

REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DATE: 8 NOVEMBER 2018

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RED LANE, COLNE – TRAFFIC ISSUES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members about the proposed scheme to resolve traffic problems being experienced outside Sacred Heart RC Primary School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the Committee determines whether to proceed with the scheme.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To be fully informed of the traffic issues in Red Lane.
- (2) To help alleviate the traffic issues identified.

BACKGROUND

1. Planning permission was granted in October 2017 for 55 dwellings in the open land adjacent to Sacred Heart RC Primary School in Red Lane, Colne.
2. Minute 107(b) of the Colne and District Committee meeting on 9th November 2017 reads:

“It was suggested that money from the capital receipt of this land be used to address traffic problems around Sacred Heart RC Primary School on Red Lane. It was felt by some members that a meeting should be arranged with the school to discuss the possibility of providing a turning/parking bay within the school grounds. It was further suggested that the Neighbourhood Services Manager be asked to prepare some options to address the traffic problems in this area.”

Reference was made to the Council's policy with regards to capital receipts and there was a discussion around the traffic problems outside the school on Red Lane. It was also reported that a meeting with the school was in the process of being arranged.

RESOLVED

That members of Colne and District Committee be included in any discussions/meetings with other appropriate bodies regarding traffic problems being experienced outside Sacred Heart School on Red Lane, Colne."

3. Engineering staff met with the school's Headmaster on site on 12 December 2017 to view the problems and discuss potential solutions. The school does not want any highway-related works on the school premises.
4. The issue was raised at the Traffic Liaison Group meeting in August 2018, where a provisional design by Pendle Council was discussed with representatives from Lancashire County Council and the Police. The County Council advised that they did not wish for formalised parking bays to be introduced but that the remaining proposed improvements were acceptable.
5. A request to hold a site meeting with representatives from Lancashire County Council and Sacred Heart RC Primary School was declined by the County Council in October 2018 as they felt they had already communicated their views on the proposal and that there was little benefit in holding further meetings on the matter.

ISSUES

6. The school does not have any available off-street parking for parents/guardians to use and on-street parking directly outside the school grounds is restricted by "Keep Clear" markings and a large number of dropped kerb crossing points that allow vehicular access to the residential properties in Red Lane.
7. A planning permission condition is that Lancashire County Council, as highway authority, requires the developer to provide suitable sightlines from the new junction in order to enable the safe movement of vehicles using the new access road. This will result in a further reduction in available on-street parking in Red Lane of 57m in both directions of the new junction, as shown in Appendix 1.
8. Whilst the option to construct a facility such as a turning head or parking area within the school grounds had been suggested, the school has indicated that they are not in favour of this proposal. In light of this, a scheme that focuses on making improvements to Red Lane has been designed and is shown in Appendix 1.
9. The works consist of:
 - provision of "H-Bar" markings outside driveway entrances to discourage obstructive parking;
 - re-lining faded junction and waiting restriction markings; and
 - cutting back of overhanging vegetation currently obscuring the visibility of highway signage.
10. The dimensions of the proposed turning head near the entrance to the new development site have been assessed and this will allow for the turning of large 4x4 vehicles.

CONCLUSION

11. The requirements of Lancashire County Council and Sacred Heart RC Primary School restrict the scope of potential improvements that could be carried out in Red Lane. The proposed scheme will help formalise parking but may not substantially improve driver behaviour as desired.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: There is provision in Pendle's 2018/19 Corporate Capital Programme to fund a suitable scheme. Quotations to carry out the works will be sought once approval has been granted by the relevant parties. Red Lane is adopted highway and future maintenance would be undertaken by Lancashire County Council, as highway authority.

Legal: None arising directly from the report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: The scheme would help formalise on-street parking in Red Lane and should discourage drivers from parking illegally, thus improving the safety of pedestrians and vehicle users in the area.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Proposed Works (Drawing No E0536D/4A).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Colne and District Committee on 5 July 2018.

