

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment and Highways Cabinet Board

17th September 2015

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport

D. W. Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Ward Affected: Neath North

Proposed Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time Order Gnoll Drive, Neath

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the response received following the advertisement of the proposed No Waiting at any Time Order as indicated in Appendix A and whether to implement the Traffic Regulation Order in the interests of Road Safety.

Background

2. Gnoll Drive is an un-adopted road albeit in the ownership of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.
3. The scheme was designed to prevent vehicles parking opposite Cedar Road at its junction with Gnoll Drive and towards the north-west end of Gnoll Drive to improve access and safety for all highway users.
4. In June 2015, the proposals were advertised at the same time a Consultation Exercise was undertaken to all properties affected by the scheme; Appendix B.
5. A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the Assessment, it has been determined that this function does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Financial Implications

6. At the start of the financial year, funding of £2K was allocated for this scheme as part of the 2015-16 Capital Works Programme.

Consultation Outcome

7. List of Consultees
Councillor A R Lockyer
Councillor M Protheroe

Residents affected by proposal:

Following the consultation exercise three letters of objection were received. A summary their contents are listed below.

Letter 1 stated reasons for objection;

- The lane is vital for visitor parking in an area of restrictions and demand for limited parking space for residents of several feeder streets.
- By having parking helps slow vehicles that short cut between Cimla Road and Beechwood Road.
- Many pedestrians and visitors to the Gnoll grounds walk between the lane and town and without cars parked traffic will travel faster and will endanger pedestrians, pets and children far greater than allowing vehicles to park.

Letter 2 stated reasons for objection;

- I believe the current indiscriminate parking already assists to cut speed and limit short cut access. Accordingly, any removal of parked vehicles will only make matters worse.
- Evening travel movements are bad enough without the day time parking the road will become a race track.

Letter 3 stated reasons for objection;

- I have complained several times to the local Councillor about Council vehicles speeding in the area and am happy to see cars parked in the area as they act as traffic calming measures.

- I object to Council expenditure at these hard times on such an unnecessary measure. This is a quiet residential area where people park considerately and I have never seen anyone blocked in because of parking on the junction.
- There is a shortage of parking in the area and any reduction will lead to inconsiderate parking and friction in the community.
- The only vehicles that park in the proposed restricted area are Council vehicles because there is no room in the Council yard. I have complained to the local Councillor about Council employee's inconsiderate parking and further restrictions will lead to more problems for residents in Cedar Road.
- The junction of Cedar Road and Gnoll Drive is not a busy junction and is adequate for most users. It is a residential area and parking there is unlikely to cause an obstruction so doesn't justify the proposed stringent parking measures.
- To the best of my knowledge Gnoll Drive is a public right of way. It is primarily used by pedestrians because of gates being locked preventing vehicular access to the remainder of Gnoll Drive. Vehicles parked act as a deterrent for through traffic and the proposed restrictions could lead to Cedar Road becoming a rat run to avoid the roundabout on Cimla Road.
- I believe that this order is being proposed for the convenience of the Council yard having no regard for residents nearby. I object to the Council doing this. I object to the placement of the yard in a residential area as we were told it was a temporary facility and shows no sign of moving.
- In exercising the power conferred to it under Sections 6, 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Act 1984, the Council have regard to Section 122 of the act which imposes a duty on the Council to have regard to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable & adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. Whilst I believe the proposed measures will facilitate the Council employees, it will not help local residents or children who use it as a route to and from the local Welsh School.
- There have been several incidents of road rage on Gnoll Drive further down from the proposed waiting area. If this measure leads to increased traffic then this is set to increase

too. To the best of my knowledge these incidents have comprised of through traffic and not local residents.

Observation of Objections

8. The objectors' main concerns are that should the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be implemented then this will reduce the number of parking spaces in the area, lead to an increase in traffic volumes, vehicle speeds and as a consequence increase in road rage. The objectors are also concerned there will be an increase in indiscriminate parking leading to friction within the community and a less safe environment for pedestrians and particularly children who use Gnoll Drive as a safe route to School.
9. In all there will be a reduction of four legal parking spaces which are adjacent to the Council yard. These are generally used by shoppers and commuters walking to work and therefore should not impact on parking arrangements in Cedar Road as there is a Residents Parking Scheme in operation. The area from Cedar Road to Beechwood Avenue will remain uncontrolled on one side of the road and will generally be available in the evening as commuters return home.
10. There is no reason to believe there will be an increase in traffic or speeds as the layout of the road will not change and drivers will still have to stop at the end of Cedar Road to make a 90 degree turn towards Beechwood Avenue.

Sustainability Appraisal

11. No Change.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the objections be overruled and that the objectors be informed accordingly.

Reasons For Proposed Decision

13. The Highway Code states that "vehicles should not stop or park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction". The introduction of the Traffic Order will prevent vehicles from parking opposite the

junction of Cedar Road and Gnoll Drive providing safe and clear passage to the relevant roads and to the Council yard. With no vehicles parked close to Gnoll Drive gates there will be clear visibility for pedestrians and especially school children up to its junction with Cedar Road.

14. The proposed Traffic Regulation Order is supported by the local Councillors and the Police.

Appendices

15. Appendix A – Prohibition of No Waiting at Any Time Order Plan
Appendix B – Consultation Exercise Letter to Residents

List of Background Papers

16. TR29/02
Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Form

Wards Affected

17. Neath North

Officer Contact

18. Daniel Long – Senior Technician, Traffic, Tel No. 01639 686488,
email: d.long@npt.gov.uk

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME ORDER GNOLL DRIVE, NEATH

(a) Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call-in period.

(b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	-	No Impact
Education and Lifelong Learning	-	No Impact
Better Health and Well Being	-	No Impact
Environment and Transport	-	Positive
Crime and Disorder	-	No Impact

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	-	No Impact
Sustainable Development	-	Positive
Equalities	-	Positive
Social Inclusion	-	Positive

(c) Consultation

The item has been subject to external consultation.

Appendix B



17th June 2015
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Date Dyddiad
Direct Line Rhif Ffôn
email e-bost

Mr D L Long

Contact Cyswilt
Your Ref Eich Cyf
Our Ref Ein Cyf

The Occupier

TR25/DLL/DW

IF Appendix B

Dear Sir/Madam

Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time
Gnoll Drive, Neath

It is the intention of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to implement the Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time Order as indicated on the attached plan.

A copy of the proposed Order, Statement of Reasons and an appropriate plan may be inspected during normal office hours at the main reception desks in the Civic Centres at Neath and Port Talbot, The Quays, Baglan and Pontardawe Library.

Any comments should be submitted in writing to reach the Head of Engineering and Transport, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, The Quays, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park, Neath, SA11 2GG by 8th July 2015.

Should you require any further information please contact my officer on the above telephone number.

Yours faithfully

Head of Engineering & Transport

Enc

Environment
Yr Amgylchedd

www.npt.gov.uk

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The Council welcomes
correspondence in English or Welsh

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Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth
yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

