

# HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL

Monday, 7 March 2011

Present:

Councillor J Hale (Chair)

Councillors AR McLachlan

D Mitchell

## 25 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement. No such declarations were made.

## 26 OBJECTION: PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS - PENSBY ROAD/PENRHYN AVENUE, THINGWALL

The Director of Technical Services reported concerning a 575 signature petition objecting to proposed waiting restrictions at the junction of Pensby Road and Penrhyn Avenue, Thingwall.

**Resolved - That this matter be deferred for a meeting with the shopkeepers and businesses situated in this part of Pensby Road.**

## 27 PETITION: REQUEST FOR FURTHER ROAD SAFETY MEASURES IN PARK ROAD, WALLASEY AND SURROUNDING AREA

The Director of Technical Services reported concerning a 521 signature petition requesting further road safety measures to slow the speed of traffic in Park Road, Wallasey and the surrounding area.

The Director reported that, following a detailed investigation of the casualty record, a local safety scheme including a 20 mph zone and a series of road humps, shown on drawing number TS0100b0, was introduced in Park Road and wider surrounding area in 2001. These measures were designed in accordance with national guidance

to ensure that the scheme's 20mph speed limit was self enforcing. Traffic speed surveys which were undertaken at four locations within the area in November 2009 following receipt of this petition revealed relatively low speeds in general, with an average speed of 21 mph.

The lead petitioner had been advised of the findings of the survey, but the lead petitioner felt that additional measures could be taken to improve road safety.

Councillor Denis Knowles, Ward Councillor, read a statement prepared by the lead petitioner, indicating that speeding was a regular occurrence in this area and the height of the speed humps was too low to effectively slow traffic down to 20mph. He suggested that the situation continue to be monitored and that further survey work be undertaken to check vehicular speeds.

The Director explained that no additional traffic management measures were warranted at the present time, however, Road Safety officers would continue to offer education to children and parents about the highway environment.

**Resolved – That the Panel:**

**(1) Note the petitioners' request for further road safety measures to slow the speed of traffic in Park Road, Wallasey and the surrounding area.**

**(2) Recommend to the overview and scrutiny committee that no further action be taken in respect of the petition at the present time, but vehicular speeds in this area continue to be monitored and that the Director reported back to the Panel if any further action is needed.**

**28 RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMITS - SILVERBURN AVENUE, MORETON**

The Director of Technical Services reported concerning the outcome of a recent consultation exercise carried out with residents of Silverburn Avenue, Moreton to ascertain the level of support for restricting the number of resident parking permits that may be issued to addresses within the street.

The Director explained that the traffic regulation order governing this scheme allowed for multiple resident permits to be issued to each address within the scheme, subject to meeting relevant criteria. The Panel's previous decision to restrict resident permits to one per property (in addition to the single visitor permit) would require an alteration to established Council policy and an amendment to the Order, subject to the statutory consultation process. Officers had monitored the impact of visitor permits and consulted residents on the other aspect of the Panel resolution, namely, that permits should be restricted to one resident and one visitor permit per property.

The results of this consultation were that of the 23 forms delivered, 16 were returned with 14 in favour and 2 against the proposal, which represented 61% in favour, but

still significantly short of the criteria for supporting major changes to existing resident parking schemes. In view of the limited support for this proposal, the Director asked the Panel to consider the available options.

Resolved – That Panel notes the result of the recent consultation with residents of Silverburn Avenue, Moreton on a proposal to limit the number of permits issued to each address within the scheme to one resident and one visitor permit only and instructs officers to take no further action in regards to this proposal.

## 29 **OBJECTIONS SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS**

The Director of Technical Services reported concerning objections to the provision of waiting restrictions at 3 locations following an audit of School Keep Clear and associated Traffic Regulation Orders around the vicinity of Wirral schools.

### (A) BRACKENWOOD INFANT SCHOOL, HOLMWAY, BEBINGTON

The Director reported that during the original advertisement period of Phase 1, in September 2010, objections were received to the Monday to Friday, 8 am – 5 pm Waiting Restriction, from residents at properties 3, 5 and 7. These objections were supported by two Ward Councillors. One of the objectors had suggested that the situation could be resolved by the introduction of a 'No Motor Vehicles – Except For Access' restriction and associated signs, and a copy of her detailed email representation was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Walter Smith, Ward Councillor, addressed the meeting. He referred to his observations of problems caused by parents manoeuvring their vehicles and creating hazardous conditions for school children, and outlined his views on the issues raised by the objectors and the proposed scheme.

Additionally, a resident provided an email representation, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

In addition to the objections, a letter of support had been received from one resident who felt the proposals (shown on plan B.Eng/21/10D1) would assist them in manoeuvring to and from their property. This resident also requested that the proposed restrictions be extended to 'No Waiting at Any Time'.

Brackenwood Infant School had also reported safety concerns relating to parked vehicles within the turning head restricting visibility and therefore supported the introduction of the original advertised waiting restrictions.

