

Committee	Planning Committee
Date	14 December 2017
Report By	Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Title of Report	Traffic Regulation Order for the introduction of a waiting restriction on Church Lane at the approach to the A275 Lewes Road Junction, in Danehill.
Purpose of Report	To consider the objections received in response to the consultation on the draft Traffic Regulation Order to introduce a waiting restriction on Church Lane at the approach to the A275 Lewes Road Junction, in Danehill.
Contact Officer	Sarah Valentine (01273 335724)
Local Member	Councillor Roy Galley

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Not uphold the objections to the draft Order as set out in this report; and**
- 2. Recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the Traffic Regulation Order be made as advertised.**

CONSIDERATION BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Danehill Parish Council made a request to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in 2015 for the introduction of parking restrictions along Church Lane at the approach to the A275, Lewes Road junction to improve safety. A location plan is at Appendix 1. Vehicles currently park on both sides of Church Lane near to the junction and this restricts access into and out of the road. Although the Parish Council has erected signs requesting that vehicles do not park in this locality, these are generally ignored and cannot be enforced.
- 1.2 The request to introduce parking restrictions was assessed through the Local Transport Plan scheme prioritisation process and the Parish Council was advised that introducing these restrictions was not of sufficient priority to be taken forward using County Council resources alone. Therefore the Parish Council's request for waiting restrictions was made through the County Council's Community Match Initiative Programme.
- 1.3 The Community Match Initiative provides local communities with a way to part fund and take forward small scale transport improvements that are locally important, but which are not of sufficient priority to be taken forward solely using County Council resources. The County Council will contribute up to 50% of the design and construction costs for those schemes that are selected to be taken forward, with the remainder of the funding being provided by the local community, in this case Danehill Parish Council.
- 1.4 The project was considered at the Lead Member for Transport and Environment meeting in March 2016 at which it was resolved to approve the scheme's inclusion and progression as part of the 2016/17 Community Match Initiative Programme delivered by East Sussex Highways.

- 1.5 Between 4 and 27 January 2017 East Sussex Highways on behalf of ESCC and Danehill Parish Council conducted a consultation exercise on the introduction of a new waiting restriction on Church Lane in the vicinity of its junction with the A275. Approximately 50 letters were distributed together with scheme plans and a feedback form. Twelve responses were received.
- 1.6 Ten responses either strongly supported or supported the proposals whilst two responses were either against or strongly against the proposals. Those against the scheme considered money could be better spent on highway maintenance and that the introduction of double yellow lines would have a negative visual impact on the rural nature of the road and its surroundings. The result of the consultation exercise was fed back to the Parish Council and they confirmed they still wished to proceed with the formal consultation process to advertise the draft Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) in support of the proposed waiting restriction.
- 1.7 On 14 June 2017, a letter setting out both the County and Parish Council's intentions to advertise a draft TRO and a plan showing the extent of the proposed waiting restriction were delivered to all residents in the vicinity of the Church Lane/A275 junction. Between 15 June 2017 and 6 July 2017 ESCC gave notice under its powers in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that it was proposing to make a TRO to introduce the waiting restriction. A copy of the proposed draft TRO is included in Appendix 2. The draft order was advertised in the local press, statutory bodies were notified and notices were placed in Church Lane in the vicinity of the junction.

2.0 Comments / Appraisal

- 2.1 No objections were received from the statutory consultees to the advertised TRO. In total 19 letters/emails of support to the scheme were received from members of the public, whilst two letters/emails objecting to the scheme were also received. Full copies of the consultation responses are available in the Members Room.
- 2.2 Of the objections received, one was on the grounds that the introduction of a parking restriction on Church Lane would transfer parking onto Freshfield Lane thereby creating similar problems to that being experienced on Church Lane. After the Parish Council and East Sussex Highways met with the resident who raised this concern they later withdrew their objection. This was on the basis that the Parish Council will seek to implement further parking restrictions on Freshfield Lane through a future year's Community Match scheme and will submit a business case for this to the County Council for their consideration.
- 2.3 The second objection was received on the grounds of cost and that this funding could be better spent on carriageway maintenance works instead. The objector also considered that the introduction of double yellow lines would have a negative visual impact to the rural nature of the road and surroundings and that double yellow lines were unnecessary given that signs are already erected advising drivers not to park along Church Lane in the vicinity of the junction. The objector was contacted on 25 September to discuss the concerns they had raised, however no response was received.
- 2.4 In respect to the comment of cost and how it could be better spent repairing the existing roads; maintenance of the existing public highway will still fall under the duties of the County Council whilst the cost for introducing the proposed waiting restrictions, if approved, will be joint funded between the Parish Council and East Sussex County Council's Community Match Fund. Neither of these sources of funding could be re-directed to maintenance activities. The County Council are supporting the Parish Council taking forward this scheme on the basis that the significant majority of the community are in support of a parking restriction. The feedback received through the consultation process has supported this.
- 2.5 With regards to the comment about the current 'no parking' signage on the War Memorial Wall, these signs are advisory only and therefore, in the absence of any formal regulation, Sussex Police are not able to restrict parking. The introduction of double yellow lines

supported by a legal order would ensure enforcement measures can be taken to prohibit any illegal parking and the provision of these at the junction is consistent with advice given in the Highway Code and approved Policy PS4/1 (Appendix 3) to improve road safety. The type of line being proposed will be the same used as those specified in Conservation Areas around the County. These are generally narrower lines and pale yellow (less vivid) in colour to reduce their visual impact.

- 2.6 Of the letters/emails of support that were received, one resident did request that the parking restriction be extended on both side of Church Lane as far as the Church Cemetery boundary wall, some 50 metres south of the current proposed extent of the parking restriction For the purpose of this process, this request has been considered as an objection to the draft TRO. In response to this the Parish Council have been made aware of this matter and should the current proposals go ahead as advertised, the Parish Council will monitor the impacts of the new double yellow lines and if necessary look to extend the restricted parking as part of a separate project. The resident who raised this matter was contacted on 25 September explaining how this could be addressed, however no response was received.

3.0 Conclusion and reasons for approval

- 3.1 The County Council would not take the proposal to introduce parking restrictions along Church Lane at its approach to the A275 Lewes Road junction in Danehill forward solely using its own resources. However as part of the Community Match Initiative it is a project that the County Council can financially contribute towards and support the Parish Council in taking forward providing there is also sufficient community support for the scheme. The consultation undertaken in January 2017 together with the statutory consultation conducted between 15 June and 6 July has shown that the majority of the community is supportive of the proposed parking restrictions along Church Lane. It is also considered, for the reasons outlined in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.6 of this report that the objections raised do not raise issues that should merit the proposal, as advertised, from not being implemented.
- 3.2 The Committee is therefore recommended, for the reasons set out in this report, not to uphold the objections to the Traffic Regulation Order and to recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy & Transport that the Order be made as advertised.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
14 December 2017