



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

Report to:	Planning and Regulation Committee
Date:	07 November 2022
Subject:	Branston: Station Rd, Fairleas and Archer Rd - Proposed waiting restrictions

Summary:

This report considers an objection to a proposed traffic regulation order to introduce waiting restrictions at Station Rd, Fairleas and Archer Rd, Branston

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee overrules the objection so that the Order as advertised may be introduced.

Background

Following concerns raised by the Parish Council and local residents with regard to parking in the vicinity of Branston Community Academy, visits to the area took place to investigate the issues raised.

Advisory 'School Keep Clear' markings have been in place on Station Road adjacent to the school site for some time and these are generally well observed. There is a route within the school grounds which the school promotes as a drive through facility for dropping off and collecting pupils. This is available up until 8.45am and after 3.45pm and is fully utilised.

Visits to the area have confirmed that on street parking takes place on the west side of Station Rd and at its junctions with Archer Road and Fairleas, and along Fairleas itself. This results in the obstruction of traffic flow and visibility for both vehicles and pedestrians at the affected junctions.

In order to manage parking at these locations it is proposed to introduce double yellow lines to restrict parking at the junctions with both Archer Road and Fairleas with Station Road, and on Fairleas opposite its junction with Earlsfield. On Station Road it is proposed to restrict parking at school start and finish times opposite the school accesses to facilitate access for bus transport. The extents of these restrictions are shown at Appendix B.

Following statutory consultation, the proposal was publicly advertised from 6th January to 12th February 2022.

Objection

One objection has been received citing that the proposals do not address the fact that parking issues arise as a consequence of the school's lack of provision of off street parking facilities. They believe that the school should provide these facilities, or at least permit access for vehicles to drop off and pick up pupils at all times. There has been extensive new development in the area, and they suggest that funding for the school to make these provisions should be extracted from developers to mitigate the traffic impact on the local community. They also make the point that the restrictions merely reflect the rules already set out in the Highway Code and are therefore of little benefit. They are of the opinion that these proposals will shift the existing problems elsewhere into the surrounding area and that the resulting safety issues and inconvenience caused to residents will continue.

Comments

The concerns raised are noted. However, the County Council is not in a position to instruct Branston Community Academy to provide off street parking facilities for parents. The drive through arrangement within the school site is not permitted during operations to safely drop off or pick up pupils using bus transport, so as to avoid the presence of moving traffic at these times.

Funding may be secured from developers as part of the planning process for new development and this may be used to fund improvements to highway infrastructure where this can be justified, and criteria are met.

The proposed restrictions will restrict parking in areas covered by the Highway Code. However, the introduction of a traffic regulation order enables the County Council's parking enforcement team to enforce these areas, which otherwise would rely on enforcement by the police. Should further issues arise if the scheme is introduced then the area can be reassessed.

Conclusion

The restrictions proposed serve to manage on street parking on roads and junctions in the immediate vicinity of the school where traffic and pedestrian movements are high at particular times of the day. It aims to maintain on street parking where it can be safely accommodated to minimise the impact on parking for residents and their visitors. It is anticipated that if these restrictions are introduced, improvements to traffic flow and access for buses to and from the school will result and that pedestrian safety, particularly that of school children, will be improved.

Consultation

The following were consulted with regard to these proposals: Cllr Ian Carrington, North Kesteven District Council, Branston Parish Council, Lincolnshire Police, Fire & Rescue, East Midlands Ambulance, Branston Community Academy, Stagecoach, PC Coaches, Centrebus, Road Haulage Association Ltd, Freight Transport Association, National Farmers Union

Consultation letters and plans were delivered to frontagers on 22nd December 2022. The local Member supports the scheme but has concerns about the likelihood of effective enforcement.

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

None carried out

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Site location
Appendix B	Detail of proposed restrictions

Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Assessment information; Consultation documents and correspondence.	Available on request

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