

NEATH PORT-TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

25 JUNE 2020

Report of Head of Engineering & Transportation – D.W.Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards affected: MARGAM

(ROAD ADJACENT TO 63 AND 65 BEECHWOOD ROAD, MARGAM, PORT TALBOT) (EXPERIMENTAL PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2019.

Purpose of Report

To consider the objection received following the advertisement of the above experimental order as indicated in Appendix A.

Executive Summary

Further to the opening of the new Ysgol Cwm Brombil pedestrians and traffic were seen to be in conflict in the narrow lane between Beechwood Road and Bertha Road, Margam.

The lane was being used as a rat run for traffic putting school children at risk due to the narrow footways and road width.

An Experimental Prohibition of Driving Order was implemented in the interest of road safety.

The proposal is to make the experimental order a permanent order.

One e-mail objecting to the order was received.

The report outlines the objection and the recommendations for the scheme.

Background

The experimental prohibition of driving traffic regulation order was required to prevent conflict between traffic and school children in the narrow lane between Beechwood Road and Bertha Road, Margam in interest of road safety.

Access to the lane from Beechwood Road was temporarily closed to vehicular traffic between Nos 63 and 65 Beechwood Road under the experimental order for a period of 18 months expiring in November 2020.

The proposal is to make the experimental order a permanent order.

Financial Impact

The work is to be funded by the Strategy Schools Improvement Programme.

Integrated Impact Assessment

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix B, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below:-

A full impact assessment is not required as the proposed traffic regulation orders will provide a benefit for the local community and provide a safe environment for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, school children and residents.

Valleys Community Impacts

There are '**No implications**' associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts

There are '**No Implications**' associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

The experimental order was advertised as part of the statutory process.

Risk Management Impacts

There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

An experimental prohibition of driving order was implemented in May 2019 for a period of 18 months.

One email objection to the scheme was received.

The objection is summarised as follows:-

1. The closure to vehicular traffic was not shown at the planning stage.
2. Residents will now need to drive the full length of the school frontage instead of a shorter section putting school children at risk.
3. The lane is used by a lot of people.

In response to the above objection there are suitable and adequate footways serving the school on both sides of Bertha Road.

However the lane has very narrow footways resulting in the school children having to walk in the lane thereby causing conflict with traffic using the lane as a short cut.

The local member has been consulted and fully supports the experimental order being made a permanent order.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the objection to the (Road adjacent to 63 and 65 Beechwood Road, Margam, Port Talbot) (Experimental Prohibition of Driving) Order 2019 be overruled and that the experimental order be made permanent as advertised.

That the objector is informed accordingly.

Reason for Proposed Decision

To prohibit access to vehicular traffic in order to protect school children in the interest of road safety.

Appendices

Appendix A - Plan – Temporary Prohibition of Driving Order. Road adjacent to 63 & 65 Beechwood Road, Margam.

Appendix B – Integrated Impact Assessment.

Background Papers

None.

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