

WARDS: Lye and Wollescote

AGENDA ITEM NO.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STOURBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE – 9TH JUNE, 2003

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

**PROPOSED ONE-WAY STREET AND CLOSURE – CHAPEL STREET
AND ADJOINING ROADS, LYE**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Committee of objections received to proposals to introduce Traffic Regulations Orders in the Chapel Street area, Lye.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Chapel Street, Lye, is a minor narrow residential street of mainly terrace properties with very few having any off-street parking facilities. This street links 2 extremely busy primary routes, the A4036 Pedmore Road and the A458 High Street.
- 2.2 Considerable concern has been expressed by residents of the Chapel Street area regarding the high volume of traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles as a means of avoiding congestion at Lye Cross. A recent survey of two-way traffic showed that in a 12 hour period this consisted of 4,400 of which 129 vehicles were heavy goods vehicles.
- 2.3 With the recent introduction of the Lye one-way gyratory system some of this through traffic has been eliminated but, a significant volume remains, particularly towards Cemetery Road.
- 2.4 An extensive public consultation comprising of 3 possible solutions was then undertaken to ascertain the majority view. The options were considered to be as follows:-

Option 1

Prohibit heavy goods vehicles from Chapel Street, except for access. (See Plan Option 1)

Option 2

Make that part of Chapel Street between Morvale Street and Union Street, together with Albert Street and Summer Street, one-way towards High Street. (See Plan Option 2)

Option 3

Physically close Chapel Street, between Morvale Street and Albert Street and make Albert Street and Summer Street one-way towards High Street. (See Plan Option 3)

- 2.5 The survey consisted of 192 forms which were despatched. 81 forms were completed and returned to the Council. The findings were as follows:-

- 4% - Do nothing
- 26% - Preferred Option 1 (Prohibit HGV's)
- 23% - Preferred Option 2 (One-way)
- 47% - Preferred Option 3 (Closure and one-way)

The Council therefore publicly advertised Option 3. No objections were received to this scheme.

- 2.6 Knowing the importance and possible impact of the preferred option, the emergency services including the Police were consulted for their comments. Option 1 and Option 2 were favoured by the Fire Brigade and Option 2 only by the Police and Ambulance service. Therefore, it would appear that there is overall emergency service support for Option 2.

- 2.7 Whilst no emergency service objected to any of the options, the Fire Service expressed concern regarding Option 3 and the extra time which that option would add to an emergency attendance to an incident in the immediate area. It is considered that this problem can be overcome by the sensitive introduction of appropriate physical measures where the carriageway is severed, in order to permit fire appliances to proceed with relative ease.

- 2.8 The Ward Members were consulted. Some could see difficulties for residents with each option.

- 2.9 As Committee can see, there is no strong opinion for any option. However, in view of the strong support of residents for Option 3, it is recommended that all objections be formally overruled, and Option 3 be introduced.

2.10 Consultation

- 2.10.1 On the 17th October 2002, letters were sent to the Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service.

- 2.10.2 The proposals for Option 3 were published in the Express and Star newspaper on the 19th March 2003, and also on-street between 19th March and 14th April 2003.

2.11 Sustainable Transport

- 2.11.1 The introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders in Cemetery Road, Albert Street and Summer Street will alleviate instances of obstruction and intrusive lorry movements.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 That notwithstanding the preference of the emergency services, the Traffic Regulation Order described in Option 3 and shown in Plan Option 3 be introduced.
- 3.2 That the emergency services be fully consulted on the detail of the closure to ensure as far as is practical, minimum inconvenience.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1 Funds to implement Option 3, estimated at £4,800, are available from the current Highways budget.

5.0 LAW

- 5.1 Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 The proposals contained within this report comply with the Council's policy on Equal Opportunities.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That Members recommend the proposals set out in paragraph 3 of this report.

.....
.....
Director of the Urban Environment - John B. Millar

Contact Officer: G. Soley Ext.5451
 G. Isherwood Ext.5459

Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

1. Letter from West Midlands Police
2. Letter from Fire Brigade
3. Letter from Ambulance Service
4. Copy of a Notice of advertising of the proposal