



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION AND STREETSCENE
SERVICES CABINET BOARD

14th July 2023

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport – D.W.Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Aberavon

VILLAGE ROAD, VILLAGE GARDENS, PENTRE AFAN AND
BROOKLYN GARDENS (REVOCATION, PROHIBITION OF
WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING AT ANY TIME,
PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FOR ACCESS)
ORDER 2023

Purpose of the Report:

To consider the support, comments and objections received following the advertisement of the Village Road, Village Gardens, Pentre Afan and Brooklyn Gardens (Revocation, Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Unloading At Any Time, Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Except for Access) Order 2023, as indicated in Appendix A.

Executive Summary:

The report outlines the proposed traffic regulation orders which were formally advertised resulting in objections being received.

Background:

Ongoing representations over several years have been made to South Wales Police, the Local Members and Engineering Officers from both parents and residents of Village Gardens regarding road safety concerns along Village Road, Village Gardens and Pentre Afan, Aberavon.

The road safety concerns include the inappropriate speed of traffic, difficulty for pedestrians crossing Village Road and the indiscriminate parking practices on Village Road, Village Gardens and Pentre Afan particularly from parents of pupils attending Ysgol Bae Baglan and Bro Dur.

There is an existing footbridge which crosses the A4241 Afan Way connecting to Village Road which provides a designated safe route to pupils of Ysgol Bae Baglan and Bro Dur. This has proved popular with parents and road safety issues have arisen for children from Village Gardens crossing Village Road due to indiscriminate parking by some parents.

Officers from the Engineering and Transport attended a public consultation where they met with the elected members, representatives of the South Wales Police and Ysgol Bae Baglan and Bro Dur. Following the meeting it was agreed by all parties that the proposed raised toucan crossing facility, speed cushions and traffic regulation orders should be introduced to address the aforementioned highlighted concerns.

The traffic regulation orders are required to prevent indiscriminate parking in the interest of road safety.

The proposed scheme is indicated in Appendix A.

Financial Impacts:

The scheme is to be funded by the Welsh Government Active Travel Grant.

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 C, 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 safe environment for all highway users.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

There are 'No Implications' associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts:

There are 'No Implications' associated with this report.

Legal Impacts:

The proposal was advertised for a 21 day period in April / May 2023.

Risk Management Impacts:

There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

A consultation exercise was undertaken for a period of 21 days in April / May 2023.

There were 368 letters and plans hand delivered to the properties on Village Gardens, Pentre Afan, Brooklyn Gardens and Windsor Village detailing the proposals. Following a three-week consultation exercise, 5 statements of support, 5 comments and 18 statements of objections were received on the proposal.

A summary of the support and the objections received is given below:-

Support: - *Any officer observations / comments are illustrated in italics in response to the points raised.*

- a) Residents support the proposed traffic calming works along Village Road.
- b) Residents fully support the need for a Toucan crossing on Village Road especially if it makes the route safer for children and pedestrians.

Comments: - *Any officer observations / comments are illustrated in italics in response to the points raised.*

- a) A resident has requested that the proposals are monitored daily if implemented and that residents are given two permits for visitors to park.
- b) A number of residents called in to ask what the proposals were as they did not understand them.

Objection: - *Any officer observations / comments are illustrated in italics in response to the points raised.*

- a) A resident feels that the proposal does not find a solution for finding parents who drop off their children somewhere to park.

There is some parking still available on Village Road sited away from the controlled crossing location.

- b) A resident's feels that there needs to be a safe drop off point and a car park for parents.

There are existing drop off points available closer to the school at Seaway Parade and Sirius Drive.

- c) A resident feels that it is easy to say to the parents that they should encourage walking the children to school but unfortunately in 2023 most families work and are in a time limit to be able to drop off for school before work.

The Welsh Government is promoting Active Travel where by cars are not used for short journeys. Children walk and cycle to school. Active Travel is law in Wales and as such Local Authorities are tasked with implementing the Act and Guidance accordingly. The Welsh Government want to see a cultural change in transport modal shift towards walking and cycling especially for the younger generation that will then take this mode forward as part of their everyday lives.

- d) A resident would like to know where the parents are supposed to park if the new restrictions were introduced.

The resident can park at the drop off points closer to the school or on the unregulated sections of Village Road away from the controlled crossing point and walk to school.

- e) Residents feel that Brooklyn Gardens should be included in the proposals as there are already parking problems in the street including driveways being blocked at school pick up times.

This will be included in the scheme under a separate statutory consultation. Refer to Appendix B.

- f) Residents feel that the proposed 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Except for Access' orders on Village Gardens and Pentre Afan will only displace parking to other locations, Brooklyn Gardens will be an obvious choice to park their vehicles with all the chaos that will bring.

The Council agrees that displaced parking will occur into those areas without current restricted parking regimes. This will be included in the scheme under a separate statutory consultation. Refer to Appendix B.

- g) Residents feel that the proposed 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Except for Access' orders on Village Gardens and Pentre Afan will only displace parking to other locations, Westland's will be an obvious choice to park their vehicles with all the chaos that will bring.

The Council agrees that displaced parking will occur into those areas without current restricted parking regimes. This will be included in the scheme under a separate statutory consultation. Refer to Appendix B.

- h) Emergency vehicles may have problems accessing Brooklyn Gardens and Westland's.

The obstruction of the carriageway and footway is an enforcement matter for South Wales Police.

- i) A resident feels that the speed humps are not a good idea and 'give way to traffic coming towards you' system would be better.

The Council are no longer considering Priority Build outs following feedback on driver behaviour at these give way installations.

- j) A resident feels that the proposed 'Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Unloading at Any Time' should be extended on Village Road.

This will remove all the available unrestricted parking and as such is not supported at this time.

- k) A resident has stated that the existing 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Except for Access' order on Afandale does not work as it is ignored.

This traffic regulation order is enforced by South Wales Police not the Council.

- l) A resident has suggested that a new car park for the school is required.

This request falls outside the scope of the consultation on traffic regulation orders and would be a matter for the Education department to consider.

- m) Residents are concerned that visitors will not be able to access Village Gardens and Pentre Afan if the new 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Except for Access' order goes in.

Residents, visitors and deliveries to property are able to access the estate but not vehicles parking and the occupants not visiting property within the estate.

- n) Residents feel that the parking problems should have been sorted at the planning stage of building the school.

Parking for the school was considered as part of the statutory planning process and falls outside the scope of the current traffic regulation orders which are being consulted upon.

- o) A resident feels that the scheme will cause more safety issues than it solves.

The scheme will be monitored going forward.

- p) A resident has requested that the 'layby style' junctions be removed along Village Road.

This could be of benefit; however, the area is currently covered by a parking restriction and not technically necessary.

The Local Members have been consulted on the feedback received and support that the objections are upheld in part with the original scheme in Appendix A being implemented and an additional scheme be consulted upon as indicated in Appendix B.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment it is recommended that the objections are upheld in part to the Village Road, Village Gardens, Pentre Afan and Brooklyn Gardens (Revocation, Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Unloading At Any Time, Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Except for Access) Order 2023 (as detailed in Appendix A to the circulated report) that the scheme is implemented as advertised and an additional scheme be consulted upon (as detailed in Appendix B to the circulated report).

The objectors will be informed of the decision accordingly.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Orders are necessary to prevent indiscriminate parking in the interest of road safety.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Appendices:

Appendix A – Plan – Village Road, Village Gardens and Pentre Afan, Aberavon – Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders.

Appendix B – Plan – Village Road and Brooklyn Gardens, Aberavon – Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders.

Appendix C – Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers:

None

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