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

Date: 5th November 2015

Subject: Downs Road Dunstable, Report on consultation on the one way system

Report of: Paul Cook, Assistant Director Highways and Transport

Summary: This report informs the Executive Member of the results of consultation on the one-way system in Downs Road and seeks his views on what further action to take.

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Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Dunstable Manshead

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

This proposal supports the following council priorities:

- Better infrastructure – improved roads, broadband reach and transport
- Value for money
- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire

Financial:

The approximate cost of removing the scheme would be in the region of £10,000. There is currently no budget allocated to implement measures arising from this report.

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):

- 1 That the results of the consultation be noted**
- 2 That the Executive Member makes a decision as to whether or not to remove the one-way system in Downs Road.**

Background Information

1. On 5th July 2015, the Executive Member for Community Services considered a report giving the results of a traffic survey looking at the effects of the introduction of the one-way system in Downs Road. The survey showed that traffic had dropped in Downs Road but had increased in Park Road. Overall, in terms of eastern movements, there had been a 12% increase in traffic since the scheme was introduced in 2013. This increase is likely to be a natural growth in traffic rather than new traffic being attracted to the area.
2. The Executive Member decided
 - a) To review the traffic management of the South East Quadrant (including the Downs Road area) within the context of the package of measures required to incorporate the detrunking of the A5 in Dunstable in 2017
 - b) To consult on the removal of the current one-way system in Downs Road
 - c) To evaluate the removal of the priority one-way narrowing on Great Northern Road close to the A5.
3. The Executive Member also instructed that in the first instance consultation be restricted to the following roads
 - Downs Road
 - Gt Northern Road
 - Blows Road
 - Borough Road
 - Barton Avenue
 - Howard Place
 - Grove Road

- Park Road
- Allen Close

4. This report gives the results of that consultation.

Consultation process

5. Officers from Central Bedfordshire Council personally delivered leaflets to all of the houses in the roads set out above: no third party was employed to do this. In total, approximately 400 leaflets were delivered.
6. The leaflets were marked so as to distinguish the area within the one-way system in Downs Road, the rest of Downs Road and the rest of the area consulted with.
7. Residents within the area were provided with additional leaflets on request. However, these additional leaflets have been counted separately.
8. The leaflet (which is attached at appendix 1) asked a number of questions, including the following:
 - i. Which road do you live in?
 - ii. Would you like the one-way system in Downs Road to stay or be removed?
 - iii. Do you have any other comments about the one-way system?

Summary of the consultation results

9. In total, 165 responses were received from the leaflets distributed. Of these, 47 wanted the one-way system to remain in place and 118 wanted the scheme to be removed.
10. The results by each of the roads consulted with were as follows:

Street Name	Remain	Remove	Total
Downs Rd	30	12	42
Gt Northern Rd	4	20	24
Blows Rd	3	2	5
Borough Rd	1	17	18
Barton Ave	1	6	7
Howard Pl	0	12	12
Grove Rd	1	21	22
Park Rd	0	6	6
Allen Cl	4	17	21
Road name not stated	3	5	8
Total	47	118	165

11. It can be seen from this that a majority of respondents in all parts of Downs Road and in Blows Road were in favour of retaining the scheme, while a majority of respondents in all of the other roads were in favour of its removal.
12. A number of other leaflets were received which had not been distributed by Central Bedfordshire staff as follows:-
- 24 leaflets were received which had been requested by a resident of Downs Road and distributed separately. Of these leaflets, 22 respondents wanted to keep the scheme, one wanted to remove it and one gave no opinion.
 - 5 leaflets were received in the form of photocopies of the leaflet, 3 from Downs Road and 2 from roads not included in the consultation area. Of these leaflets, all 3 of the leaflets from Downs Road were in favour of retaining the scheme while the 2 from other roads wished to see it removed.
13. The questionnaire also invited respondents to give any other comments that they had on the one-way system. The details of these comments have been published on the council's website and are summarised below:

Other issues raised by residents from Downs Road
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has reduced rat-running/amount of traffic • Has just moved the problem • Downs Road is safer with the one-way system • Downs Road is better with the one-way system • Traffic is distributed in a more equable way in the area • Wait until the review of the A5 before making changes
Other issues raised by residents <i>not</i> in Downs Road
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrounding roads have more traffic • More dangerous in surrounding roads • Speeding is a problem • Emergency vehicles/HGVs struggle to get through • Cycle route goes against the traffic

14. Additionally, a petition from residents of Downs Road to retain the scheme has also been received and is being presented at this meeting. The petition contains 83 signatures from residents within the part of Downs Road that is one-way and asks that the system be retained. The Executive Member may wish to take this into account in making his decision, formally responding to the petition as part of this report

Next Steps

15. Should the Executive Member decide not to take any further action at present, then the scheme will be reviewed in 2017 as part of a wider review of traffic management in the South East Quadrant of Dunstable within the context of the package of measures required to incorporate the detrunking of the A5 in Dunstable.
16. Should the Executive Member decide to remove the one-way system, statutory consultation will need to be carried out to remove the Traffic Regulation Order. This will be in accordance with council procedure and will involve notices being published on our website and in local newspapers and being posted in Downs Road and appropriate locations nearby. Residents would be able to have their say by writing to the contact details provided within the statutory notice.
17. If no objections are received to these notices, then the one-way system would be removed. Should there be any objections, however, these will be considered at a meeting of this committee on 29th March 2016 at which a final decision will be made.