

Central Dudley Area Committee – January 2010

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Netherton Town Centre Traffic Management

Purpose of Report

1. To feedback the findings of the Netherton Traffic Management Working Group

Background

2. As members will recall, the Netherton Traffic Management Working Group has been convened through the Central Dudley Area Committee to consider all traffic and transportation related issues within Netherton. The third meeting of the Working Group took place on Monday 16 November 2009.
3. Local Ward Members from the Netherton, Woodside, and St Andrew's Ward, and the St Thomas Ward were present along with Officers from the Directorate of the Urban Environment.
4. A report detailing the current traffic management issues and proposals relevant to Netherton Town Centre was presented.
5. The main outcomes were as follows:

Public Consultation Exercise

6. The Netherton Traffic Management public consultation exercise took place from Monday 14 September to Friday 25 September 2009.
7. The consultation, that was well supported, gave residents and businesses the opportunity to ask questions, and offer their views, on proposals for tackling congestion and safety within Netherton town centre. In addition, the opportunity was also given for any other traffic matters in Netherton Town Centre and immediate environs to be brought to Officers attention.
8. Following consideration of the Consultation Report the Working Group agreed the following;

No Waiting Orders

9. It was agreed for the following No Waiting at Anytime Traffic Order proposals to be progressed to the statutory consultation period:
 - Arch Hill Street junction with Halesowen Road
 - Cradley Road Junction with Marriott Road,
 - Cradley Road Junction with Halesowen Road
 - Cradley Road Junction with Griffin Street
 - Northfield Road Junction with Recreation Street
 - St John Street / Castleton Street junction with Halesowen Road
 - Halesowen Road (Loading Restriction)

Improvements of Northfield Road / Halesowen Road Junction

10. The public consultation response showed the proposed priority junction scheme at Northfield Road and Halesowen Road junction was very well supported.
11. In order to assess the implications a temporary trial of the proposed priority scheme took place on 16 September 2009.
12. The trial showed that vehicle speeds along Halesowen Road in a southbound direction were noticeably reduced, particularly the left slip onto Northfield Road. The right turn ban from Halesowen Road onto Northfield Road had also helped ease congestion through the town centre.
13. It was agreed that the junction improvement scheme be added to the Minor Improvements Programme for the next financial year.

Castleton Street

14. Statistical information was presented which had been collated following accidents, traffic count and speed investigations on Castleton Street, which showed that no accidents had been recorded in the last three years and that the average speed, recorded along the Street in October 2009 was 22mph.
15. It was agreed based on the evidence provided that the proposal for the closure of Castleton Street is not proceeded with.

Equality Impact

16. The proposal contained within this report complies with the Councils equal opportunities policy.

Financial Implications

17. The cost of the Northfield Road junction improvement scheme and the Traffic Regulation Order proposals is to be met from next years Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block budget.

Legal Implications

18. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under powers contained in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
19. 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.
20. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
21. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.

Recommendation

22. That the Committee supports the inclusion of the junction improvement at Northfield Road and Halesowen Road in the Minor Improvements Programme for next financial year and recommends such action to the Cabinet Member for Transportation.
23. That the Committee support and that the proposals below be progressed, subject to the approval of the Cabinet Member for Transportation, regarding the making of Traffic Regulation Orders as appropriate;
 - Arch Hill Street junction with Halesowen Road
 - Cradley Road Junction with Marriott Road,
 - Cradley Road Junction with Halesowen Road
 - Cradley Road Junction with Griffin Street
 - Northfield Road Junction with Recreation Street
 - St John Street / Castleton Street junction with Halesowen Road
 - Halesowen Road
24. That the closure of Castleton Street should not be progressed.

M. Williams

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for John Millar
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