Appendix 1 – Objections received

Objection 1- All areas

I was shocked to see parking restriction plans for Slaithwaite.

Whilst traffic congestion can be a problem this is regularly for through drivers and a limited number of residents residing in the village centre at short set times of day, which is to be expected when you live in the centre of anywhere. I am sure you are aware that most residents in Slaithwaite reside within the steep hills just outside the village centre.

These traffic plans take out access to pretty much every business in use in the village by the local community, alongside essential community functions and there are no clear plans for parking alternatives within the notice, which will suffocate the village, cause boarded up premises and create a whole raft of problems much harder to solve than a few drivers having to wait 30 seconds to let some traffic through. All of the problems that lead to this order being needed would be solved with a much larger parking provision in the village centre created first. Then see if this is needed.

For example:

I have a toddler and a baby on the way. I use the services at Merrydale. Parking can be a challenge twice a day and vehicles need to slow down to let traffic through because parents have parked. This slower traffic however enables the safe crossing of toddlers and young children and allows people to use the nursery without battling large steep hills or having to park outside others properties further up towards Hilltop or down the road. The Aldi car park is nearly always full at 5pm so please don't propose this. Double yellows on Church Street will benefit through traffic from Manchester Road into the hills sure, but what about the families that use the nursery, the community centre baby and toddler groups, the community centre health activities, the church, not to mention the local business used when families do pick up and drop offs and spend money locally. If you can't get to nursery, church or clubs you go elsewhere, where safe parking and crossing routes are available. Taking this money elsewhere too and you'll swiftly have boarded up community facilities and food outlets. For those that do still try and park they will be pushed outside the homes of local residents, these often don't have driveways in Slaithwaite so where will their guests or emergency services park? There is no proper thinking to this plan at all. The spend in these businesses from my family and I is in the thousands every month alone! It isn't being lazy, it's living in a place with so many hills, a young family and absolutely no safe crossing route on Church Street that make us continuing to use these facilities unviable. Where will the staff for the community centre premises park? Outside residents homes maybe? In spaces that could be used by multiple shoppers daily? Just a thought.

Using Cornfields nursery is also not an alternative with the parking restrictions on Bridge Street, or the hairdressers or other businesses there. Whilst HGV access is a problem alternative options should be investigated, such as another parking provision in the unused land on Bridge Street. The staff and customers from all of the businesses in Bridge Street need parking options, where will these be?

The doctors car park is always full, the one opposite is always full and people often park dangerously and many get parking tickets, this tells you parking is already a problem in the village. The leisure centre car park is always nearly full which makes the leisure and gym facilities unusable (and then campaigning for more members to keep it open who can't even park there?!) and you have to wait in the road for spaces to empty to be able to get in. I've driven back home from the Aldi car park when wanting to use village facilities and local shops and restaurants so many times I have lost count. I've not been able to make doctors appointments due to no parking and I have missed out on activities with my child I have booked as nowhere to park. These proposed restrictions also stop visitors to spa park which is really sad after all of the work the volunteering group has put in. Even the train commuters that park in the village spend money locally, they aren't blocking any traffic or homes.

Slaithwaite is a bright and vibrant village that attracts young families. Without access to parking facilities and safe crossing routes you will be losing significant spend to these facilities every single day (unless you work in Globe Mills of course, so aren't local then crack on)!

Surely the role of the Council is to protect residents and create thriving communities. To do that in a village of steep hills and families you need to create more parking, not take out the very limited options there already are.

Please consider these plans alongside alternative parking and safe crossing routes. Engage with experts in economics and communities (I can recommend some excellent professionals) and then take this forward before drawing some yellow lines and worrying about the economic impact and safety afterwards.

Objection 2 – Church Street

I would like to write in objection to the plans listed in the application DEV/HG/D116-2407(AO). These plans for double yellows either side will enable traffic to move 'freely' but will have a major impact on the speed of vehicles travelling up and down Church Street; therefore a risk to pedestrians and young children who cross the roads to attended the Community Centre for Nursery/Pre-school & summer clubs. Without a safe crossing this will be a major safety risk during peak times. The parking of the cars on both sides of the road at this time force the traffic to slow down and while being potentially a two minute delay on a journey for a driver, this enables the pedestrians and children to cross with less risk of being injured as the traffic is slowed.

Objection 3 – Church Street and Nabbs Lane

Thank you for the work already done and proposals for tackling some of the causes of traffic problems including congestion in the centre of Slaithwaite.

I have 2 concerns that I wish to raise and which could be considered as objections. Firstly, I hope that there will be more clarity about 20 mph restrictions and how these may be enforced. I have not been able to find the detailed proposals for speed limits or an extension of the 20 mph area to include Nabbs Lane.

My second objection concerns the absence of plans to deal with the side effects of double yellow lines opposite the Rumpus, the Community centre and church. It seems likely that the many car driving users of the three popular and busy places will head for handy parking on Nabbs Lane. We already have to jostle for parking places on the lane and can only see the problem getting worse. Have parking permits for residents of Nabbs Lane been considered? They have for Bridge Street and the same consideration should be given to residents of Nabbs lane.

Objection 4 – Bank Gate and Church Street

I would like to comment on the proposals for a 'no loading at any time' restriction at Bank Gate, Slaithwaite.

The area outlined is the only safe place where workmen at the Community Centre can unload and load goods and equipment for work at the Centre. There is a barrier between the pavement and the road directly opposite the Centre entrance and the road is very narrow on the stretch of road above the barrier.

While I fully appreciate the congestion problems in this area and support the use of double yellow lines on Church Street, I would hope that you could allow limited loading, perhaps avoiding peak times, to enable the Community Centre to function smoothly.

Objection 5 – Bank Gate, Church Street and Nabbs Lane

I would like to lodge an objection to part of the proposed TRO in Slaithwaite at the bottom of Bankgate at the junction with Church Street and Nabbs Lane.

The section I am commenting on is directly outside the main access to the Slaithwaite Community Centre and St.James Church. This is a key loading zone for 33rd Slaithwaite Scout Group, other Community Centre organisers and users and also for the church. There is currently a single line requesting people keep clear and do not park. That line is generally maintained very well. When it comes to loading up a trailer for a week long camp for 40 Scouts or even unloading a herse for a funeral in the church, that area and the ability to load/unload there is crucially important, Not being able to do so would be detrimental to the whole community that the 2 venues serve. I hope that a restriction to "loading only" or no change to the current restriction there could be possible instead. I have indicated the area I am referring to, on the attached map. I have no further objections to any of the other proposals and believe that the measures you are putting in place elsewhere will benefit the safety of the community too; for which I thank you.

Objection 6 – Church Street

I'd like to object to the proposed double yellow lines on church lane, bank gate and noble lane. This negatively impacts anyone dropping and collecting young children from the nursery/after school club unless another provision is made for those people. Flow of traffic through Slaithwaite is impacted more by poorly thought through and non coordinated roadworks.