

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **Highways Committee** held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 14 July 2022 at 9.30 am**

### **Present:**

**Councillor R Ormerod (Chair)**

### **Members of the Committee:**

Councillors T Duffy, K Earley, J Higgins, J Howey, G Hutchinson (Vice-Chair), R Manchester, E Mavin, D Oliver, E Peeke, K Robson, A Simpson, A Sterling, F Tinsley and D Wood

### **Also Present:**

Councillor V Andrews and B Kellett

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Kay, B Moist and M Wilson.

## **2 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members.

## **3 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022 and 6 June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **4 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Oliver declared an interest in the item A692 Dipton Puffin Crossing Installation due to his employment and withdrew from the item.

Councillor Duffy declared an interest in the item Peterlee and Horden Parking and Waiting Restrictions Amendment Order 2022 due to living near the area of discussion. It was agreed that he could speak on the item as a local member but must leave the meeting afterwards.

## **5 A692 Dipton Puffin Crossing Installation - Report of Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy & Growth**

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth to request approval for the installation of a Puffin crossing on the A692 at Dipton, in accordance with the County Council Policy on the Assessment of Pedestrian crossings (for copy see file of minutes).

The Strategic Traffic Manager gave a detailed presentation which included a location plan of the proposals and a plan which indicated the proposals and objectors. The Strategic Traffic Manager advised that representation from both the school, residents and disability groups had indicated that they had difficulty when crossing the A692. Blind and partially sighted residents in Dipton had also raised concerns via the Royal National Institute of Blind People regarding the lack of provision of formal crossing facilities and the difficulties crossing. One objection had been received.

Councillor Andrews addressed the Committee as a local member. She noted that the road where the puffin crossing had been proposed was a long straight road that suffered from speeding traffic and that several incidents and near misses had occurred. She explained that crossing the road was difficult, particularly for school children, elderly residents, and the visually impaired, advising that the visually impaired community had written a petition regarding this. Councillor Andrews confirmed that both herself and local member Councillor Mulholland supported the recommendation to install a puffin crossing.

Councillor Tinsley commented that many villages across County Durham consisted of a long straight road like Dipton and would benefit from the installation of similar crossings. He agreed with the officer's recommendation especially given the positive impact the crossing would have for those with disabilities and the visually impaired. He **moved** the recommendation to be approved.

Councillor Earley expressed that speeding traffic was an issue for many towns and villages in County Durham and he wholeheartedly supported the installation of the crossing, hoping it would improve safety in the area.

Councillor Sterling advised that she knew the area well and noted that traffic on the road was constant. She commented on the high number of elderly residents in the area and believed the crossing would help with traffic calming. She **seconded** the recommendation to be approved.

## **Resolved**

That the proposal to provide a crossing facility on the A692 at Dipton be approved.

## **6 Peterlee and Horden Parking & Waiting Restrictions Amendment Order 2022 - Report of Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy & Growth**

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth to endorse changes to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in Peterlee and Horden (for copy see file of minutes).

The Strategic Traffic Manager gave a detailed presentation regarding a TRO in Danesly Close for the introduction of no waiting at any time restrictions. The presentation included a location plan of proposals and a plan that indicated the proposal and objectors. One objection had been received.

Councillor Duffy addressed the Committee as a local member. He explained that he had campaigned with the Police with regards to obstructive parking across residents' driveways and gardens and advised that parking behaviour had led to conflict with residents. He confirmed that he was in full support of the proposals.

Councillor Duffy left the meeting.

Councillor Howey pointed out that she was aware of double yellow lines being ignored previously and asked how this would be monitored. The Strategic Traffic Manager confirmed that following the introduction of the lines, there would be a visible presence from the Local Authority which would impact the behaviour of drivers thus improving parking in the area. He explained that whilst vehicles would not be permitted to park, they may load/unload and board/alight passengers for as long as necessary. He clarified that the Local Authority could not enforce movement of a vehicle, explaining that this was a matter for the Police.

Councillor Hutchinson agreed that measures needed to be put in place to address obstructive parking but felt that introducing double yellow lines could simply move the problems experienced at Danesly Close to another location. The Strategic Traffic Manager accepted that this was a possibility but explained that access to Dene House Primary School and Dene Academy was a priority and must not be obstructed. He advised that people should park where it was safe and legal to do so.

Councillor Wood felt that whilst this was not the ideal solution at Danesly Close, the introduction of double yellow lines could improve the current situation and protect access to Dene House Primary School and Dene Academy. He confirmed that he understood the level of enforcement and **moved** the recommendation to endorse the proposals. This was **seconded** by Councillor Oliver.

## **Resolved**

That the proposal in principle be endorsed, to amend the Peterlee and Horden Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order 2022. With the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.