

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director of Place

Report to:	Planning & Regulation Committee
Date:	07 October 2019
Subject:	Potterhanworth, Main Road

Summary:

This report considers objections received to the above proposals which were publicly advertised from 14 March to 11 April 2019 inclusive.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee overrules the objections and supports the making of the order to include the proposed minor modification.

1. Background

- 1.1 Members of the public expressed concerns regarding the safety of pupils at both school entry and exit times because of issues caused by parked vehicles. Investigations into the concerns were undertaken and the local Member was consulted for their view on the proposals in September 2018.

Existing Conditions

- 1.2 The primary school is located at the junction of Barff Road with Main Road B1202. The Primary School is a mature site, with no off street parking within its boundary. Outside the school there is a triangular grassed area in which the village's war memorial is located. There are two bus stops on Main Road in the vicinity of the school. Advisory school keep clear markings are in place along the frontage of the school site.

Proposals

- 1.3 It is proposed to introduce mandatory school keep clear markings in place of the current advisory ones on site. These will apply from Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm. The northern marking has been reduced to comply with Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016, and the remainder of the current length is to be replaced by double yellow lines. These will cover the existing dropped crossing point and are mirrored on the opposite side of the road. In order to reduce inconsiderate parking caused by displaced vehicles the junctions at Main Road / B1178 Station Road, Main Road / Cross Street and both Main Road / Barff Road are to be subject to parking restrictions also. The area around the war memorial is also to be protected by double yellow lines.

The limited waiting bay was originally proposed to provide an area for teachers to load and unload and for parents / guardians to drop off and collect pupils. These proposals are shown at Appendix A.

Objections

- 1.4 Two objections were received to the proposals during its public advertisement. These raised concerns that the proposed restrictions will have little impact on parents dropping off and picking up children and any effect will be to displace parking further along both sides of Main Road, resulting in congestion and queuing. There is a view that the rules set out in the Highway Code in relation to parking near to school entrances, junctions or dropped crossings points are adequate to allow enforcement without the need to resort to formal traffic restrictions. It is considered that restricting parking for parents and school staff is draconian given that many have no alternative but to drive to the school. Additionally, it is believed that vehicles parking long term on Barff Road where the limited waiting bay is proposed act as a deterrent to speeding through this narrow section, which will be lost if the restriction is imposed. A question was also raised as to the frequency of the enforcement of the proposed restrictions since this tends to be limited outside the main urban areas.

Comments

- 1.5 Officers met with representatives from the school in April to discuss the proposals. Following the meeting it was agreed that it would be helpful if the unrestricted parking should remain in front of the school, in place of the proposed limited waiting. The proposals have been amended to reflect this minor modification as shown at Appendix B. The issue of buses attending the school to collect pupils for trips was also covered as the proposed mandatory school keep clear markings would render parking by any vehicle an offence. It is suggested therefore that to enable the southbound bus stop on Main Road to be utilised for this purpose the existing hard standing within the triangular grassed area could be extended as footway around to the school side. This would be subject to the Parish Council's approval.

The objectors both highlight the enforcement of the proposals as an issue. The restrictions will be enforced as much as possible in line with operational resources. The second objection mentions the Highway Code and the list of locations where not to park and that these matters should already be enforced. It has already been observed that this type of parking is taking place at this location, the enforcement of which in some cases is the responsibility of Lincolnshire Police. The introduction of the proposals would allow Lincolnshire County Council to enforce any contraventions of the Traffic Regulation Order relating to parking, and generally speaking, the County Council has more resource to deal with these issues than Lincolnshire Police since undertaking Civil Parking Enforcement in 2012.

2. Conclusion

The proposals serve to remove parking in the immediate vicinity of the school frontage and thereby improve visibility of pedestrian movements in the area, and

also propose restrictions around nearby junctions in anticipation of some displacement of parking. Following discussions on site it was agreed to remove the original proposed limited waiting bay on Barff Road to retain on street parking as a means of slowing traffic speeds.

Consultation

The local Member was consulted for their view on the proposals in September 2018. Statutory consultation took place from 8 November to 6 December 2018. The proposals were then advertised from 14 March to 11 April 2019.

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Proposed Traffic Regulation Order (original)
Appendix B	Proposed Traffic Regulation Order (amended)

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Dan O'Neill, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or dan.o'neill@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

This page is intentionally left blank