

**Stourbridge Area Committee – June 2012**

**Report of the Director of the Urban Environment**

**Racecourse Lane, Stourbridge: Traffic movements**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider traffic movements in Racecourse Lane, Stourbridge.

**Background**

2. Racecourse Lane is a long country lane between Norton and Pedmore, in the southern part of Stourbridge. The lane runs through a rural area, with farmland on its southern side, and Pedmore Common and Stourbridge Golf Course on the northern boundary.
3. There are a number of bends in the Pedmore section of Racecourse Lane, between Ounty John Lane and Quarry Park Road. There is no public footway along the majority of Racecourse Lane, it having always been a rural thoroughfare.
4. Residents of the Pedmore section of Racecourse Lane have complained that they wish to walk along Racecourse Lane, but cannot, because of the dangers from traffic.
5. Eastbound (towards Worcester Lane), there are typical traffic flows of around 3,000 vehicles per day in the week, and around 2,000 vehicles per day on weekend days. During the morning traffic peak period, there are around 400 vehicles travelling eastbound. Surveys show no significant hourly increase in afternoon peak traffic periods.
6. Westbound (towards Norton Road), the traffic flows are around 3,250 on a typical weekday and approximately 2,000 vehicles on Saturdays and Sundays. There are no significant increases in vehicle numbers in this direction during morning peak periods. However, during afternoon peak traffic times, around 500 vehicles per hour travel west bound along Racecourse Lane.
7. The most recent three year casualty search for Racecourse Lane is for the time period between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2011. For that time, there were two recorded personal injury accidents in Racecourse Lane:-
  - A fatal accident occurred in June 2009, east of the junction with Quarry Park Road. A 70 year old male was hit as he walked out of a private access.

- A slight injury accident occurred in October 2011. A driver attempted to turn right into Ounty John Lane across the path of a vehicle travelling westbound, resulting in a collision.
8. Residents of the section of Racecourse Lane between Worcester Lane and Landsgate have requested that consideration be given to the installation of a short section of footway on one side of Racecourse Lane. The construction of a standard new 2 metre wide footway in Racecourse Lane between Worcester Lane and Landsgate would include the building of structural retaining walls, the removal of trees, and kerbing. Excluding fees, the relocation of utility equipment, access onto private land and unforeseen strengthening work, the construction of a new footway and retaining walls would be approximately £193,000. Funds are not currently available for this work.
  9. Three Local Safety Schemes have been introduced in Racecourse Lane in the last few years:-
    - In 2006-07, speed detection instrument, known as Speed Visors, were introduced in Racecourse Lane.
    - In 2007-08, anti-skid carriageway surfacing was implemented at a number of points along Racecourse Lane. Black/white “chevron” bend signs were erected, as were bend and junction warning signs and carriageway markings.
    - In 2010-11, Vehicle Activated Signs displaying the message “pedestrians in the road” were introduced in Racecourse Lane. These permanent electronic signs replaced the speed visors.
  10. It is proposed that, during 2012-13, consideration will be given to the construction of a ‘pedestrian holding area’ at the junction of Worcester Lane and Racecourse Lane. If introduced, this scheme would include dropped kerbs and tactile paving.

### **Finance**

11. Financial resources are unlikely to be available for the foreseeable future for the introduction of the first footway in Racecourse Lane between Worcester Lane and Landsgate. Therefore, this report has no financial implications at the present time.

### **Law**

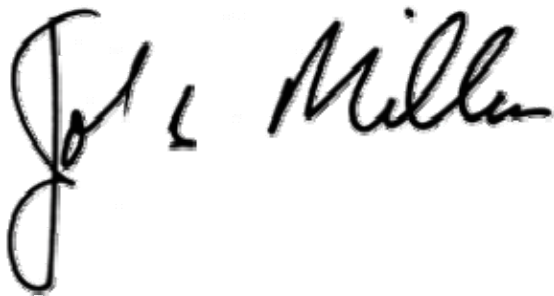
12. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under powers contained in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
13. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State for Transport.
14. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.

### **Equality Impact**

15. Racecourse Lane is a country lane with a designated facilities for pedestrians. Three Local Safety Schemes have been introduced to assist all drivers and their passengers. .

**Recommendation**

16. It is recommended that Area Committee notes the contents of this report and reports any comments to the Cabinet Member for Transportation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Millar'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

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**JOHN MILLAR**  
**Director of the Urban Environment**

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**List of Background Papers**

None.