

BRIEFING PAPER FOR FAILSWORTH DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

Petition: Pole Lane, Failsworth

1 August 2013

Unity Partnership

Officer Contact : Sarah Robinson
Ext. 4377

Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is to consider a petition submitted to the Failsworth District Executive for the removal of through traffic from Pole Lane, Failsworth. The petition has been submitted by Mr William Jordan of 8 Pole Lane and has 41 signatures.

Recommendation

It is recommended the District Executive approve that Pole Lane remains a through route.

Petition: Pole Lane, Failsworth

1 Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to consider a petition submitted to the Failsworth District Executive for the removal of through traffic from Pole Lane, Failsworth. The petition has been submitted by Mr William Jordan of 8 Pole Lane and has 41 signatures, however only 21 signatures are from residents of Pole Lane. As members of the same household have signed the petition the number of households in agreement amount to 15 properties. The petition is attached at Appendix A and states the following:-

“For the last few weeks the top of Pole Lane, where it joins the A62 Oldham Road, has been closed to traffic because of the National Grid works that are in progress. Since this work was started the residents have noticed a massive improvement in their quality of life in what is historically the centre of and the focal point of Failsworth. We the undersigned feel strongly that we would like the road to remain the same in the future and enhance the conservation area status of Failsworth Pole by blocking off the junction with Oldham Road permanently. This would of course require a residents parking permit scheme to be implemented in order to prevent the end of the lane becoming a car park for the local pubs.

Local taxi drivers were questioned if the changes to the layout, as it is, have caused problems for them during their working day. All drivers questioned said it made no difference and they just used the drive through from Oldham Road across the car park at Tesco, Church Street or Ashton Road West to access Oldham Road and visa versa.

Lorry delivery drivers to Tesco were asked the same question and all responded that it was a minor inconvenience at first, but now access the store via Ashton Road West from either end.

Pole Lane has become a much safer place for the many children that live here since the road has been blocked, we as families feel safe letting them play around the Pole as children should and wish this to continue. At the moment, we don't have endure speeding cars, ambulances or police car flashing lights/sirens at all hours of the day and night and visitors have been able to call and park for short periods. Everyone who passes, including the community police officers, have commented how peaceful and pleasant it is at the this moment in time. The officers have also noted that in their opinion it has not made a difference to the flow of traffic on Oldham Road or any of the surrounding arterial roads.

We respectfully ask that you consider this proposal for the sake of the many people who live on Pole Lane, the future of Pole Lane and the enhancement of the Conservation of the Pole Lane area.”

2 Background

- 2.1 Pole Lane, Failsworth is a residential street which connects the A62 Oldham Road with Ashton Road East / West. Pole Lane is a residential street but is regularly used as a diversion route when works are undertaken on Oldham Road or Ashton Road East / West. Pole Lane also provides unobstructed access to the industrial units located on Thorley Street.
- 2.2 Pole Lane is suitable for the uses described above due to its relatively short length and the existence of waiting restriction which ensures the route is not obstructed by parked vehicles.
- 2.3 The number of routes which provide direct access between Oldham Road and Ashton Road East / West are limited; the main and most preferable route is the direct access onto Ashton Road West from Oldham Road the use of which is controlled by traffic signals. The only other highway routes are Pole Lane and Church Street. The petition also mentions a route through the car park at Tesco, however, as the majority of this area is a parking facility and not public highway it is not considered appropriate to promote this route as a means of access between Oldham Road and Ashton Road West.
- 2.4 Church Street, Failsworth runs parallel with Pole Lane and connects Oldham Road with Ashton Road East. Church Street can be more difficult to negotiate as a motorist, due to the level of on-street parking that takes place. The residential properties along Church Street are terraced with no off-street parking facilities which consequently results in high demand for on-street parking.
- 2.5 Gas Main renewal works are currently being undertaken along Oldham Road, Failsworth, which has resulted in Pole Lane being closed for a temporary period, at its junction with Oldham Road. It is the closure of the Pole Lane that has prompted the residents to submit a petition for the road to be closed permanently. They have made this request as they feel it provides a safer environment for children to play; they also believe the waiting restrictions could be removed which would allow residents to park near to their properties.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 Unfortunately, further to the receipt of the petition, Pole Lane has been re-opened to traffic so it has not been possible to monitor the traffic displacement and how it has affected the other through routes; it is however felt the most convenient and preferred alternative route would be along Church Street. Traffic flows have previously been recorded along Pole Lane and Church Street so an estimate of increased traffic flows along Church Street, can be calculated.
- 4.2 The chart below shows the morning and evening peak average traffic flows along both streets.

Average 5 Day Traffic Flow				
Time	Towards Oldham Road		Towards Ashton Road East and West	
	Pole Lane	Church Street	Pole Lane	Church Street
8am – 9am	65	60	87	84
6pm – 6pm	75	40	161	105

If Pole Lane is closed to through traffic and all through traffic is displaced along Church Street then potentially peak hour traffic flows along Church Street could double. It is appreciated that when Pole Lane was closed for the gas main renewal, the displaced traffic did not generate complaints; however a permanent closure may result in the need to introduce waiting restrictions along Church Street to ensure traffic flows are not obstructed, which would more than likely result in objections from the residents. The closure of Pole Lane may also encourage residents of Church Street to make the same request if traffic management measures have to be introduced to deal with displaced traffic flows.

