

REPORT: Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 16th November 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Transportation

SUBJECT: Introduction of waiting restrictions to prevent parking adjacent to Moore Primary School

WARDS: Daresbury

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on consultation that has been carried out on the proposal to introduce waiting restrictions on Lindfield Close, Runcorn Road and Beechmoore near to Moore Primary School, in order to address parking congestion and to then recommend a way forward.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION that:

This Board supports the proposal to make an Order to introduce “At Any Time” waiting restrictions on parts of Lindfield Close, Runcorn Road and Beechmoore in Moore as shown in Appendix ‘A’ and defined in Appendix ‘C’ and that the report be submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In March 2014, a resident raised the issue of parking congestion in the area of Moore Primary School, associated with parents’/carers’ vehicles being parked on nearby junctions and Runcorn Road, blocking both sightlines and desire lines for drivers and pedestrians alike. In July 2015, Cheshire Police requested the introduction of waiting restrictions in the same areas to help resolve these problems. In November 2015, waiting restrictions as shown in Appendix ‘A’ were the subject of public advertising and a consultation process that extended to ward Councillors, Moore Parish Council and the frontage properties. This proposal included leaving the existing double white line system in place in order to prevent overtaking on a length of road where forward visibility is limited because of the railway bridge parapet.
- 3.2 During the consultation period, one objection (Appendix D) was received from a resident whose property does not directly front on to the proposed restriction, its concerns being:

[1] Parking demand being displaced into surrounding areas.

Please refer to para. 7.2 below.

[2] Inconsiderate parking by visitors causing obstruction.

This is a matter for Cheshire Police and the comments were passed to them for appropriate action.

[3] A need for better transport arrangements associated with the school.

Whilst Moore Primary School encourages parents to avoid driving children to school, it has pupils from a widespread area and hence it this is not always practical. It is believed that there are no current plans to alter the transport arrangements at the school.

[4] Additional yellow lines are needed along Runcorn Road

These cannot be included in the current proposal as they were not advertised. Any additional restrictions would need to be subject to a separate consultation.

3.3 Moore Parish Council submitted an objection which is included in Appendix E. It is not a statutory consultee. However, it could have been sent details of the proposals as a matter of courtesy, but unfortunately this was overlooked when the details were published. That said, the Parish Council acknowledges that it did see the advert in the local press. Its main points are as follows:

1. *There is a longstanding Parish Council objection in principle to yellow lines in the village, this has been raised with Officers on many occasions.*

They are visually unacceptable and create unnecessary restrictions on a small village where, at times, flexibility in parking is essential for the community.

Where there are parking issues, such as on Runcorn Road, double yellow lines are generally well observed and are usually more self-enforcing than other restrictions. In conservation areas, it is permitted to use narrower lines to reduce the visual impact and this could be considered in Moore. Also, in response to the concern about the visual impact of yellow road markings, there are already yellow markings in Lindfield Close, Moore for the 'School Keep Clear' marking. It is felt that the need to consider and improve road safety should override any potential visual impact of yellow lines which are recognised and used extensively throughout the country.

2. *The proposed waiting restrictions are "At Any Time". The issue they are seeking to address occurs for limited time periods twice a*

day, as pupils are dropped off / collected from the school.

The need to maintain visibility splays is required at all times hence the proposal for “At any time” restrictions at the junctions indicated on the plan. The fact that double yellow lines would also be implemented adjacent to the double white lines would merely serve to reinforce the principle that nobody should park here at any time. Limited waiting adjacent to double white lines cannot be condoned.

3. *The Police already have powers to deal with the issue if they chose to do so. Council drawing number 9817 is incorrect in that it indicates a dashed line to the centre of Runcorn Road in the area of the proposed works. For part of the area where the restrictions are proposed there is a double white line in the centre of the road with associated restrictions. It is our understanding that the Police have “chosen” not to enforce this.*

Cheshire Police has carried out enforcement in the area for obstruction offences as these can be enforced by the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). Enforcement for contravention of the double white line system is an offence that carries penalty points and a higher fine and, therefore, must be enforced by a uniformed police officer. No notices for this offence have been issued in this area, but drivers have been advised of the offence. Most drivers appear not to be aware of the rules regarding double white lines, as evidenced by the number of drivers who park adjacent to the double white lines and, when spoken, to are unaware of the offence.

