

REPORT TO: Environment & Urban Renewal
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 26th March 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Transportation

SUBJECT: Consultation results re: request for waiting restrictions
to prevent parking on part of Cronton Lane, Widnes.

WARDS: Farnworth

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report on consultation that has been carried out in accordance with a Board resolution (Item 21, 11th September 2013 meeting) following submission of a petition requesting the introduction of bollards and waiting restrictions to prevent parking on part of Cronton Lane, Widnes.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That the necessary steps be taken to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order to implement 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions on both sides of Cronton Lane, Widnes, extending from its junction with Lunts Heath Road/Birchfield Road to Hill View.

2.1

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At a previous meeting (as above) the Board considered an 18 name petition from residents of Cronton Lane which raised concerns over abuse of the existing waiting restrictions in the area, obstruction of driveway entrances and sight lines, and vehicles being parked on the footway and is contained in Appendix 'A'. It requested that the existing 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions at the east end of Cronton Lane be extended and that drivers be prevented from driving up onto the footway by the installation of a number of bollards on both sides of the road, as shown in Appendix 'B'.

3.2 With regard to the request for waiting restrictions and bollards, it was resolved that wider consultation be carried out to seek views on the proposal from the surrounding area, following which a further report would be brought back to the Board. The consultation boundary and the extent of suggested waiting restrictions was pre-agreed with ward councillors before contacting households, restrictions being put forward as extending the full length of Cronton Lane to the Borough boundary. This approach was adopted in the light of the received petition but also due to a separate request from a resident for the application of waiting restrictions in the area of Stratton Park. The consultation area is shown on Drg. No. 9079 in Appendix 'C' but it was not considered appropriate to consult over this wider area on the installation of bollards.

3.3 168 letters were distributed to all the properties within the area shown on the plan in

Appendix 'C'. A total of 64 responses were received with 38 (59%) in favour of the proposal, 25 (39%) against and one which didn't state a preference. One resident from a Hill View residence didn't give an exact address on their response. Of the 21 responses received from households on Cronton Lane between Hill View and Lunts Heath Road, being the section most affected by the current parking issues, 14 of the 21 responses were in favour of waiting restrictions (67%).

- 3.4 After reviewing the consultation results, ward councillors believe that the legal process should be commenced to extend the existing "At Any Time" waiting restrictions on Cronton Lane from Lunts Heath Road junction at the east end as far west as Hill View. During the associated formal consultation with affected frontages which would follow if this approach is agreed, any objections would be reported back to the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board prior to it going to the Executive Board in the agreed way.
- 3.5 Compliance with any waiting restriction is dependent on enforcement action from the Police and as in the original petition many respondents in the consultation exercise raised concerns over abuse of existing and proposed waiting restrictions. If effectively policed, there should be no need for the introduction of bollards to prevent parking on the footway and Cheshire Police have been contacted to request attention to the area. If 'parking on' does continue to be an issue, then consultation with individual households could be undertaken regarding introducing more bollards to footway areas.

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The ward councillors for Farnworth have been consulted as above and support the recommended actions. Cheshire Police have been consulted and have raised no objections to the proposal.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total cost of introducing the requested waiting restrictions would be approximately £1,000. This could be funded through annual traffic management revenue allocations.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct policy, social inclusion, sustainability, value for money, legal or crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 7.1 Children & Young People in Halton
There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority.
- 7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton
There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.
- 7.3 A Healthy Halton
There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority.

7.4 A Safer Halton
The proposed waiting restrictions could serve to prevent obstruction and protect sightlines for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal
There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 There is a variable and uncertain road safety risk associated with not introducing these requested waiting restrictions, the degree of risk depending on the degree to which drivers would continue to park so as to obstruct the highway, desire lines and sight lines along Cronton Lane.

9.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES.

9.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Report to Executive Board Sub- Committee 7th December 2006 - Proposed Zebra Crossing – Cronton Lane, Widnes

10.2 Report to Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board, 11th September 2013 (Item 21) - Petition requesting the introduction of bollards and waiting restrictions to prevent parking on part of Cronton Lane, Widnes.

Appendix
"A"

Cronton Lane Residents,
Widnes,
Cheshire,
WA8 5AJ

24th April 2013

Farnworth Ward Councillors,

Municipal Buildings,
Kingsway,
Widnes,
Cheshire,
WA8 7QF

Dear Sirs/Madam,

We are writing to you regarding the parking problems on Cronton Lane. This is regards to both sides of the road adjacent the shops on Cronton Lane.

