
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders

Date: 13 October 2014

Subject: Petition, Downs Road Dunstable

Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways

Summary: This report presents representations received from residents seeking action to revoke a traffic regulation order.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
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Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: *****

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

There is currently no funding allocated to implement any works in this area.

Legal:

None from this report

Risk Management:

None from this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report

Community Safety:

None from this report

Sustainability:

None from this report

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the lead petitioner be informed that the contents of the petition be noted but that no further works will be undertaken ahead of a further traffic survey to determine the effects of the one-way street.

Background and Information

1. A petition has been received signed by 425 residents of the Downs Road area of Dunstable. The petition seeks the revocation of the length of one-way street implemented in Downs Road in August 2013.
2. The petition asks for the revocation on a number of grounds set out in the document and its appendices accompanying the petition but is summarised by the petitioners on the signature sheets as follows
 - *The system has not worked as intended.*
 - *The system has not reduced unsuitable traffic; only forced it on to other roads.*
 - *That traffic unsuitable for Downs Rd is equally unsuitable for other roads.*
 - *The one-way has radically changed the balance of a traditional neighbourhood, that had been stable for generations and it has inconvenienced and upset thousands for the marginal benefit of a few.*
 - *Accident risk has increased as the same volume of traffic now goes further and through more junctions; specially the left turn into Park Road which is only a fifth of the radius of that into Downs Road.*
 - *All residents, including those in Downs Road experience increased journey times.*
 - *During daily peak times Great Northern Road traffic is now stationary from the roundabout to the A5.*
 - *Roads outside then immediate area, such as Lovers Walk, report significant increase in through traffic as drivers struggle to avoid the increased congestion in Manshead.*
3. The background to the implementation of this one-way order is considerable and has taken place over a considerable period of time. The issue of traffic using the Downs Road area both as a cut through from other adjacent residential properties and to avoid queuing on the A5 is well documented through contacts from local residents and ward members.
4. In 2013 the Council implemented a temporary road closure in the area to ascertain what effect this would have on this traffic. This proved however to be universally unpopular with local residents.
5. Following this the Council undertook to develop a series of options upon which the residents of the entire area were consulted. Following this consultation one option emerged as the preferred option for implementation and this comprised the proposals as shown below.

To introduce a One Way Traffic Order on the following lengths of road in Dunstable;-

- *Downs Road From Allen Close to Great Northern Road - vehicles*

permitted to travel in that direction only.

- *Park Road From Great Northern Road to Grove Road - vehicles permitted to travel in that direction only.*

To introduce a Prohibition of Driving on the following length of road in Dunstable:-

Downs Road From the southern kerbline of Downs Road at the point where it joins Barton Avenue in a southerly direction for a distance of approximately 5 metres (road to be physically closed to prohibit traffic from continuing on Downs Road)

6. This was then advertised for statutory public consultation and following the receipt of written representations and verbal representations at the meeting of Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders on 4th June a decision was taken by the Executive Member for Community Services at the meeting to implement the order in part.
7. The decision made was to implement only the section of one-way street in Downs Road from Allen Close to Great Northern Road.
8. The one-way system became operative in August 2013.
9. It is clear, as evidenced by the receipt of this petition, that the situation locally is still a matter of interest and concern and that there is pressure for the one way street section to be removed.
10. It would be premature to do this however ahead of undertaking further studies that mirrored the origin and destination study that preceded the works to understand exactly what the implications have been for traffic through the area and how traffic patterns may have changed.
11. It is therefore recommended that the lead petitioner be informed that no further action to remove or amend the existing traffic regulation order will be undertaken ahead of the results of such a study being available for consideration.
12. Whilst this work is currently not funded the cost of undertaking it will be included within the list of schemes being considered for funding in the next financial year.