Further to minute 17 (8/11/2010) when the Panel resolved that the original advertised scheme for the provision of waiting restrictions be deferred for further consideration of an alternative 'Access Only' scheme, the Director reported the views of Merseyside Police, who had confirmed that the introduction of 'Access Only' signage and legislation was unsuitable and effectively unenforceable at this location on the

basis that 'Access Only' could not be easily defined. Parents / carers, staff or visitors could legitimately seek access to the school and then park within Holmway, bringing the sign and legislation into disrepute. Furthermore, officers were concerned that the safety of those wishing to access / egress from the pedestrian footpath would not be addressed through this proposal.

Merseyside Police did not support the introduction of a 'No Motor Vehicles – Except For Access' restriction, and recommended that the introduction of Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 9:30 am and 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm waiting restrictions was a more practical solution.

As a compromise to the original proposal, it was now recommend that a single yellow line prohibiting parking within the turning head, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 9:30 am and 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm be introduced.

**(B) PRENTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRAMWELL AVENUE AND EDINBURGH DRIVE, PRENTON**

The Director reported that residents of 75 Bramwell Avenue and 65 Edinburgh Drive had submitted two separate objections to the proposals for the removal of the existing School Keep Clear Markings, as shown on drawing number B.Eng/1/11/B

The residents of 75 Bramwell Avenue attended the meeting and expressed their concern regarding the removal of the existing School Keep Clear Markings on the grounds that this would be detrimental to road safety causing difficulties with vehicular access / egress to their property.

The residents of 65 Edinburgh Drive had also objected to the planned proposals on the grounds that the proposed waiting restrictions (junction of Bramwell Avenue / Edinburgh Drive) were excessive and would prevent visitors parking outside their property. They felt that the parking problems were caused by school traffic, and only between the hours of 8 am – 9 am and 3 pm – 4 pm.

Correspondence from two Ward Councillors, on behalf of undisclosed resident(s) and the Prenton Tenants and Residents Association, supported a reduction in the hours of restriction to cover the afternoon and morning drop off / pick up only (Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 9:30 am and 3:00 – 4:30 pm). An email representation was received from Councillors Simon Holbrook supporting the residents' views that the 'Keep Clear Markings' should be renewed rather than replaced. He also requested that, having regard to the different ways in which residents living locally would be affected by the proposals, the situation be reviewed in 6 months' time whichever option the panel was minded to agree.

The Director referred to site observations which had been carried out to assess the impact of the proposed markings in relation to safety and traffic management around the vicinity of the school, and reported that the proposed Monday to Friday, 8 am – 5pm parking restriction, as advertised, would prevent parking outside the school during the whole school day.

In response to concerns from the residents at property number 65 Edinburgh Drive that the proposals would impact on the ability for visitors to park near their property, he reported that the proposals were part of a wider area approach to manage

congestion and parking in this area, and would provide a more formal restriction of parking at this junction, improving visibility and safety. Site observations showed that the extent of the advertised proposals would still permit the parking of vehicles at the end of the proposed waiting restrictions on Edinburgh Drive, outside and adjacent to their property which also had off-street parking.

In view of the differing viewpoints involved, the Director sought the views of members on the available options in order to progress this scheme.

**(C) ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST GEORGES ROAD, WALLASEY**

The Director reported that the residents of 30 Claremount Road had objected to the proposed No Waiting at Any Time restrictions in St George's Road, shown on plan B.Eng/1/11/C, on the grounds that they dealt with only one part of a much wider problem and that officers had failed to consult properly with all interested parties. The residents attended the meeting and explained their views on traffic conditions in this area. They requested that the proposals be delayed until a wide scale consultation meeting takes place to cover the following points:

- (i) Introduction of a dropping off zone.
- (ii) Staggering the end of the school day for different classes.
- (iii) Better use of the CCTV car (or speed trap) to monitor speeding vehicles.
- (iv) Introduction of traffic calming measures within St Georges Road.
- (v) Passing a By-Law to allow pavement parking as specific times of the day.
- (vi) Planning future road maintenance schedules to include the narrowing of the pavements.

The Director reported that the statutory order making procedures had been followed and no other objections had been received to the proposed waiting restrictions within St George's Road. It was therefore recommended that the waiting restrictions be introduced as advertised

**Resolved - That the Panel note the objections but in the interests of road safety recommend to the overview and scrutiny committee that the following proposals be approved:**

**(1) Proposed Revised Waiting Restrictions, Brackenwood Infants School, Holmway, Bebington – a revised time of operation, Monday to Friday 8:00 - 9:30 am and 3:00 – 4:30 pm be introduced, as shown on plan B.Eng/51/10D1**

**(2) Proposed Waiting Restrictions (Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 9:30 am and 3:00 – 4:30 pm), Prenton Primary School, Bramwell Avenue and Edinburgh Drive, Prenton, be introduced.**

**(3) Proposed Waiting Restrictions (No Waiting at Any Time) St George's Primary School, St Georges Road, Wallasey, be introduced, as shown on plan B.Eng/1/11/C.**