Vehicles park on the double yellow lines & where no double yellow lines exist, blocking our entrances. They also park on the pavement which blocks our view of the oncoming traffic. All the signatories below agree that there will shortly be a serious road traffic accident. Bollards are fitted in front of a few of the houses to prevent parking on the pavement but these only extend to the yellow line area. We would like your support to have the double yellow lines & bollards extended.

There are times when cars at speed mount the kerbs making it dangerous for pedestrians.

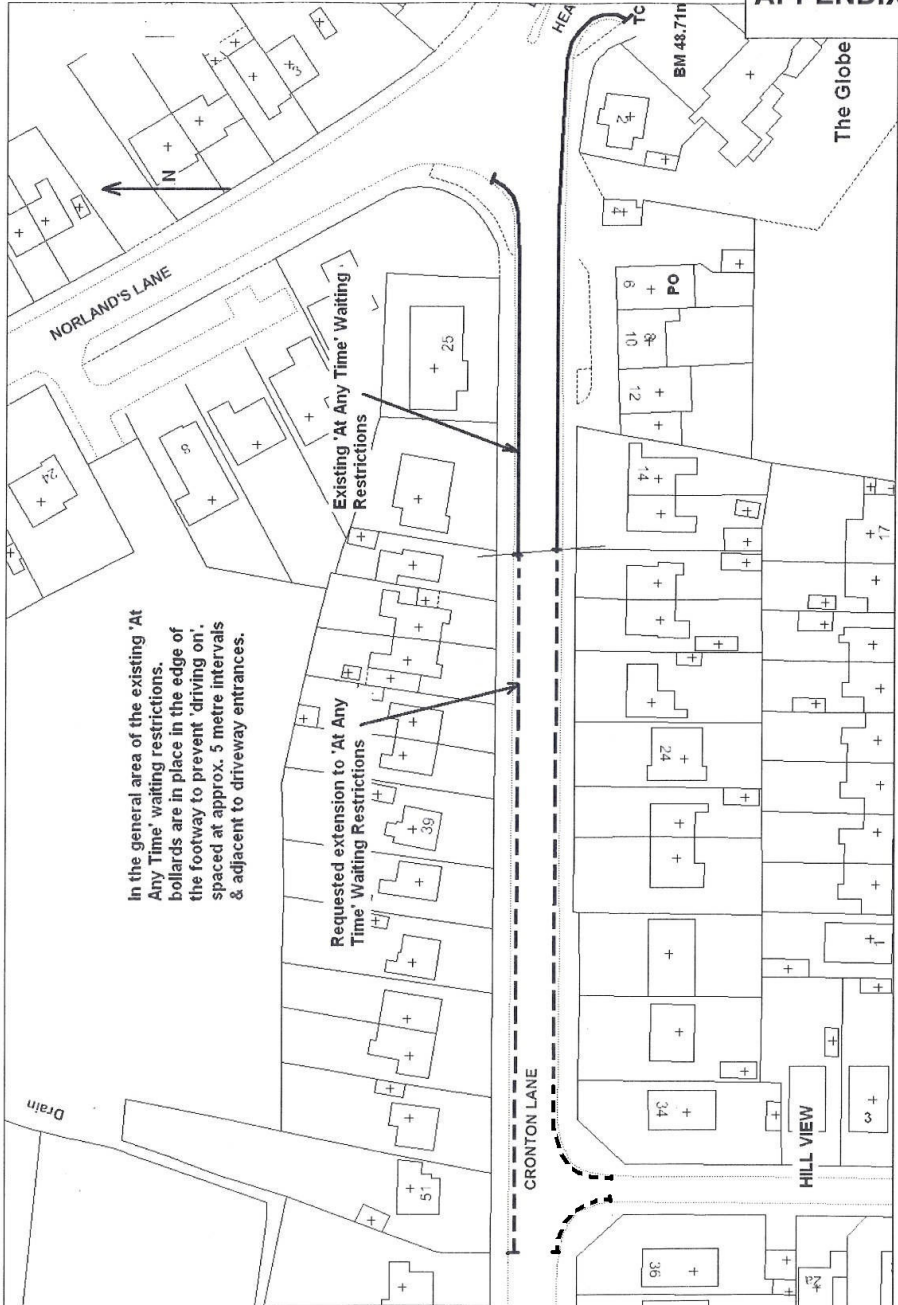
Whilst we appreciate that the local shops provide a service, the extent to which the local area has had extensive housing developments has also increased the traffic in the area.

The situation is at its worst during rush hour times & evenings whilst people are trying to use the local facilities.

We all feel that before long, somebody is going to be seriously hurt. If you could provide support to prevent a potential accident, we would appreciate it very much.

