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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE - LOCAL ISSUES

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Present:

Councillor Moses Crook
Councillor Graham Turner

Co-optees

In attendance:

Elizabeth Cusick, Operational Manager – Highways and
Street Scene
Charles Wong, Principal Engineer – Highways and Street
scene

Observers:

Apologies: Councillor Munir Ahmed

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor Munir Ahmed.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2024.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2024 be approved as a correct record

3 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked

7 Member Question Time

No questions were asked.

8 Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) - Amendment Order No 9 2024 - A629 Halifax Road, Huddersfield

The Committee considered an objection received to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) – Amendment Order No 9 2024 – A629 Halifax Road, Huddersfield which was presented by Charles Wong, Principal Engineer – Highways and Street scene.

It was explained that the A629 Halifax Road Phase 5 project would lead to the widening of Halifax Road between Yew Tree Road and Ainley Top roundabout to provide two approach lanes. This improvement will cater for traffic heading north towards Halifax; west along the A643 Lindley Moor Road; and to the east along the A643 Brighouse Road.

The objection referred to restrictions being placed in the “layby” outside their property. However, the area of the carriageway referred to was a diverging lane from Halifax Road into Yew Tree Road West. This was currently subject to “Keep Clear” markings, which were regularly abused.

Under the proposals, the current diverge lane of Yew Tree Road would become the beginning of the left slip lane for M62 traffic to bypass Ainley Top roundabout, and the Give Way line for Yew Tree Road moved back to accommodate this change. Parking in this vicinity would impact on visibility from the new layout.

The A629 proposals were subject to several public consultation events, and changes were made to the scheme as a result. A planning application was submitted for the scheme and approval was secured in December 2023.

The TRO was advertised between 9 August 2024 and 30 August 2024. One objection was received during the informal consultation for the legal order in June 2024 but was accepted as a formal objection as the issues remained unresolved at the time of advertising.

The initial reasons for the objection were in relation to adequate consultation, being prevented from parking outside their property due to the removal of the Keep Clear Lines and concerns that the installation of double yellow lines would prevent parking a vehicle in front of the driveway, which was felt to be unusable due to its width.

Officers responded to confirm that as the property was purchased in 2022 by the current occupier, which was within the period when the planning application was being considered. As part of the property purchase process, the objector’s conveyancer should have carried out a Local Authority search.

In respect of the addition of double yellow lines, these proposals reinforced the current arrangements as parking to the frontage was not technically permitted with the existing ‘keep clear’ road marking.

Mr Fariq also attended the meeting to support the initial reasons for objection as outlined in the report (2.7) and to highlight further concerns around safety when accessing the drive. It was noted that reversing into a narrow driveway off a road with 2 lanes of traffic was difficult, and reversing onto the pavement with a restricted

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view was unsafe for both pedestrians and motorists. It was also highlighted that a disabled family member who regularly visited the property required parking nearby as the drive was not wide enough for them to fully open their car door making it impossible for them to exit the vehicle.

In response the Committee noted that this was a key connecting route between Kirklees, Calderdale and the Motorway and that it was clear from the evidence that the current advisory road markings were not being respected and the installation of double yellow lines would enable enforcement as part of the wider scheme. The Committee did express their sympathy for residents due to challenges caused by an ageing road network and appreciated the comments regarding safety, but this was already an issue due to the advisory road markings being ignored and vehicles blocking access to the pedestrian crossing.

In regard to accessibility, the Committee advised Mr Fariq to contact local ward councillors to start the process around obtaining an advisory disabled parking bay outside the property. It was also highlighted that officers were still prepared to work with Mr Fariq around widening the entrance to the drive which the Committee encouraged.

Having considered the information presented both verbally and in writing the Committee agreed that:

RESOLVED – That the Objection to the proposed ‘Traffic Regulation Order Amendment Order No 9 2024 – A629 Halifax Road, Huddersfield’ be overruled and that the Order be implemented as advertised.

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