

Name of meeting: Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

Date: 22 June 2022 TBC

Title of report: Objection to Traffic Regulation No 34 Order 2021, Proposed “School Keep Clear” markings, Oxford Road, Dewsbury

Purpose of report: To consider an objection received to -
 Kirklees TRO No 34 Order 2021- Proposed “School Keep Clear” markings, Oxford Road, Dewsbury

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 – 31 May 2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director Finance?	Eamonn Croston – 16 May 2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft – 16 May 2022
Cabinet member portfolio	To be announced

Electoral wards affected: Dewsbury West

Ward councillors consulted: Yes

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered: Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1 Oxford Road is a residential distributor road in Dewsbury, with residential properties, to both sides, for most of its length. Most of the properties in this area have off street parking facilities with the East of Oxford Road having permit parking. St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy is located on the middle of Oxford Road, with commercial and industrial premises on the opposite side of the road close to Halifax Road.
- 1.2 Parking, speeding, visibility, and safety is a concern and problem in this area especially at school peak times. There are currently limited “School Keep Clear” markings in operation, governed by an existing Traffic Regulation Order, which restricts parking on the West school side of Oxford Road from 8 am to 9:30 am and 2:30 to 4 pm, Monday - Friday. This is to minimise and reduce the risk, from parked cars, for children walking to school and to allow safe access for school buses. The current limited “School Keep Clear” markings commence from the West residential boundary of 32 Oxford Road and terminate at the start of the school vehicular access and only cover a short distance along the West side of the school vehicle/bus exit area. (Shown on Appendix 1)
- 1.3 Under normal conditions, at school opening and closing times, parking currently takes place on Oxford Road, in most cases vehicles are parking on both sides of the road right up to and past the school. This parking blocks visibility on oncoming vehicles, for pedestrians/school children wanting to cross the road towards the school and impacts on visibility for vehicles and school buses entering and leaving the St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy.
- 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 have been installed; however, these have 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 school footpath links. (As shown on Appendix 2). These School Keep Clears will be operational for the same time periods as the existing restrictions, namely between the hours of 8 – 9.30 am, and 2.30 – 4pm, Monday - Friday. These road markings form part of a larger traffic calming scheme along Oxford Road. (Shown on Appendix 3,4, and 5)
- 1.5 The proposed lengths of School Keep Clears cover, from the West of the school footpath link, a safe distance beyond the school concealed entrances, to the east. This is aimed at maintaining visibility when vehicles and pedestrians are emerging into Oxford Rd. However, the proposed markings have been kept to a minimum, to maximise safety, but to reduce the potential for traffic to need to migrate onto the surrounding roads. To support safety adjacent to the school, and further reduce vehicle speeds, outside the school on Oxford Road, traffic calming features have also been proposed, in the form of road humps, which have been advertised separately.
- 1.6 The Traffic Regulation Order for the installation of the School Keep Clears was advertised between 6 January 2022 to 03 February 2022 and during that time one objection was received. In addition, the Traffic Regulation Order for the installation of the road humps was advertised between 7th April to the 5th of May 2022 and during that time no objections were 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 and will be extended further East. The ‘School Keep Clear’ road markings form part of a larger traffic calming scheme. They are 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 entrances.

Objection 1 - Kirklees Council Traffic Regulation (No 34) Order 2021 (Appendix 2)

- An objection has been received from a resident of Oxford Road. They are objecting to the proposed parking restrictions on the grounds, that they believe the proposals will only displace more parking to outside their premises along Oxford Road. They state that they currently have and for the past number of years parked their vehicle directly in front of their property. They have also stated that they park at this location during all times of the day and believe they have the right to park their vehicles outside their property on the public highway and are totally against the proposed extension of the ‘School Keep Clear’ markings.

In response:

The highway is intended for the passage and repassage of traffic, and no-one has the right to park immediately outside their property. In the main parking is ‘accepted’ on most lengths of the road, however, there are times when there is a need to regulate / manage that parking for a variety of reasons. Residents cannot expect to have the opportunity to park directly outside their own properties, at all times.

These new ‘Keep Clear’ road markings have been proposed to regulate the current non-enforceable ‘keep clear’ markings and discourage vehicles from parking on both sides of Oxford Road, allowing younger more vulnerable school children and parents to cross Oxford Road safely, whilst complementing the wider aims of the proposed traffic calming scheme

These restrictions will only be enforceable 8 – 9.30am and 2.30 – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Outside of those hours parking will be unrestricted, as long as the vehicle is legally parked and not causing an obstructing to free-flowing traffic, pedestrians, or access.

Prior to proposing the new traffic calming scheme on Oxford Road in Dewsbury, traffic and accident data analysis, and a traffic calming assessment was undertaken. The cabinet approved traffic calming assessment highlighted the need and eligibility for the proposed traffic calming measures on Oxford Road. Consultation feedback from all the stakeholders including local ward members and the emergency services has been positive and they have all welcomed the proposals, with no objections received as part of their consultation. In addition, St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy has highlighted that a child was involved in an accident last year whilst crossing Oxford Road from school. This was due to vehicles parking on both sides of Oxford Road near to the school, however details of this collision are not recorded on the police collision database.

It is anticipated that the proposed scheme will make a betterment for all road users including school children, residents, and parents. The combined scheme including the

proposed road humps and the proposed new school keep clear road markings will reduce vehicle speeds along the route and restrict parking indiscriminately on both sides of Oxford Road near the school. All road users will be able to travel/commute safely along Oxford Road due to the lower speeds and the combined road humps. Visibility will be increased in the vicinity of St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy as the proposed extension of the School Keep clear road marking will discourage vehicles parking on both sides of the road.

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 Oxford Road 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, 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 £5554 to process the necessary legal order needed to enforce any lines on site, along with the cost of installing the flat top road humps, lines and signs which will be funded through scheme allocated capital budgets. Any future maintenance, cost of repainting the lining or replacing the signs will be covered by existing Highways Revenue budgets.

4. Consultees and their opinions

Statutory consultees have been consulted on these proposals and have not raised any objections.

Dewsbury West Ward Councillors were consulted and have not raised any objections and have welcomed the proposals

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.

The traffic calming scheme will be implemented as advertised.

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 Officers recommendation.

8. Contact officer

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9. Service Director responsible

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