Yours sincerely

The residents of Cronton Lane



In the general area of the existing 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions, bollards are in place in the edge of the footway to prevent 'driving on', spaced at approx. 5 metre intervals & adjacent to driveway entrances.

Requested extension to 'At Any Time' Waiting Restrictions

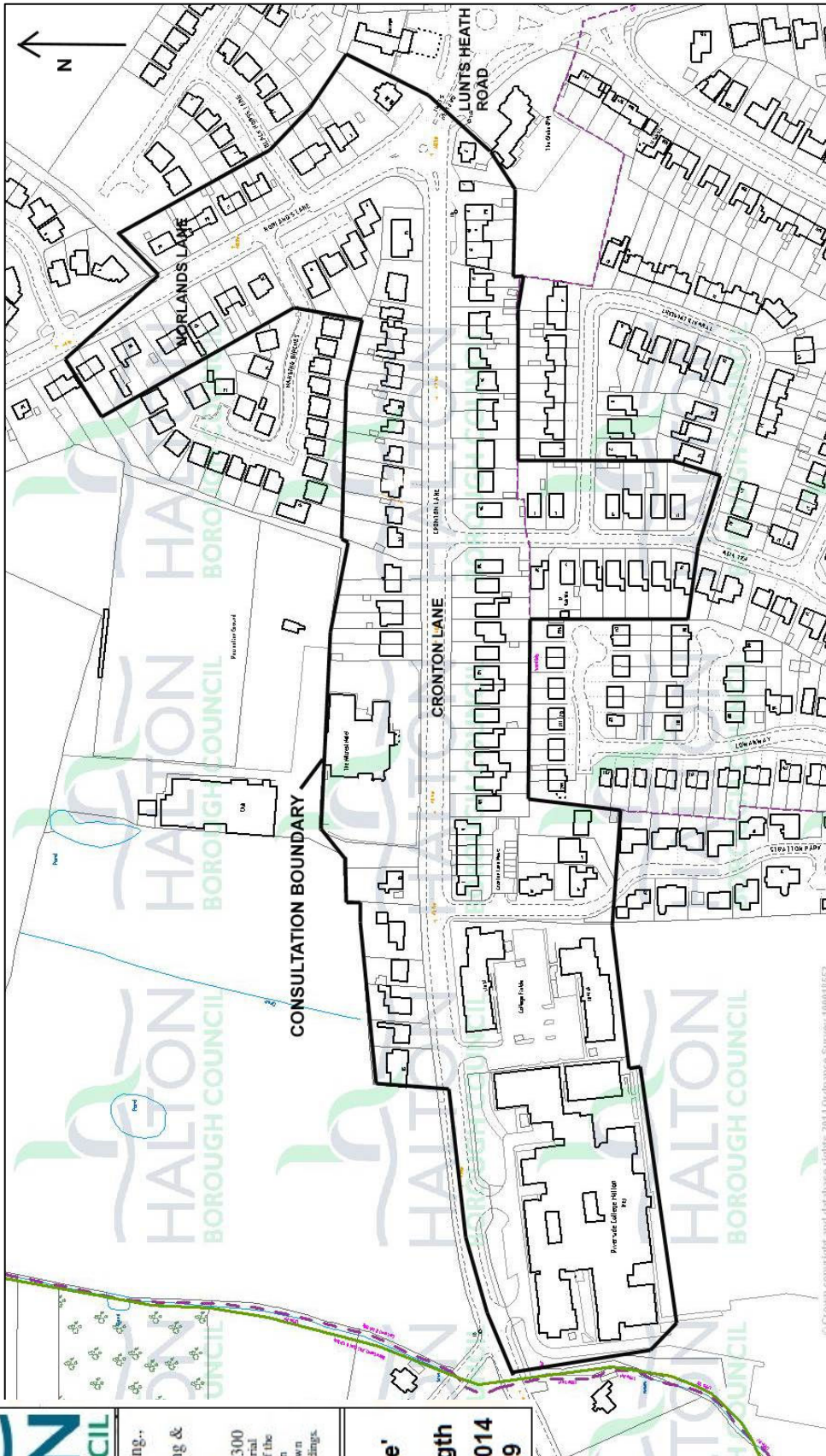
Existing 'At Any Time' Waiting Restrictions



HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**Petition Requesting
Extension of 'At Any Time'
Waiting Restrictions and
Bollard Installation,
Crontron Lane, Widnes**
Scale: NTS Date: Jun 2013
Drawn: SJ Checked:
Drg. No.: 9229



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Consultation Area
 Proposed 'At Any Time'
 Waiting Restrictions
 Cronton Lane Full Length
 Date: NTS Date: Feb. 2014
 Drawn: SJ Dra. No. 9079