow the sustainable bus link to be constructed, thus improving public transport and cycle network through the area, whilst improving safety in the area for non-motorised users.

Background

Hyde End Lane is an existing one-way narrow rural lane, currently linking Croft Road (South) with Ryiesh Green Lane (North). The objection received is noted;

"I want to object to this proposal since this road is a important congestion safety valve for local residence. It will add to congestion and make the worst times even worse."

However it is recommended that the order is made as proposed to allow for the development and its highway/transport improvements to be delivered in line with the aspirations set out within the Council's adopted Core Strategy and adopted South of the M4 Supplementary Planning Document.

The road closure will not only enable the delivery of a sustainable bus link with pedestrian / cycle facilities connecting the Shinfield West and Spencers Wood developments, but also enable Hyde End Road (south section) to become a quiet walking/cycling route for residents travelling both locally and connecting into wider pedestrian/cycle networks.

The development at Spencers Wood is delivering a new 6.1m wide road with pedestrian and cycle facilities, as well as verge/service margins that will enable vehicles to travel from Hyde End Road to Ryiesh Lane, as Hyde End Lane currently does, albeit on a vastly improved piece of road.

Conclusion

Consultation was carried out in March/April 2019 and there were 3 comments received. Of these one from a local cyclist and Right of Way officer in the area showing support, a response from Thames Valley Police saying that they do not object to the proposal and the objection which reads *"I want to object to this proposal since this road is an important congestion safety valve for local residence. It will add to congestion and make the worst times even worse."*

The proposal will increase journey times by approximately 30 seconds and an additional distance of approximately 400 metres. The existing narrow one-way rural lane route will be re-provided through the delivery of a new two-way full width route which also provides pedestrian and cycle facilities. The traffic volumes along Hyde End Lane are light during the busiest time of the day and therefore this proposal will not have any detrimental effect on local residents.

The proposals key function is to allow a bus route to serve the South of the M4 Strategic Development Location by travelling through new development sites within Shinfield and Spencers Wood. Without the prohibition to motor vehicles on this section of Hyde End Lane the bus route will not be able to operate as per the approved Public Transport Strategy secured by planning conditions, also resulting in buses remaining in operation on Hyde End Road, which has recently been subject to many objections from local residents, Parish Cllrs and Members due to perceived safety concerns as it is deemed to be unsuitable for use by larger, wider vehicles, such as buses.

Recommendation

That the proposed "Prohibition of Driving" Order affecting Hyde End Lane be approved and that the sole objector be informed of this decision.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £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)	£500	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	None	-	-
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	None	-	-

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
None

Cross-Council Implications
None

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES	
Director – Corporate Services	No comment
Monitoring Officer	No comment
Leader of the Council	No comment

For Highways use only	
Town and Parish Councils	
Shinfield Parish Council	No objection
Local Ward Members	
Jim Frewin	No objection
Charlotte Haitham-Taylor	No objection
Barrie Patman	No objection

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
n/a

List of Background Papers
N/A

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