4. *There have been no accidents associated with the parking issue.*

Whilst there may have been no reported accidents relating to parking issues, it is a concern for the police and they have received numerous complaints about the inconsiderate parking and resulting hazards. Due to its reduced resources, the Police have requested the waiting restrictions to make it clearer as to where vehicles cannot park.

The other items raised in the letter do not relate to this current proposal and will be dealt with separately.

- 3.4 Moore Primary School submitted an objection after an officer of the Council contacted it, as it had not submitted any comments during the consultation period. Its objection is included in Appendix F and the main points are as follows:

1. *The overwhelming view of staff is to object to the proposals for a number of reasons. Firstly, the position of the school, in a semi-rural area, makes it necessary for many of our children to arrive by car. While it may be possible for some of our older children to walk the 30-40 minute journey from Sandymoor to school, families*

with young children would find this incredibly difficult and dangerous along a very busy main road. We would be putting our children in danger as they would all have to walk along the narrow single pavement from the Estate to the school.

Whilst the view above is appreciated, the existing double white lines were installed to prohibit overtaking along the section of road where visibility was restricted by the railway bridge. Where there are double white lines, parking should not take place on either side of the carriageway. This has, unfortunately, become common practice in this case. This needs to be controlled and is supported by the Police. As parking should not be taking place along this relatively short section of road, which the school admit is a very busy main road, the proposal should not necessarily impact adversely on how children arrive at school. Wherever possible, walking to school should be encouraged as part of the Healthy Halton Priority. Also, by prohibiting parking on the radii of junctions on the routes to the school; this creates a safer environment for those who chose to walk to school, by improving visibility at the junctions.

2. The result of introducing the proposals would, I feel, just move the problem to another part of the village possibly causing further more dangerous parking and creating problems for residents which would then impact on our good community links.

The same comments as above apply in that parking should not be taking place along this length of Runcorn Road.

3. Furthermore, it will result in parents 'voting with their feet' and moving their children to schools in other authorities which border us (Warrington, Chester and Cheshire West). We are a small school that have worked hard to build our reputation and our pupil numbers over the last few years and feel that this would be detrimental to our good relationships with our parents and with our village community.

This is not a valid reason to object to the proposal, so cannot be considered

4. Finally, I would like to know what alternative measures the police/council have considered before making the decision to introduce the parking restrictions?

The police have tried to enforce the current rules and restrictions, but there is a high level of ignorance to the rules regarding double white line systems and parking on junctions, hence the current proposals to make it clearer as to the requirements and hopefully reduce the need for the police to take enforcement action that includes penalty points and higher fines.

- 3.5 Following the objections, an officer from the Council and the local Police Community Support Officer were invited to attend Moore Parish Council on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 and the proposals were discussed with the parish councillors present. After some discussion it was agreed to investigate an alternative, which is included in Appendix B.
- 3.6 This proposal, which was put to the Parish Council and the Police, is essentially the same as the original, apart from replacing a length of the proposed double yellow lines on the north side of Runcorn Road with a parking bay for up to 6 vehicles. Whilst this appeared to offer a potential solution by providing a number of potential parking spaces, it would necessitate the removal of the double white lines (as parking is not allowed adjacent to them) and would also result in potentially dangerous parking manoeuvres taking place on the bend as vehicles attempt to access one of the parking spaces at the busiest times of the day. For this reason, Council officers now feel unable to recommend the proposal.
- 3.7 Subsequent to an officer from the Council and the local Police Community Support Officer attending Moore Parish Council on Wednesday 3rd February 2016, they have attended subsequent meetings on 4th May 2016, 6th July 2016 and 5th October 2016 and both proposals were again discussed with the parish councillors present, the purpose being to try and reach a solution acceptable to everyone. Unfortunately, this has not been possible. At the July meeting, the parish council proposed putting out "No Waiting" cones at the areas where double yellow lines would be installed. This was to be done by the caretaker from the school on each morning and afternoon. Council officers and the police do not support this proposal, as it is not an enforceable option, as "No Waiting" cones should only be used for short term situations and their use should not exceed seven continuous days. The caretaker has, nonetheless, and against the advice of the police, been putting out the cones. Some have been moved and/or ignored to enable cars to park; in addition, when the caretaker is not available or has higher priority duties, such as gritting the paths within the school site in periods of adverse weather, he would not be able to put cones out. Ward members have requested that more time be given to observe the effectiveness of this action. This is being monitored by the police but is not seen as a long term sustainable solution. A verbal update on this option will be given to the meeting.
- 3.8 Ward members, who are concerned that waiting restrictions may be ignored when there is no police/PCSO enforcement around and that public money may, therefore, be wasted in providing the lines, have requested that, as an alternative, a Police Constable visit the site occasionally to issue the fines and penalties associated with parking adjacent to double white lines. These comprise both a fine and penalty points on licences and hence are more severe than just parking on double yellow lines. This would be in the hope that the issuing of these more severe penalties would dissuade offenders. Whilst this could be

tried as a short-term alternative, there is no guarantee that it will be effective, especially in the long term. There may well be more adverse reaction from those who may incur these penalties.

