

Central Dudley Area Committee - 15th March 2011

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Central Dudley Area Committee (Russells Hall Traffic) Working Group

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Central Dudley Area Committee of the Russells Hall Traffic Working Group findings.

Background

2. The Russells Hall Traffic Working Group is a focus group comprising Ward Members and was created by the Central Dudley Area Committee to consider traffic issues in the streets surrounding Russells Hall Hospital, and to report back to the Area Committee.
3. Four meetings of the Working Group have taken place on 5th October 2010, 11th January, 25th January and 17th February 2011 at the Council House, Dudley.
4. Local Ward Members from St James' Ward, Brockmoor and Pensnett Ward and Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews Ward were present along with Dudley MBC Officers from the Directorate of the Urban Environment.
5. Various options have been investigated, including residents parking zones, limited waiting restrictions, loading bans, restricted waiting restrictions and prohibition of driving, except for access.
6. The Group concluded that it would recommend the introduction of a variety of Traffic Regulation Orders for the Russells Hall Area.
7. The results of preliminary investigations of Traffic Regulation Orders were shared with the Members, who provided guidance and direction to officers.
8. The main issues and outcomes were as follows:

Concerns have been raised about the amount of both patients and hospital staff members choosing to park on the carriageway and footway in streets around Russells Hall Hospital. This parking obstructs the movement of both motorists and pedestrians, and prevents vehicle access to driveways. It also causes great difficulties for bus services in the area.

The following TROs have been publicly advertised to seek observation: (plans shown in Appendix A).

Cul-de-sacs, Pearce Close, Dereton Close, Abbotsford Drive and Elgar Crescent

Prohibition of Driving, except for access – intended to deter non residents and visitors other than to specific properties from entering the streets.

Middlepark Road, The Oval and Ashenhurst Road

Restriction of Waiting, Monday to Friday 10am – 11am and 2pm – 3pm. Intended to deter hospital staff from parking all day in residential streets whilst causing minimum disruption to residents.

Kingswinford Road (Service road)

A combination of Prohibition of Waiting and Restriction of Waiting, Monday to Friday 10am – 11am and 2pm – 3pm. To deter all day parking by hospital staff and to protect access to residents driveways.

Tennyson Street, Milton Street and Byron Street

To make the current temporary Prohibition of Waiting restrictions permanent to protect bus movements throughout the estate.

High Street, Pensnett (opposite the hospital)

To introduce a Loading Ban, Monday to Friday 7.30am – 9.30am and 4.30pm – 6.30pm to help alleviate congestion on this busy road at peak times.

Pensnett Road

To introduce a section of Limited Waiting, Monday to Saturday 9am – 5pm 2 hours only. This is to assist customer parking to some shop premises on Pensnett Road.

Public Consultation

9. The above proposals are being advertised in the Express and Star, on-street notices and on the Councils website in order to seek observations from the community.

Equality Impact

10. The proposal contained within this report complies with the Councils equal opportunity policy.
11. A reduction in obstructive parking in streets surrounding Russells Hall Hospital would assist disabled pedestrians, school children, cyclists and parents with babies.

Financial Implications

12. All costs incurred relating to the sites mentioned in this report could be met from the 2010-11 / 2011-12 Minor Capital allocation.

Legal Implications

13. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under the powers contained in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted.



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John Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

Contact Officer: Peter Vangeersdaele
Telephone: 01384 815437
Email: peter.vangeersdaele@dudley.gov.uk
Helen Moore
Telephone: 01384 812577
Email: helen.moore@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Minutes of Russells Hall Traffic Working Group.