

Committee	<b>Regulatory Planning Committee</b>
Date	<b>16 December 2015</b>
Report by	<b>Director of Communities, Economy and Transport</b>
Title of Report	<b>Traffic Regulation Order - High Street, Old Town, Hastings</b>
Purpose	<b>To consider the objection received in response to the consultation on the draft Traffic Regulation Order that would introduce changes to the parking arrangements as part of the proposed High Street, Old Town, Hastings Pedestrian and Traffic Management Improvement Scheme</b>
Contact Officer:	<b>Christopher Tree – 01273 482247</b>
Local Member:	<b>Councillor Charman</b>

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## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Planning Committee is recommended:**

- 1. Not to uphold the objection set out in Appendix 3 to the Report, concerning the draft Traffic Regulation Order to replace a 6 metres length of on-street pay and display parking space with a prohibition of waiting at any time parking restriction; and**
  - 2. To recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the Order be made as advertised.**
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## **CONSIDERATION BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The County Council has been undertaking improvement to the Old Town area including the High Street over a number of years. The background to the proposals is contained in Appendix 1. Footway improvements in the High Street require the modification to an existing 12 metres length of pay and display space in front of 61 High Street. It is proposed to remove a 6 metres length (1 car space equivalent) and replace with prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines). This is required for safe traffic flow in this part of the High Street.

1.2 On Friday 30 October 2015, ESCC gave notice under the relevant sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (as amended), that it was proposing to make a Traffic Regulation Order associated with the High Street, Old Town, Hastings Pedestrian and Traffic Management Improvement Scheme. A copy of the draft Traffic Regulation Order, a plan showing the location of the new restriction and a copy of the Statement of Reasons are included in Appendix 2.

1.3 Prior to the advertisement of the draft Traffic Regulation Order, ESCC consulted with its statutory consultees. No objections to the proposals were received during this consultation.

A copy of the draft Traffic Regulation Order consultation material was formally sent to the statutory consultees.

1.4 The public consultation on the draft Traffic Regulation Order closed on Friday 20 November 2015. In total, one representation was received. A summary of the objection and officer comment is set out in Appendix 3. A copy of the representation is available in the Members' Room.

## **2. COMMENTS AND APPRAISAL**

2.1 The objector to the draft Traffic Regulation Order considers that there is not a problem with the existing layout of the High Street and that people are used to the conditions that prevail there at the moment. The objector feels that the proposed changes will create problems for people wanting to stop and pop into the shops and for businesses to load and unload. The objector requested that the High Street is left as it is, as people are used to it.

2.2 The proposals have been put forward to improve conditions for pedestrians and enhance the economic vitality of the High Street. The width of the road has been reduced to accommodate the new footway on the western side of the road where one does not currently exist. Therefore, the proposed changes to the existing parking arrangements are vital to prevent vehicles parking in the 'pay and display space' and blocking the flow of traffic in the High Street. A response to this objection is included in Appendix 3. A meeting was held with the objector on 19 November 2015 to explain the reasons behind the proposal. Attempts to resolve this objection were unsuccessful and the objection has not been withdrawn.

## **3. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR APPROVAL**

3.1 The High Street, Old Town, Hastings Pedestrian and Traffic Management Improvement Scheme aims to enhance the economic vitality of the Old Town by improving conditions for pedestrians. A majority of those who responded to the public consultation supported the proposed pedestrian improvements. The proposed change to the existing Traffic Regulation Order to modify the layout of the existing parking arrangements is essential to enable the introduction of the new 39 metres long section of footway on the western side of the High Street from George Street towards Swan Terrace.

3.2 The Planning Committee is therefore recommended, for the reasons set out in this report, not to uphold the objection (set out in Appendix 3) to the proposed draft Traffic Regulation Order and to recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the Order be made as advertised.

RUPERT CLUBB  
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport  
08 December 2015

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Lead Member Paper for Transport and Environment. Petition requesting that East Sussex County Council improve safety in the High Street, Hastings 26 March 2012.

Lead Member Paper for Transport and Environment. Consultation on proposals to introduce pedestrian and traffic management improvements in the High Street, Old Town, Hastings 27 January 2014.