

## SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

<b>Meeting Date</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2014
<b>Report Title</b>	Formal Objections to Traffic Regulation Order
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr David Simmons
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Brian Planner
<b>Head of Service</b>	Brian Planner
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Mike Knowles (SBC) / Steve Darling (KCC)
<b>Classification</b>	Open

<b>Recommendations</b>	Members are asked to consider the formal objections received in relation to the recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order and recommend that the proposed amendments to waiting restrictions are progressed with some amendments.
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### Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of formal objections received to a recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order for amendments to various waiting restrictions in the Swale area.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 A Traffic Regulation Order, Swale Amendment 13, has been drafted to cover various amendments to existing waiting restrictions in the Borough, and the introduction of new waiting restrictions. Some of the schemes have been led by Swale Borough Council, and others by Kent County Council.
- 2.2 As part of the formal Traffic Regulation Order process, details of the proposals have been advertised in local newspapers and on site.

### 3 Issue for Decision

- 3.1 Details of the formal objections received can be found in Annex A.
- 3.2 Belvedere Road, Faversham – Proposed Double Yellow Lines

A request was received, via our colleagues in Parking Operations at Maidstone, for some double yellow lines to be installed in the vicinity of Millers Cottages in Belvedere Road, Faversham.

The request, from a member of a Board of 19 residents that live in and manage three blocks of flats in Belvedere Road, expressed concern that vehicles parked in

this narrow stretch of road could obstruct the safe passage of larger and emergency vehicles into the lower section of Belvedere Road, and following discussions it was agreed that restrictions as shown in the plan in Annex B would be incorporated in the next Swale Amendment Traffic Regulation Order.

Following the advertising of this Traffic Order, three formal objections to these proposals have been received, together with one verbal objection which was not followed up in writing, and one comment. Details of the written objections can be found in Annex A.

The objections state that the existing parking arrangements outside of Millers Cottages have been in place without problems since the development was occupied. One objector suggested the removal of the kerb build out outside of Millers Cottages to enable residents to park on the road outside of their properties without hindering access, but this would require Kent County Council approval and a source of funding. An objection was raised that the original request for the restrictions was not representative of all residents in Belvedere Road, but came from the gated development where allocated parking was provided. It was suggested that placing double yellow lines opposite Millers Cottages only would maintain suitable access whilst minimising the impact on parking for the nearby residents.

Members of the Board are requested to note the objections and comments and recommend that the proposed double yellow lines are progressed, with the exception of the lines outside of Millers Cottages. It is also recommended that should objections continue to be raised by the residents of Millers Cottages on these revised proposals, that the planned restrictions be removed from the current Traffic Regulation Order pending further informal consultation.

### 3.3 Borden Lane, Sittingbourne – Proposed School Keep Clear Markings

Proposals to install School Keep Clear Markings in the vicinity of the Borden Lane pedestrian access to Westlands Primary School were included in the recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order on behalf of Kent County Council. Planning consent has already been granted for this access to be opened and it is proposed to install School Keep Clear Markings across the entrance to highlight its presence and keep the access clear of parked vehicles during school term times. A plan of the proposed restrictions can be found in Annex C. The length of the proposed restrictions has been kept to the minimum permitted length as prescribed in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions.

As well as the two objections received from the County Members for the area, three formal objections have been received from nearby residents together with two further comments on the times and lengths of the restrictions, and these objections can be found in Annex A. A letter of support from the Swale Academies Trust has been received and can also be found in Annex A.

As previously stated, Planning consent has already been granted for this access to be opened and it will therefore be used with or without the installation of the

proposed School Keep Clear Markings. The installation of these markings will facilitate the potential future implementation of a controlled crossing should the school wish to introduce one, and the management of the access is a matter for the school to control, which could include limiting use to those pupils travelling by foot or bicycle. This can be done through the school's Travel Plan which is currently being finalised. It is anticipated that once the pedestrian access comes into operation requests will be received for School Keep Clear Markings to be installed if they are not completed at this time.

Members of the Board are requested to consider the above together with the formal objections received, and recommend that the School Keep Clear Markings are progressed, but also that Kent County Council write to the school to strongly advise that they regulate the use of this access to pupils arriving and leaving by foot or bicycle, within their School Travel Plan.

#### 3.4 Harold Road/Thomas Road, Sittingbourne – Extension of Double Yellow Lines

Following a request from Kent Fire and Rescue, a meeting took place on site with Kent County Council to examine problems with access around the Shortlands Road Estate. This followed a couple of incidents where fire engines were delayed on the way to responding to emergency situations. A fire engine was used to highlight areas where parked vehicles are causing access issues, and one of the local Councillors was also in attendance and agreed that the extent of the lines being promoted was necessary. A screenshot of the video taken showing problems experienced with the fire engine negotiating parked vehicles around the estate can be found in Annex D. Swale's Cleansing Team have also reported great difficulties with their refuse freighters accessing the estate due to parked vehicles and would welcome the introduction of additional parking restrictions.

One written objection and a petition consisting of signatures from residents of 8 nearby properties has been received and these can be found in Annex A. The proposed restrictions have been kept to a minimum to limit the impact on parking capacity for residents, and the Highway Code states that vehicles should not park within 10 metres of a junction. Concern was expressed that residents would not be able to park close enough to their properties to unload shopping from their vehicles, but as with all double yellow lines it is permitted to stop on the restrictions for the purpose of unloading or loading a vehicle.

Members of the Board are requested to note the objections and comments received and recommend that in view of the request from Kent Fire and Rescue that Officers proceed with the proposed restrictions.

#### 3.5 Preston Street, Faversham – Proposed Double Yellow Lines and Residents Parking

A request was received from Faversham Town Council for parking in the short section of Preston Street, to the south of Forbes Road/Station Road, to be formalised. At the present time, no restrictions exist in this part of the road. It is

proposed to install double yellow lines on the west side outside Delbridge House, and parking bays for the Residents Parking Scheme on the east side.

One objection has been received to these proposals, from the only residential property in the vicinity of this section of Preston Street, and a copy of this objection can be found in Annex A.

Members are asked to note the objection received and recommend that Officers include the proposals in the Traffic Regulation Order, but that implementation of the on-site signing and lining be suspended until further information regarding prescriptive rights to park outside of Delbridge House has been obtained from Land Registry.

## 4 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Costs associated with Traffic Regulation Order, and necessary lining.
Legal and Statutory	Traffic Regulation Orders to be sealed by Kent County Council.
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.

## 5 Appendices

5.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:-

- Annex A – Copy of Formal Objections/Support received

- Annex B – Plan of Proposed Restrictions – Belvedere Road, Faversham
- Annex C – Plan of Proposed School Keep Clear Markings – Borden Lane, Sittingbourne
- Annex D – Screenshot from video of Fire Engine negotiating Shortlands Road Estate

## **6 Background Papers**

- 6.1 Planning consent for pedestrian access to Westlands Primary School, off Borden Lane, Sittingbourne – Planning Application Number **SW/13/0633**