

Committee:	<b>Regulatory Planning Committee</b>
Date:	<b>13 March 2019</b>
Report by:	<b>Director of Communities, Economy and Transport</b>
Title of Report	<b>Traffic Regulation Order - Crowborough Parking Review</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>To consider the objections received in response to the consultation on the draft Traffic Regulation Order to introduce parking restrictions at various sites in Crowborough.</b>
Contact Officer:	<b>Kelly Burr tel: 01273 482824</b>
Local Members:	<b>Councillor Stogdon, Councillor Tidy and Councillor Whetstone</b>

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**The Planning Committee is recommended to:**

- 1. Not uphold the objections set out in Appendix 2 to the Report, concerning the draft Traffic Regulation Order for various sites in Crowborough;**
  - 2. To uphold the objection to the draft Traffic Regulation Order as set out in Appendix 1 of this report;**
  - 3. Recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the draft Traffic Regulation Order relating to sites 1-7 and 9-13 be made as advertised, and;**
  - 4. Recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the draft Traffic Regulation Order relating to site 8 be amended and be made.**
- 

## **CONSIDERATION BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT.**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Residents and other interested parties have raised a number of parking issues in Crowborough, including junctions where visibility has been impeded by on-street parking. In response, the Local Traffic and Safety team has proposed lengths of single and double yellow lines to prohibit parking at a number of junctions in Crowborough in order to aid access, visibility and manoeuvrability.

1.2 In August 2018, East Sussex County Council gave notice under its powers in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that it was proposing to make a Traffic

Regulation Order to introduce waiting restrictions at various locations in Crowborough. A copy of the draft Traffic Regulation Order is included as Appendix 3. Notices were attached to street furniture at the sites in question and the proposals were also advertised in the Sussex Express and on the Council's Consultation Hub for any member of the public to comment. The formal period for representations to be made ended on 24 August 2018.

1.3 Prior to the advertisement of the draft Traffic Regulation Order, copies of the proposals were sent to relevant District Councillors, County Councillors and other consultees including the emergency services. Comments were received during this consultation from the Chamber of Commerce who requested that the junction of Huntingdon Road and Queens Road was also considered. Officers felt that to introduce any further sites at this stage would not be practical as the sites that were progressed were narrowed down with assistance from Sussex Police and the Town Council from over 50 sites where members of the public had requested restrictions. We had previously received no requests for parking restrictions at the junction of Huntingdon Road and Queens Road. Whilst the Chamber of Commerce stated that they welcomed the proposals, they also expressed concern over potential displaced parking associated with the Mill Lane proposal (Site 6). As the proposed restrictions are short lengths around junctions in Mill Lane, officers considered that any displacement would be minimal and therefore did not amend the proposal.

## **2. Comments received and appraisal of them**

2.1 During the period of public advertisement, responses were received from fourteen members of the public. Three further responses were received outside of the consultation period, but have been included within this report. Out of the seventeen responses, ten were objections to individual sites or the package as a whole. Reasons for the objections on specific sites related primarily to the loss of parking spaces for residents, the lack of enforcement for parking restrictions, extensions to the lengths of restriction proposed and requests for new or amended parking restrictions at other sites in the local area. The remaining seven responses were in support of the proposals. A summary of each of the objections received is included in Appendices 1 and 2. Full copies of all the comments received are available in the Members' Room.

2.2 Three objections related to the lack of enforcement of parking restrictions in Wealden District. Sussex Police have openly stated that, in the absence of Civil Parking Enforcement, the amount of enforcement they can offer to parking restrictions is limited. However, the lengths of restriction proposed have been kept to a minimum and put in places where drivers looking for somewhere to park can see a reason for their placement. It is hoped that the placement of these markings at road junctions and on sharp bends will mean that the restrictions are as self enforcing as possible.

2.3 One objection relates to a stretch of limited waiting proposed outside of the Post Office in Green Lane (site 8). Whilst the proposal has no impact on road safety, it is recognised that residents in the area use the layby for all day parking meaning that users of the shop often have to park at some distance to use the Post Office and

shop facilities. Following consideration of this response, it is recommended to modify the proposal, as follows (summarised in Appendix 1):

Green Lane– modify the proposal to reduce the length of time that the limited waiting is operational to match the times that the post office is open within the shop

Officers are satisfied that this modification does not involve a substantial change to the draft Order and it is unnecessary to consult again on its implementation.

2.4 No objections were received during the public advertisement period to sites at Mill Lane, Melfort Road, Medway/B2100/Osborne Road or the proposed amendments.

2.5 Seven letters of support were received for the proposals. These were for St Johns/School Lane junction (site 1), Windsor Road (site 13) and two letters of support were received for both the Whitehill Road/Cranbourne Gardens junction (site 11) and Medway/B2100/Osbourne Road junction (site 12). There was one letter received in support of the whole package of proposals.

2.6 With regard to objections relating to St Johns/School Lane junction (site 1), London Road/Elim Court Gardens (site 2) Batchelors Field (site 3) Beacon Gardens (site 4), Goldsmiths Avenue (site 5), South Street (site 9) Blackness Road (site 10) Windsor Road (site 13) and those received relating to the entire scheme, as set out in Appendix 3, it is not considered that these objections provide sufficient grounds to warrant the modification or withdrawal of the proposals, and the proposals provide for the most efficient use of parking space. It is considered that these objections should not be upheld.

2.7 As the letters with the suggested extensions to the existing proposals and proposals for new sites were received during the public advertisement period, it is too late in the consultation process to revisit the parking review to consider them. The new sites being requested were not ones that had previously been brought to the attention of the Traffic and Safety Team for review and will therefore be added to the list for consideration should Civil Parking Enforcement be taken forward in Wealden District in the future.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for approval**

3.1 The proposals aim to address the safety concerns at a number of junctions in Crowborough, which have been raised over a number of years. It is fully appreciated that the loss of any on street parking will be contentious when there are so many competing demands for parking within the limited road space. For this reason and to ensure any restriction is as self-enforcing as possible, the restrictions have been kept to a minimum.

3.2 It is recommended not to uphold the objections submitted relating to sites 1-7 and 9 to 13

3.3 It is recommended to uphold the objection relating to the time limit for site 8, Green Lane. This should be shortened so that the limited waiting is operational from

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 12:30pm Saturdays, instead of 8am to 5pm Monday to Saturday. It is recommended that the Planning Committee recommend to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport that the remainder of the Order be made as advertised.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

5 March 2019

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None