
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 5 February 2013
Subject: Petition – Reversal of One Way Traffic – Hitchin Street Biggleswade
Report of: Jane Moakes, Assistant Director Environmental Services
Summary: The purpose of this report is to present a petition submitted by traders in Hitchin Street Biggleswade seeking reversal of the existing one way traffic order between Market Square and Mill Lane

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Biggleswade North, Biggleswade South
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

This work is not currently funded

Legal:

None as a result of this report.

Risk Management:

None as a result of this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as a result of this report.

Equalities/Human Rights:

None as a result of this report.

Community Safety:

None as a result of this report.

Sustainability:

None as a result of this report

**RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities
- Services**

- (a) be informed of the petition
- (b) not implement the request at the current time.
- (c) inform the lead petitioner of the outcome of the meeting

Background to the petition

1. A petition has been received by Central Bedfordshire Council signed by 12 people representing businesses in Hitchin Street . The petition requests that Hitchin Street be made one way between Mill Lane and Market Place, a reversal of the current flow

Additional information

2. At the time of the preparation and consultation on the Biggleswade Master Plan a number of options were considered by the working group including the changes suggested in the petition.
3. The surveys and consultations carried out at that time by officers preparing the Masterplan in 2012 did not support the reversal of flow in Hitchin Street but did support major improvements in the streetscape and public realm within the town centre area. This led to the recently implemented paving scheme delivered through the Local Area Transport Plan.
4. The Masterplan is an agreed document with stakeholder support that sets out a number of actions and aspirations for the longer term regeneration of Biggleswade to sustain it's commercial future
5. The scheme recently carried out contributes to that.
6. The Masterplan itself comments as below on the Hitchin Street area.

6.7.5 Longer term there is an opportunity to create an improved road link from Hitchin Street through to Bonds Lane and Station Road thus facilitating potential improvements to traffic management in this area. Any such link would need to be linked to a major redevelopment of this area in order to be financially viable.

6.7.6 At the same time there is an opportunity to explore the introduction of two way traffic flow on Hitchin Street south of Mill Lane to improve access to the proposed development at the Bonds Lane and Foundry Lane areas.

Also 6.8.5 (bullet point 5): Any comprehensive development proposals should consider the option of creating an improved link road from Hitchin Street to Station Road thus helping to facilitate wider traffic management improvements in the town centre.

7. From a traffic management point of view this proposal would also feed additional traffic into the Market Place which is already congested and would do little to improve trade as parking in the Market Square is already at a premium.

Conclusion and Way Forward

8. Given the recentness of the completion of the improvement scheme and the lack of support during the Masterplan consultations it is considered premature to consider such a change at the current time.
9. The works and aspirations identified in the Masterplan form a longer term basis for improving Biggleswade Town Centre and there is nothing to prevent such an initiative from being re-considered at the appropriate time within that.
10. It is therefore recommended that this is not taken forward at the current time but that the request be noted and forwarded to officers implementing the Masterplan.

Appendix 1: Petition in support of reversal of One-Way street, Hitchin Street Biggleswade.

