

Highways Committee

12 June 2009

Proposed Traffic Regulation Order at Seaham Trinity Primary School, Princess Road, Seaham



Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services.

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of objections to the initial consultation for The County Council of Durham (Princess Road Primary School, Seaham)(Traffic Management) Order 2009 (see attached plan).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 As part of the development of the new Seaham Trinity Primary School various highway works were required. These included the widening of the road at the pupil entrance on the south side of the school and a Traffic Regulation Order [TRO] on some of the streets surrounding the new school. The Loading and No Waiting At Any Time restrictions will make it safer and easier for access and egress at the two junctions onto Princess Road.
- 2.2 The aim of the order is to provide safer access routes to the school by regulating parking of vehicles on these routes and at the pedestrian and vehicle entrances in line with the School Travel Plan. The TRO will also assist the safer passage of residents' vehicles along the roads by regulating where vehicles can park at school opening and closing times.
- 2.3 An initial consultation was carried out in November 2008 with the usual statutory consultees, other organisations which may be affected by the order and the 18 properties abutting or close to the proposed TRO restrictions. Each consultee received a letter, a plan of the proposals and a pre-paid reply card and were invited to return their comments.
- 2.4 A total of 11 responses were received by 9 December 2008 of which 5 [46%] were in favour, 3 [27%] were not in favour and 3 [27%] did not give a view. One of the objections was resolved.
- 2.5 The TRO was formally advertised on 1 April 2009 and there were no objections received to the proposed TRO.

- 2.6 The Chief Constable fully supports the proposals which will hopefully assist in alleviating road safety concerns at this location due to the poor manner in which vehicles are being parked at the beginning and end of the school day.
- 2.7 The Local Members, Councillors Bob Arthur and Charlie Walker have been consulted and support the proposals.

3.0 Current Position

3.1 Representation 1

“There is a need for more parking to be available for local businesses – not less.”

Response: Parking will only be restricted to a point 10m away from the junction. Parking outside the area will remain unrestricted. The Highway Code advises in Rule 243 that motorists do not stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space. The proposed parking restrictions will reinforce this and improve visibility, therefore improving safety at the junction.

3.2 Representation 2

This representation raised a resident’s concern at where they were going to park since they had 3 cars and 1 van and parking was bad enough at present and would free residents’ only parking permits be provided.

Response: Regarding the availability of parking, it is not always possible for this to be available outside every home especially when there are a number of vehicles at the property. The restrictions in the un-named road between Princess Road and Queen Street which is the main area of concern are on one side of the road only. They apply between 8 am and 6 pm Monday to Saturday and therefore do not operate in the evening when demand is greatest.

With regard to the issue of Residents’ Only parking permits or similar, these are only effective when introduced as part of an area wide traffic management scheme and hence would not be appropriate in this case.

4.0 Recommendations and Reasons

- 4.1 Members are recommended to endorse the proposal to set aside the representations and proceed with the scheme.

Background papers

Correspondence on office file

Copies of correspondence have been placed in the Members' Resource Centre

Contact: John Ray Tel: 0191 332 4429

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

All the costs of processing and implementing the TRO are being provided from the DCSF's New Deals for School – Modernisation programme.

Staffing

None

Equality and diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None

Sustainability

None

Human Rights

None

Localities and Rurality

As detailed in report.

Young People

None

Consultation

Consultation on the TRO has been carried out.

Health

None