



Report of Corporate Management Team

Amy Harhoff Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy & Growth

**Councillor Elizabeth Scott Cabinet Portfolio Holder for
Regeneration, Economy & Growth**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Coxhoe

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Members are asked to decide in principle only which will then guide the Corporate Director of Regeneration & Economic Development in the exercise of delegated decision making. The final decision is therefore one for the Corporate Director, under delegated powers.
- 1.2 To advise Members of objections received to the consultation regarding the introduction of a traffic regulation order in Tursdale.
- 1.3 To request that members consider the objections made during the informal and formal consultation period.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 Within Civil parking Enforcement operational guidance, the County Council are committed to regularly reviewing traffic regulation orders to ensure that the restrictions held within them are relevant and appropriate.
- 2.2 The County Council are proposing to introduce a prohibition of motor vehicles restriction on the access road / layby to the east of the A688, approximately 40m north of Tursdale village.

The restriction will run between its northern junction with the A688, in an easterly then southerly direction to its junction with Ramsey Street. A total distance of approximately 75 metres.

There was one objection received to this proposal.

3 Recommendation(s)

3.1 Committee is recommended to:

Endorse the proposal in principle to proceed with the implementation of the Tursdale Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Traffic Regulation Order with the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

4 Background

- 4.1 A large Amazon distribution complex is based on Integra 61 which is located adjacent to the A688, approximately 500m north of Tursdale. A high number of HGV vehicles use this site and at present they regularly wait over for prolonged periods in a length of carriageway immediately to the north of Tursdale. As well as being used for parking this length of carriageway is also used as an additional entry / exit point for the village.
- 4.2 On occasions, this area can become very busy with several large vehicles parked up at a time. This has led to complaints from local residents regarding anti-social behaviour from the drivers of these vehicles. The manner of how the vehicles park has also led to road safety concerns for vehicles entering and exiting this location.
- 4.3 It is therefore proposed that a 'prohibition of motor vehicles' restriction be introduced to control traffic at this location. Lockable swing gates are to be provided at either end of the affected stretch of carriageway with keys being held by authorised personnel. A signage scheme is proposed for the A688 to highlight these changes to passing road users. In addition to this, some kerbing amendments are proposed for the existing alternative entrance to Tursdale to ease access at this point
- 4.2 The initial consultation exercise was undertaken with statutory consultees and directly affected frontages between 26/2/21-19/3/21 & 25/3/21 – 12/4/21. The proposals were supported by the County Councillors and Durham Constabulary. No objections were received at this point.
- 4.3 It was agreed to progress with the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and move to the formal consultation stage.

4.4 The proposals were advertised formally on site, online and in the local press between 24th June 2021 – 15th July 2021. One objection was received at this point.

5 Objections

5.1 Objection 1

Objector 1 is a heavy goods vehicle driver who was parked in the area of concern overnight and read the public notice. They make several points in their objection which are summarised below :

- They consider the slip road / layby to be far enough from the nearest properties so that the impact of the HGVs is minimal. They also note that none of the properties directly front onto the area in concern.
- They note that areas where long distance drivers can stop are vital and that the County Council should be enhancing these locations and not removing them.
- Bins are present in this location and the objector did not notice an issue with littering.
- HGV parking within service stations is often expensive and the objector notes that they consider the security measures in place at such locations to be poor. They feel that parking in a well lit layby adjacent to a busy road is beneficial for the safety of themselves and their cargo.
- They note that the area of concern has a range of road markings in place and consider that if vehicles park accordingly there should be limited issues with regards road safety and obstruction issues.
- They suggest that toilet facilities could be provided by the County Council at this location which would benefit both the lorry drivers and the local residents.

5.2 Response

The request to restrict access to this area originated from the residents of Tursdale village and is supported by the local County Councillors. The residents use this road as pedestrians for recreational purposes and as motorists to enter the village. They have shared stories and

photographs with Councillors and officers which support their concerns regarding anti social behaviour and road safety.

Since the Amazon facility opened nearby, the residents state that the volume of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) using the slip road / layby has increased dramatically. Whilst the properties do not directly look over the area, they note that it is close enough to their properties to have a detrimental effect on their quality of life.

It is important that HGV drivers have convenient rest facilities across the county and there are such amenities available at the Bowburn services less than a mile away. The website for the services indicates that it costs £25 per night per HGV but included in this is a £10 voucher which can be spent on food and drink within the services.

Anti social behaviour centring on littering and using the surrounding vegetation as a toilet has been highlighted as a major concern by residents. Photographic evidence of such occurrences have been shared with officers at previous meetings about this location. Such behaviour is obviously upsetting for the residents and is an obvious health and safety hazard to passing pedestrians.

Concern has also been expressed about the manner of parking within the area. The carriageway has numerous advisory keep clear and zig zag markings present which have previously been introduced to try and control parking at this location. Whilst they do appear to have some effect, there are occasions when the area is busy that parking becomes less organised. This can lead to vehicles parking causing obstructions or a road safety hazard. The most concerning of these scenarios occurs when vehicles are parked near the northern entrance into the area.

It is recommended to endorse the proposed prohibition of motor vehicles restrictions as per the consultation proposals.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 Having considered the evidence of anti social behaviour, obstructive / inconsiderate parking and the objections to the proposals, Officers remain of the view that it is necessary to introduce the proposals in order to address the identified concerns. Accordingly, it is recommended that Members agree in principle to endorse the proposal to proceed with the implementation of the TurSDale Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Traffic Regulation Order, with the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

7 Background papers

7.1 Correspondence and documentation in Traffic Office File:

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

All orders have been advertised by the County Council as highway authority and will be made in accordance with legislative requirements.

Finance

LTP Budget.

Consultation

Is in accordance with with relevant statutory requirements.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

It is considered that there are no Equality and Diversity issues to be addressed.

Climate Change

This TRO will allow for effective management of traffic to reduce congestion, reducing the overall amount of CO2 emissions.

Human Rights

Any interference with human rights is considered to be necessary in accordance with the law and proportionate in order to address highway safety issues.

Crime and Disorder

This TRO will allow effective management of traffic to reduce congestion and improve road safety.

Staffing

Carried out by Strategic Traffic.

Accommodation

No impact.

Risk

Not Applicable.

Procurement

Operations, DCC.

Appendix 2: Location of Proposals

