

REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
MANAGER

TO: BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE

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TRAFFIC ISSUES ON WILTON STREET, BARROWFORD

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members about options to resolve traffic problems being experienced on Wilton Street, Barrowford.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the issue is reviewed further to the provision of the LEF funded car park and the improvements to the car park at Cravendale Avenue.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To be fully informed of the traffic issues in Wilton Street, Barrowford.
- (2) To try to improve highway and parking issues at this location for the benefit of residents.

BACKGROUND

1. Wilton Street provides pedestrian and vehicular access to the facilities at Bullholme and Swinden Playing Fields. The highway is adopted between Gisburn Road and the bridge over Pendle Water, with terraced properties directly fronting on to the highway and no off-street parking available to residents. Beyond the bridge, the access road is the responsibility of Pendle Borough Council as landowner.
2. It has historically provided access to these sporting facilities, however in recent years further development of the site has taken place, including the construction of Barrowford Pre-School Nursery, Steven Burke Sports Hub and Pendle Panthers BMX Pump Track.
3. Members and residents have raised concerns about heavy traffic and congestion on Wilton Street, together with parking issues and a lack of enforcement.

4. The matter was raised at the Traffic Liaison Meeting on 25th November, 2021, where Lancashire County Council agreed to carry out additional parking enforcement at Wilton Street.

OPTIONS

5. In April 2022, Members met with the owner of Valley Forge Business Park to discuss the possibility of introducing a one-way system through the site to help ease the problems on Wilton Street.
6. At the meeting, a number of issues were identified relating to the security and management of vehicular access at the business park and it was therefore agreed that it would not be appropriate to proceed with this option.
7. Members identified Swinden Bridge at the canal near Cravendale Avenue, Nelson as being another potential route for vehicles and requested that the feasibility of improving this access was investigated.
8. The bridge is owned and maintained by Canal & River Trust who had previously advised that the structure is unsuitable for vehicular traffic. A budget estimate for strengthening the bridge and improving access is £60,000, with a full replacement of the bridge likely to cost around £200,000. Any progression of these works would require liaison with Canal & River Trust who require an initial fee of £380 to be paid before they will consider any request.
9. Provision of parking bay markings at the existing car park off Cravendale Avenue, Nelson and the installation of directional signage, were considered as a means of promoting usage of this facility to try to reduce traffic on Wilton Street. Barrowford Parish Council and Nelson Town Council agreed to fully fund these works by contributing £300 and £650 respectively.
10. Existing grassed areas that could be utilised for additional parking within the Council's land were also identified, as shown in Appendix 1.
11. The Council has already secured funding from the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) for the provision of a car park and toilets at the land next to the Sports Hub (Location A) and a planning application for this proposal will be submitted in the near future.
12. The creation of a new parking area at Location B would create up to 12 additional spaces, at an estimated cost of £11,000 to help cater for the high volume of vehicles during football matches at Bullholme. In July 2022, the Committee allocated £3,011 towards the project, however requests to secure the remaining funding from other sources have so far been unsuccessful.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The constraints and likely costs associated with the construction of a one way system from Wilton Street to either Cravendale Avenue or Reedyford Road, Nelson render them infeasible at the present time.
14. Various funding sources have been explored to try to secure the funding required to construct the car park at Location B, but a shortfall of approximately £8,000 remains.

15. Lining and signage works at the Cravendale Avenue car park are due to be undertaken imminently, with the construction of the new car park at Location A due to follow in early 2023, subject to planning consent.
16. It is therefore recommended that following the completion of these works, the impact on Wilton Street is monitored over the subsequent months and that the situation is then reviewed, with a view to further provision and/or the re-configuration of access and parking being considered, as necessary.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: Budget cost estimates for works to the canal bridge have been outlined in this report but more accurate prices would be obtained further to discussions with Canal & River Trust and detailed design. Funding for the car park at Location A in Appendix 1 has already been secured from the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) and contributions from Barrowford Parish Council and Nelson Town Council have been secured to fully fund the provision of lining and signage at the car park off Cravendale Avenue. £3,011 has been allocated by this Committee towards the project, leaving a shortfall of approximately £8,000 to construct the car park at Location B.

Legal: The proposal to utilise Swinden Bridge would require the formal consent of Canal & River Trust to do so. Preliminary approval from Lancashire County Council has been granted for directional signage improvements on Cravendale Avenue with formal approval due before the signs are installed.

Risk Management: Ownership of Swinden Bridge would remain with Canal & River Trust and therefore any works would need to comply with their requirements. Directional signage installed on the adopted highway would become the responsibility of Lancashire County Council and the creation of any parking areas within the site would need to be managed and maintained by Pendle Borough Council as landowner.

Health and Safety: The conversion of the bridge for vehicular usage would need to ensure that it does not create a negative impact on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: Improvements to the flow of traffic and parking would 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: Location plan showing potential options.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS: None.