

WARDS: Kingswinford North and Wall Heath

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 3 FEBRUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

HOLBEACHE LANE AND OAK LANE, KINGSWINFORD
PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF DRIVING ORDER

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Area Committee's support for the introduction of a Prohibition of Driving Order to enable the construction of physical barriers to prevent through traffic from using Holbeache Lane and Oak Lane.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Holbeache Lane is a single track road with passing places which for the majority of its length has agricultural land on both sides, with hedges adjacent to the edge of carriageway. It links the A449 and the commercial area of Ham Lane and Oak Lane.
- 2.2 As a result of its position, Holbeache Lane carries traffic of a size and volume inappropriate to its nature. This causes a hazard to other road users and damage to verges and hedges. The ability to drive through unobserved has led to fly tipping at evenings and weekends.
- 2.3 Oak Lane and Ham Lane form a loop off Stallings Lane (B4175) and most of the frontage is commercial. Holbeache Lane is the only other vehicle access to the streets. The commercial land use is split into two distinct types. Manufacturing distribution and service industries in Ham Lane and a short length of Oak Lane. The majority of Oak Lane is almost exclusively recycling, scrap and associated industries and the majority of heavy goods vehicles are associated with these activities.
- 2.4 The proposals were for the closure of a short length of Holbeache Lane shown on drawing No. TM2146 and a short length of Oak Lane shown on drawing No. TM2147. These proposals would remove through traffic from Holbeache Lane and split the two types of use on Ham Lane and Oak Lane thus forcing the majority of heavy vehicles, on Oak Lane, to use the more suitable roundabout junction with Stallings Lane.

2.5 **Consultation**

- 2.5.1 Letters and plans describing the proposals were sent to Ward Members on 8 March 2004.
- 2.5.2 A letter formally consulting the Police was sent on 8 March 2004.
- 2.5.3 The proposals were advertised in the Express and Star newspaper on 21 April 2004 and on-street from 21 April to 17 May 2004.
- 2.5.4 Two letters of objection were received from farmers of land adjacent to Holbeache Lane. Whilst supporting the reasons for a closure, they stated that the location of the closure would disrupt their ability to work the land. Their farm equipment uses the A449 to reach the land and the closure would cause a long diversion and slow moving vehicles would be forced to pass through the centre of Kingswinford.
- 2.5.5 The proposals were discussed with the objectors. They felt that if the closure point on Holbeache Lane could be relocated to allow access to their gate, this would remove their reason to object.
- 2.5.6 A minor adjustment of the closure point on Holbeache Lane would not change the effect of the closure. Therefore, it is recommended that the closure point is relocated as shown on drawing number TM2146A (the third of the attached drawings) and that the Oak Lane closure is introduced as advertised and shown on Drawing TM2147 (the first of the attached drawings).

2.6 **Sustainable Transport**

- 2.6.1 Measures to improve safety and local environment, support policies of sustainability.

3.0 **PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 That having considered the objections received, Area Committee supports the introduction of the Borough of Dudley (Holbeache Lane and Oak Lane, Kingswinford) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2004 in the modified form shown on drawing numbers TM2146A and TM2147.

4.0 **FINANCE**

- 4.1 Funds to introduce a Prohibition of Driving Order estimated at £2,500 are available in the current Highways Capital Budget

5.0 **LAW**

- 5.1 Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

6.0 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

6.1 The proposal contained within this report complies with the Council's Policy regarding Equal Opportunities.

7.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 That members support the proposal in Paragraph 3.0 of this report.



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J. B. MILLAR – DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Contact Officer: Graham Isherwood – Ext.5459
 Bob Morris – Ext.4475
 Peter Vangeersdaele – Ext. 5437

Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

1. 08.03.04 Letters to Ward Members
2. 08.03.04 Letter to Police
3. 30.04.04 Letter of objection
4. 04.05.04 Letter of objection