3.8 One resident did request an extension of the originally proposed parking restrictions further to the east along Runcorn Road; however this request will need to be considered separately at a future date. The reason for this is that it is not possible to extend the area covered by the proposed waiting restrictions without following the statutory consultation procedures. A verbal request has also been received for the restrictions to be extended eastwards due to parked vehicles creating difficulties for vehicles entering or leaving properties.

3.9 For Members further information, there is an ongoing discussion involving the school, the police, the Parish Council and officers regarding the renewal of the 'School Keep Clear' markings on the west side of Lindfield Close, although they are not part of the proposals under consideration in this report.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton
There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority.

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

6.3 A Healthy Halton
There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority.

6.4 A Safer Halton
The proposed waiting restrictions will serve to prevent obstruction and protect sightlines for all road users.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Urban Renewal' priority.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There is a variable and uncertain road safety risk associated with not introducing these proposed restrictions, the degree of risk depending on the number of drivers who continue to park obstructing the highway and sight lines at this location.

7.2 Traffic parking displaced from the locations to receive the new restrictions, could place an extra parking demand on adjacent areas but the priority needs to be the safety of all road users. At the present time, this section of Runcorn Road carries double white line centre markings which prohibit kerbside parking but appear not be effective. Vehicles should not park on the radii of junctions and the proposed restrictions would serve to deter this.

7.3 No full risk assessment is required.

8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES.

