

REPORT FROM: HEAD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

TO: BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE

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**WILTON STREET, BARROWFORD –
CONGESTION AND PARKING ISSUES UPDATE**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the options to resolve traffic problems being experienced on Wilton Street, Barrowford.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To try to improve highway and parking issues at this location.

ISSUE

1. There are issues with heavy traffic and congestion together with problems with parking and a lack of enforcement on Wilton Street in Barrowford.
2. These issues were raised at the Traffic Liaison Meeting on 25th November, 2021.
3. Lancashire County Council (LCC) agreed to carry out additional parking enforcement at Wilton Street and Pendle Borough Council (PBC) Engineers were asked to look at various options to try and resolve the congestion/parking issues.
4. Councillors met with officers from PBC to look at various options to alleviate the situation. These were reported back to the Committee by the Engineering Section in June, 2022 and again in January, 2023.
5. The proposals to use Valley Forge Business Park for an alternative access to the site and to reinforce the Swinden Bridge over the canal near Cravendale Avenue were considered not viable due to security management and cost respectively.

6. The remaining two options – to create additional parking near to the MUGA at Bullholme as well as a planned event/training/parking area opposite the Steven Burke Sports Hub – were considered instead with the following decisions being taken:
7. In the January report it was decided that there was not enough funding for additional parking next to the MUGA.
8. The proposed event/training/parking area is part of a scheme with funding already achieved via Lancashire Environment Fund (LEF), PBC capital funding and money from CDPP (Pendle's Cycle Liaison Group) which is achieved via hiring out the cycle circuit. This scheme is still planned to go ahead.

LEF SCHEME UPDATE

9. The scheme has not started yet as it needs a planning application which is the next step. The LEF funding runs out in October. If the scheme has not started by October, 2023 we would need to reapply.
10. The scheme includes a refurbished container including toilets and a small office space for the cycle circuit users as well as low-level solar lighting along the paths.
11. The event/training/parking area would be a porous bitmac surface, similar to the BMX car park and it is estimated that it would accommodate approximately 25 cars. This, together with the BMX car park, should help to alleviate car parking issues on a Saturday morning, especially if the nursery school car park is opened at the same time (this is usually opened up on a Saturday morning during the football season).
12. Lining of the car park at Cravendale Avenue has been completed as has lining of the car park opposite the BMX track. This has meant that cars are parking in a more uniform manner, thereby fitting more cars into the car park.
13. Directional signage to the Cravendale car park has yet to be assessed. There is blue cycle/pedestrian directional signage already to the car park on Cravendale Avenue.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The LEF scheme including the event/training/parking area and converted container to include toilets and office space is to be submitted to Planning in a planning application.

Financial: Funding for the scheme, including the event/training/parking area, converted container to include toilets and office space and the solar lighting is part of a successful bid to LEF, PBC Capital Programme and CDPP funding from hiring out the cycle circuit.

Legal: The scheme cannot progress until planning Permission is in place and Environment Agency permission is granted.

Risk Management: LEF funding runs out in October. If the scheme has not started by October a new funding bid would need to be submitted to LEF.

Health and Safety: The scheme will assist with the health and safety of users of the Steven Burke Sports Hub closed road cycle circuit and BMX pump track as it will provide toilets for circuit users. The request for toilets has come from training providers that use the circuit. In particular, the need is for families with young children and Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) groups who attend training sessions at the circuit.

Climate Change: 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, vehicle and cycle users in the area.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

APPENDICES: None.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS: None.