



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 11th NOVEMBER 2020
LEAD OFFICER: LOUISA CALAM, PROJECT MANAGER TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PEDESTRIANISATION OF CHURCH STREET EAST FROM THE JUNCTION WITH CHOBHAM ROAD TO THE TOWN SQUARE

AREA: CANALSIDE (WOKING TOWN CENTRE)

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The purpose of this report is to detail the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which needs to be made to facilitate the delivery of the pedestrianisation of Church Street East, between Chobham Road and The Town Square.

The TRO is sought to enable improved pedestrian facilities and access to the town centre as well as the provision of a high quality urban environment as part of the major public realm improvements to Woking Town Centre.

This TRO has delegated authority for approval (to include advertising and considering any objections) as follows:

The Woking Borough Council Director of Neighbourhood Services, Geoff McManus, has delegated authority as set out in number 50(iii) on page 114 of the Council's Constitution, May 2016 (the related paper is attached). TROs are made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, so this delegation would apply in this case.

The Joint Committee is therefore asked to note this TRO for information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woking Joint Committee is asked to note that:

- (i) A permanent Traffic Regulation Order will be pursued for the creation of a pedestrian zone within Church Street West, between the junction with Chobham Road and the Town Square.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The pedestrianisation of the section of Church Street East between Chobham Road and the Town Gate is sought to enable improved pedestrian access to the town centre as well as the provision of a high quality urban environment as part of the major public realm improvements to Woking Town Centre.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is the legal instrument by which Highway Authorities implement most traffic management controls on their roads under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.
- 1.2 The proposal is to introduce a TRO which creates an at-all-times a pedestrian zone within Church Street from the junction with Chobham Road west towards the Town Square. Access to authorised vehicles would be controlled from Christchurch Way by means of rising bollards and a key pad / intercom system linked to the town centre car park office.
- 1.3 Authorised vehicles would include, service vehicles, those from developments which have off-street parking accessed from the affected roads, and disabled drivers (blue badge holders).
- 1.4 In addition, where Church Street East is closed to the west of Chobham Road, this would be controlled by removable bollards allowing a second point of access for emergency vehicles.
- 1.5 Church Street East has recently been resurfaced in block paving and sections at the easternmost end have been reconstructed and paved. In addition, Church Street East between the town square and Chertsey Road, and the loop road section to the north formed by Christchurch Way and Chobham Road have been approved for the introduction of a restricted parking zone limiting parking to marked bays.
- 1.6 Approval for the TRO (to include advertising and considering any objections) have delegated authority by Woking Borough Council (WBC) Director of Neighbourhood Services, through WBC's Constitution, May 2016. The documents detailing these approvals are attached.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 Woking Town Centre is going through a period of major transformation. The Borough Council has made a substantial investment in improvements to public realm. The Woking Integrated Transport Package is to deliver further improvements to the transport infrastructure and public realm for the town centre, which seek to secure the long term vitality of the local economy.
- 2.2 The westernmost section of Church Street East experiences a number of unnecessary drop-off and pick-up vehicle trips throughout the day, often resulting in double parking and multi-point turns at the no through section on the final approach to the Town Square.

- 2.3 The pedestrianisation of the Church Street East between Chobham Road and the Town Square has been proposed in order to remove unnecessary vehicle movements from the area. This would improve pedestrian safety and encourage increased footfall between the town centre and this adjacent section of the town, and allow the provision of a higher quality urban environment as part of the major public realm improvements to Woking Town Centre.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 No variations of the proposals, or further options have been put forward for consideration.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 These proposals have previously been outlined to the Joint Committee during the meeting held on 22nd January 2020, under item 11 – Woking Town Centre – Controlled Parking Zone 1.
- 4.2 Surrey Police have been consulted on the proposals and raised the following concerns:
- The need for advance warning of the closure for large goods vehicles
 - The use of West Street as a turning head
 - The contingencies for if the access control bollards are stuck in the up position
- 4.3 On the basis of these concerns the designer has:
- Introduced signing discouraging large delivery vehicles from attempting to enter Church Street East from Chertsey Road.
 - A vehicle swept path has been undertaken to ensure the design vehicle (a 10m rigid HGV) can negotiate this turn. In addition, the proposed road surface materials have been revised at the entry to West Street and tactile paving included, to avoid any confusion for pedestrian on who has right of way.
 - The initial bollards across Church Street East as you approach from the east are non-automated removal units which can allow access when any maintenance of the access controls on Christchurch Way are taking place.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The costs of amending the TRO's will be borne by the Woking Integrated Transport Package funds which is comprised of developer funding from the Victoria Square development and Enterprise M3 funding.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

6.1 It is possible that objections to the TRO will be raised and it may be necessary to find solutions through negotiation.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 The proposals will bring positive benefits to the local area.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 The proposed pedestrianisation will result in the removal of 9 disabled parking bays from the affected section of Church Street East.

8.2 However, the Zone 1 parking changes which were approved at the Joint Committee on the 22nd January 2020, will provide an additional 6 disabled parking bays locally, (4 in Chobham Road and 2 in Christchurch Way), resulting in a net loss of 3 spaces in the area.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	The scheme will improve the safety for users of the town centre by reducing vehicle speeds and flows.
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

10.1 The introduction of a pedestrianisation of Church Street East from the junction with Chobham Road to the Town Square, will:

- Remove unnecessary vehicle movements and inconsiderate parking from Church Street East over the final approach to the Town Square;
- Improve pedestrian safety and encourage increased footfall between the town centre and this adjacent section of the town; and
- allow the provision of a high quality urban environment as part of the major public realm improvements to Woking Town Centre.

- 10.2 On this basis, it is recommended that the TRO for proposed pedestrianisation be noted and taken to advertisement stage. The implementation of this TRO will allow the objectives of the Woking Integrated Transport Package to provide safe, high quality public realm with improved transport access to the town centre to be met.

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

11.1 Following this Committee, the proposed TRO would be advertised and public notices displayed in the press and on site.

11.2 Any objections to the TRO will be reviewed by the WBC Director of Neighbourhood Services.

11.3 If there are no irresolvable objections, the order will be made and all necessary signage and access controls will be installed.

11.4 If there are irresolvable objections, a Public Inquiry would need to be held (this is a statutory requirement due to the nature of the proposed TRO).

Contact Officer: Louisa Calam,
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Consulted:

Graham Cannon (Surrey Police)
Paula Hartwell (Woking Fire Station)
Andrew Milne (Surrey County Council, Area Highway Manager)
Kevin Patching (Surrey County Council, Area Engineer)

County and Borough Councillors

Annexes:

WBC Delegated authority papers (See Item 8 – Annex A)
Drawing Number VD16470-0111 Rev H – Church Street East Pedestrian Zone – General Arrangement Plan.

Sources/background papers:

None

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