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

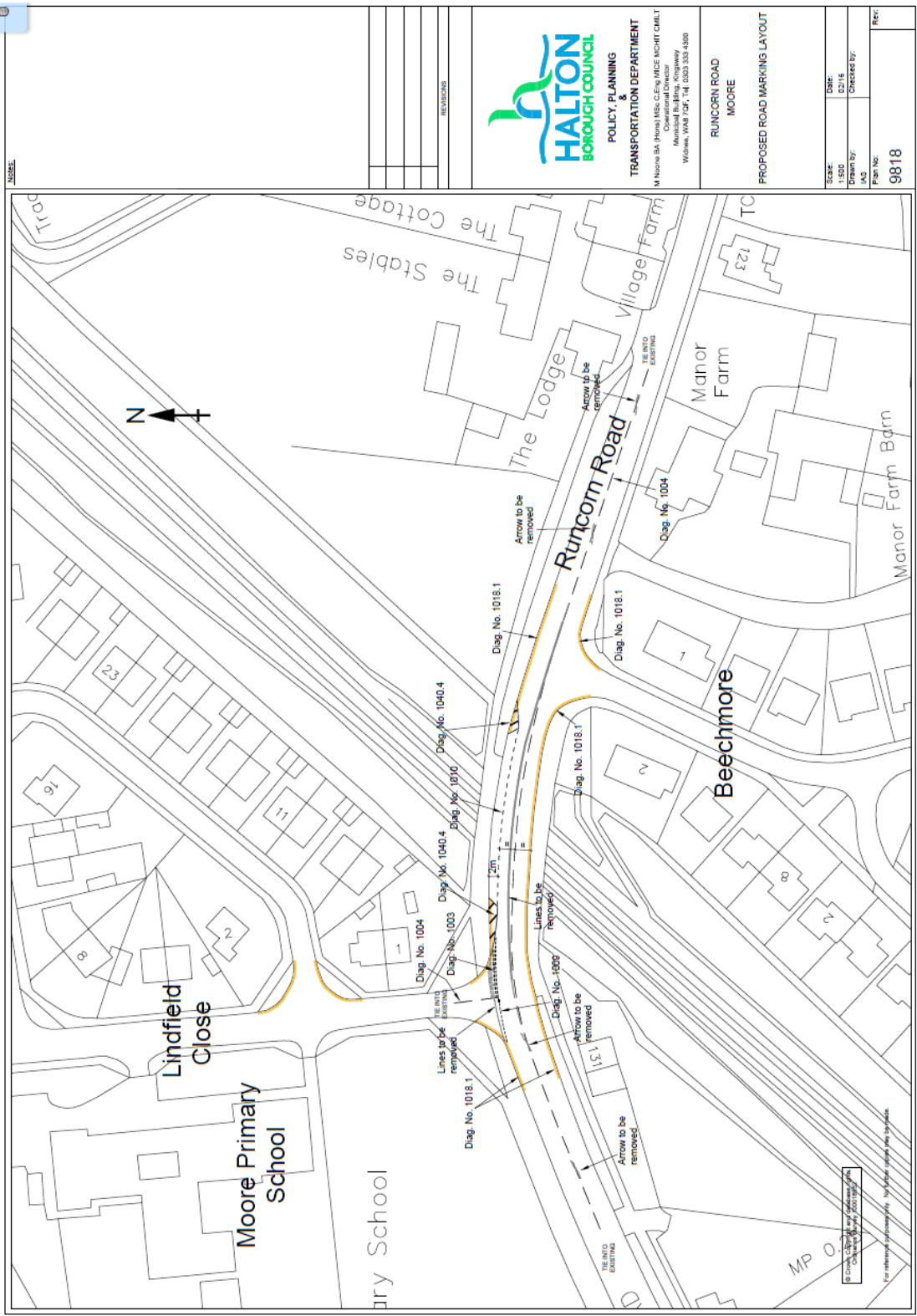
9.0 KEY DECISIONS ON THE FORWARD PLAN

9.1 These proposals do not constitute a key decision and are not included in the Forward Plan.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1 **None.**

APPENDIX B



Details of Proposed Order:

[a] "At Any Time" Waiting Restrictions.

[b] Details:

Runcorn Road:

South side from a point 20 metres west of the centre of the junction with Lindfield Close to a point 18 metres east of the centre of its junction with Beechmoore.

North side from a point 20 metres west of the centre of the junction with Lindfield Close to a point 18 metres east of the centre of its junction with Beechmoore

Lindfield Close: Both sides for a distance of 10 metres from the north kerb line of Runcorn Road and both sides for a distance of 11 metres from the east kerb line of Lindfield Close opposite Moore Primary School, adjacent to nos. 2 & 3 Lindfield Close.

Beechmoore: Both sides for a distance of 8 metres from the south kerb line of Runcorn Road.

[c] Plans: Drg. No. 9817 (attached in Appendix "A").

[d] Associated revocations: None.

[e] Exemptions: Standard

[f] Date to be advertised: ASAP

[g] Date to be effected: ASAP

[h] Advertising code: 5400 1625 2544

Justification: To prevent obstructive parking and protect sightlines.

THEY ALSO PARK OPPOSITE MY VAN AT
BEECHMOOR AND BIN WAGON OF
DELIVERY VEHICLES CANNOT GET THROUGH

IF YELLOW ARE NEEDED THEY SHOULD
START AT VILLAGE FARM GATE DOWN TO
SIX ACRE LAKE BUT THE SCHOOL WOULD
HAVE TO ALTER ITS GATE 'IN' AND OUT
OR GO BACK TO RULES WHEN I WAS
YOUNG UNDER 3 MILES FROM SCHOOL WALK

LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU

YOURS TRULY

MOORE PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX E

21 Lindfield Close
Moore
Warrington
WA4 6UG
14th December, 2015

Dear Mr. Parr

Proposed “At Any Time” Waiting Restrictions Runcorn Road, Lindfield Close and Beechmoore in Moore

The Parish Council were unaware of the Council’s proposals to progress with “At Any Time’ waiting restrictions at the above. There has been no prior consultation or notice to them.

The matter has been brought to our attention, fortunately, through the published notice in the press.

We have in the past raised concerns at the lack of consultation on highway matters and we reiterate our concern that, as the locally elected body, the Parish Council should have been consulted prior to the public notice process commencing.

The Council object to the proposals on the following grounds:

1. There is a longstanding Parish Council objection in principle to yellow lines in the village, this has been raised with Officers on many occasions.

They are visually unacceptable and create unnecessary restrictions on a small village where, at times, flexibility in parking is essential for the community.

2. The proposed waiting restrictions are “At Any Time”. The issue they are seeking to address occurs for limited time periods twice a day, as pupils are dropped off / collected from the school.

Outside these limited times there are no issues.

