

Name of meeting: Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

Date: 24 March 2021

Title of report: Objection to Traffic Regulation No 30 Order 2020, Proposed “School Keep Clear” markings, South Parade, Cleckheaton

Purpose of report: To consider an objection received to -
 Kirklees TRO No 30 Order 2020 - Proposed “School Keep Clear” markings, South Parade, Cleckheaton

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Colin Parr - 16.02.21
Is it also signed off by the Service Director Finance?	Eamonn Croston - 16.02.21
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft - 18.02.21
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Naheed Mather

Electoral wards affected: Cleckheaton

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered: Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1 South Parade is a residential distributor road in Cleckheaton, with residential properties, to both sides, for the majority of its length. Most of the properties in this area do not have off street parking facilities, so park on the road. Heaton Primary school is located on the middle of South Parade, with industrial premises on the opposite side of the road.
- 1.2 Because parking is at a premium in this area there are currently “School Keep Clear” markings in operation, governed by an existing Traffic Regulation Order, which restricts parking on the school side of South Parade, and on Highfields Road 8 am 9:30 am and 2:30 - 4 pm to reduce the risk, from parked cars, for children walking to school.
- 1.3 Due to the current Covid restrictions, traffic movements and parking patterns are not, at present, representative of those evident when the school is fully operational and National Lockdown restrictions are not in place. However, under normal conditions, at school opening and closing times parking now takes place on South Parade, on the opposite side of the road to the school. This parking blocks visibility on oncoming vehicles for pedestrians wanting to cross the road towards the school, particularly those approaching along the well-used footpath from Heaton Avenue, between the houses and impacts on visibility for vehicles entering and leaving the industrial premises, which includes a children’s play gym.
- 1.4 To try to improve visibility and access for both pedestrians and drivers, particularly at school opening and closing times, a section of informal “Keep Clear” markings were put down; however, this has had little impact. As a result, more, formal “School Keep Clear” markings have now been proposed, as close to the desired pedestrian crossing line as possible for pedestrians approaching and leaving the school using the footpath link from Heaton Avenue.
- 1.5 The proposed “School Keep Clears” have been kept to a minimum, to reduce the impact on the surrounding roads, but maximise safety. The proposed length covers the footpath link from Heaton Ave, to a safe distance beyond the concealed entrance, to maintain visibility when vehicles are emerging.
- 1.6 The Traffic Regulation Order for the installation of these markings was advertised between 26 November 2020 to 28 December 2020 and during that time one objection was received.

2. Information required to take a decision

The ‘School Keep Clear” markings have been proposed opposite the existing school “Keep Clear” markings outside the school. The scheme is designed to improve visibility of oncoming traffic for pedestrians trying to cross the road at this location and to ensure drivers travelling up and down the road can clearly see the pedestrians waiting to cross, and vehicles emerging from the concealed entrance.

Objection 1 - Kirklees Council Traffic Regulation (No 30) Order 2020 (Appendix 2)

- An objection has been received from a resident of Highfield Terrace. They are objecting to the proposed parking restrictions on the grounds that they believe the proposals will only displace more parking along Highfield Terrace and further inconvenience the residents around the school. They state drivers often park directly in front of vehicular accesses on to Highfield Terrace and preventing other drivers from using the gaps to wait to let other drivers pass.

This results in drivers having to reverse back out onto South Parade to let other drivers pass.

In response:

There are existing "School Keep Clear" markings on the full length of one side of Highfield Terrace and three existing "Keep Clear" line markings on the opposite side of the road directly in front of vehicular accesses here. If drivers park so as to block these accesses, then our Civil Enforcement Team have the necessary enforcement powers to deal with these obstructions. We do however accept that these problems take place around schools throughout the district and with limited resources to tackle these issues, our Civil Enforcement Team can only visit these sites on a rolling programme. To try to resolve these issues, the Council are currently working with the school to engage them in the Modeshift Stars initiative. This initiative is designed to encourage sustainable travel to school and reduce the numbers of pupils travelling to school by car. When implemented successfully these schemes lessen the impact that school parking has on local residents and the Highway network and improve parking and road safety around the school.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with people - The proposed works are considered necessary to try to improve visibility and access for all road users at school opening and closing times.

3.2 Working with Partners - Working with the School on the impact of home to school travel, with the aim of reducing the reliance on travel by car.

3.3 Place based Working - The Traffic Regulation Order is intended to prevent parking at a desired crossing point. The aim of the proposal is to improve road safety in this vicinity including improving vehicular, cyclist and pedestrian access across South Parade for all road users.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality - The improvement in a safer location for pedestrians to cross this busy road is aimed at encouraging greater access to the school by pedestrians and promoting sustainable travel modes to school, which will in turn, help improve Air Quality and Climate Change.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children - These proposals are aimed at controlling parking, in order to make the roads a safer place to cycle and walk for all users, including children.

3.6 Other implications (HR/Legal/Financial etc) - There is a current cost to the Council of £5472.00 to process the necessary legal order needed to enforce any lines on site, along with the cost of installing the lines and signs and any future maintenance. This cost will be covered by existing Highways Revenue budgets.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Statutory consultees have been consulted on these proposals.

Councillor Kath Pinnock supports the proposals and hopes they will improve safety for all pedestrians but especially for school children, who must cross the road, at this point.

The other Cleckheaton Ward Councillors were consulted and have not raised any objections.

5. Next steps and timelines

Cabinet Committee Local Issues to consider the objection raised during the formal advertising period for the installation of proposed “School Keep Clear” markings and reach a decision on whether the Traffic Regulation Order is to be implemented as advertised.

If Cabinet Committee Local Issues chooses to overrule the objection received, the scheme, will be implemented as advertised.

If Cabinet Committee Local Issues choose to uphold the objection, the proposals to introduce “School Keep Clear” markings at this location will not go ahead and parking will still be allowed in this vicinity and the proposed benefits for improved visibility and road safety will not be realised.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

The proposed “School Keep Clear” markings at this location are aimed at helping to improve visibility and safety for all road users and in particular, young pedestrians.

For these reasons, the Officer recommendation is that the objections to the proposed restrictions be overruled and the Traffic Regulation Order be implemented as advertised, to allow the road safety expected benefits to be realised.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder’s recommendations

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder supports the officer recommendation to overrule the objection and implement the Traffic Regulation Order as advertised. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder believes these measures will not only help improve access and visibility at school opening and closing times but also be of benefit to all other road users at this location at all other times.

8. Contact officer

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9. Service Director responsible

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