The proposals are disproportionate to the problem to be addressed and will create unnecessary issues for residents whose day to day use of the road in front of their property is neither a source of nuisance nor a road safety hazard.

3. The Police already have powers to deal with the issue if they chose to do so. Council drawing number 9817 is incorrect in that it indicates a dashed line to the centre of Runcorn Road in the area of the proposed works. For part of the area where the restrictions are proposed there is a double white line in the centre of the road with associated restrictions. It is our understanding that the Police have “chosen” not to enforce this.

It will only take a few enforcement actions by the Police to expedite the issue without the costs and adverse impact the proposed restrictions will cause.

4. There have been no accidents associated with the parking issue.

We have previously been advised that Halton Borough Council will not allocate expenditure on highway matters unless there is a proven necessity to do so, a trigger for such action being an accident record. On this basis there are no good grounds to progress with the proposals.

The negative impacts on nearby residents and the local community will outweigh any gain; there is an alternative solution over which the Police have adequate existing control.

On a separate but related matter, when David Parr attended the Parish Council on 3rd December, 2014 the matter of reducing the speed on Runcorn Road beyond the school through to Sandymoor from 40 mph to 30 mph was discussed. This is a longstanding concern of the Parish Council. There is a significant highway anomaly in a short section of a 40 mph road sandwiched between 30 mph zones in a residential area.

We have been advised by the Council that there is no justification for such under highway guidance given that there has been no accident history and that funding is not available.

The Parish Council have reviewed the guidance and conclude that it supports the speed reduction at this location.

The funds allocated for the unnecessary proposed parking restrictions around the school could and, in the view of the Parish Council should, be reallocated to the speed reduction proposal. This would make a positive contribution to road safety.

We would ask that the Council withdraw their proposals for the "At Any Time" waiting, that the Police review their position with respect to enforcement and that a meeting be convened with Highways Officers to progress speed reduction on Runcorn Road.

Yours sincerely,
Moore Parish Council

Catherine J. Fitch

Clerk to Moore Parish Council

From: Moore - Head
Sent: 07 January 2016 10:05
To: Steve Johnson
Subject: RE: MOORE PARKING RESTRICTIONS REQUEST

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your email and for the information sent. Having only been in post at Moore for a term, I felt it necessary to share the information with the whole staff to gain a more rounded, historic view of the proposals.

The overwhelming view of staff is to object to the proposals for a number of reasons. Firstly, the position of the school, in a semi-rural area, makes it necessary for many of our children to arrive by car. While it may be possible for some of our older children to walk the 30-40 minute journey from Sandymoor to school, families with young children would find this incredibly difficult and dangerous along a very busy main road. We would be putting our children in danger as they would all have to walk along the narrow single pavement from the Estate to the school.

The result of introducing the proposals would, I feel, just move the problem to another part of the village possibly causing further more dangerous parking and creating problems for residents which would then impact on our good community links.

Furthermore, it will result in parents 'voting with their feet' and moving their children to schools in other authorities which border us (Warrington, Chester and Cheshire West). We are a small school that have worked hard to build our reputation and our pupil numbers over the last few years and feel that this would be detrimental to our good relationships with our parents and with our village community.

Finally, I would like to know what alternative measures the police/council have considered before making the decision to introduce the parking restrictions?

I trust this clarifies the school position and await your response regarding the alternative proposals which have been considered.

Kind regards

Eileen Smith

Eileen Smith

Headteacher

Moore Primary School

Lindfield Close

Moore

Warrington

WA4 6UG

Telephone: 01925-740326

Email: head.moore@halton.gov.uk

Web: www.mooreprimary.co.uk

From: Steve Johnson
Sent: 04 January 2016 11:26
To: Moore - Head
Subject: MOORE PARKING RESTRICTIONS REQUEST

Dear Mrs. Smith,

This Council has received a request from Cheshire Police for the introduction of some limited sections of 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions. The greater part of the proposals relate to Runcorn Road where the present double white centrelines already effectively prohibit parking, and adjacent road junctions where again, parking should not take place. I attach a sketch of the affected areas.

I know all schools face problems with parking at starting and finishing time and I understand you have previously made efforts to encourage parents to take a responsible approach to parking in the area if they choose to drive. Could I ask you to have a look at the proposals and let me know if you have any objections?

Thank you for your help with this.

With best regards,

Steve Johnson

Traffic & Road Safety

t. 0151 511 7521