- 4.3 Closing Pole Lane would result in part of the street being made a cul-de-sac which would require the provision of a turning head facility at the cul-de-sac end. Unfortunately, there is insufficient space to create a turning head facility, consequently any large vehicles would not be able to turn round and leave Pole Lane in a forward gear; this would result in long reversing manoeuvres, through a bend. Reversing manoeuvres can compromise highway safety, particularly if children are present which seems to be the intention suggested in the petition. The vision of a driver is restricted when reversing due to the need to rely on mirrors and the restricted view out of a rear windscreen. Reversing through a bend will further compromise highway safety.
- 4.4 As stated earlier in paragraph 2.1, Pole Lane is regularly used as a diversion for events or for road works on adjacent highways. If Pole Lane was unavailable for use then Church Street would have to be used as an alternative, and for the reasons described earlier in the report Church Street is not as suitable as Pole Lane.
- 4.5 As well as the closure of Pole Lane to through traffic, the petitioners have also requested the waiting restrictions be removed and replaced with residents only parking.

- 4.6 If Pole Lane was closed to through traffic consideration could be given to the removal of some of the waiting restrictions and the introduction of residents only parking. However the number of spaces that could be achieved, subject to finance being made available, would be oversubscribed as one space per property could not be accommodated and this would not meet one of the current residents parking criteria.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 A consultation has been undertaken with the Police and Refuse services to determine the effect the closure of Pole Lane would have on their services. Their views are detailed below:-

Greater Manchester Police View

The first concern is that doing this on Pole lane sets a precedent. There is nothing unique about Pole Lane that suggests that this is necessary other than the residents feel it will make their road a more pleasant place to live (it probably would). There are countless roads that could make the same argument and all you end up doing is diverting traffic onto a lesser number of roads which haven't been vocal in requesting closures - where does this stop?

In looking at Pole Lane specifically the Police have the following concerns.

1 - It is wholly inappropriate to consider Tesco's car park as a potential other route. People may use this but it shouldn't under any circumstances be promoted as such - it's a rather tight and very busy car park - not designed to cater for through traffic.

2 - Presumably a large number of vehicles will choose to use Church Street. This, especially at the southern end is unsuited to more traffic due to terraced housing, more junctions and a reduced road width due to parking.

3 - Without providing a turning head it is unlikely a large number of vehicles, bin vans, deliveries etc will be able to turn round and will have to reverse round a bend. This is not a safe or good idea.

4 - The petition only seems to include people from the northern aspect of Pole Lane or who have no immediate benefit to be gained from the proposal. The residents at the southern end of Pole Lane will still be subject to through traffic.

5 - Thorley Lane will also see an increase in traffic - this road really isn't suited to any increase.

6 - If Church Street had to be closed or restricted then this would mean a one mile detour via Ashton Road West / A62. This would not be ideal from a response position and would suggest the fire service would also have concerns in this regards.

It is noted the petition refers to comments made by local community officers. Whilst they are entitled to their own views you should consider response above the official view of the Chief Constable in this matter.

In short, whilst I can see the residents make a good sounding case they have failed to consider the wider implications of this and the closure of the northern end of Pole Lane would in the Chief Constables view have a disproportionate effect on road safety in other less appropriate streets.

Refuse Services View

Further to observations I feel that closing Pole lane at the Oldham Road end would cause significant problems for refuse and recycling collections given that there is no turning head to allow us to drive forward in both directions; the Refuse Collection Vehicles would have to reverse a significant distance which is not desirable as we try to minimise reversing manoeuvres wherever possible for safety reasons.

6 Ward Councillors Views

6.1 Ward Councillors views:

Councillor J McMahon - I support the recommendation to refuse the closure of Pole Lane.

Pole Lane is part of the wider highway infrastructure and cannot be looked at in isolation. Closing Pole Lane would see traffic diverted down Church Street which is already very congested and would need parking restrictions to cope with the increased volume of traffic. The alternative would be to encourage traffic to cut through the Tesco car park. This is already very unsafe due to the dangerous bends and lack of separation between vehicle and pedestrian movements.

Those who live on Pole Lane have always experienced traffic flow and anyone of the streets off Oldham Road could make the case for a road closure. In fact I suspect there would be more merit in closing Church Street rather than Pole Lane, although this is not something which I would support either for the same reasons.

Councillor N Briggs and Councillor D Dawson – I agree with your recommendations.

7 Any Financial, Legal, Human Resources, Procurement, IT Implications

7.1 None.

8 Recommendation

8.1 It is recommended that in view of the difficulties that would result from closing Pole Lane to through traffic, Pole Lane remains open to through traffic.

9. **Appendices**

9.1 Appendix A – A copy of the petition

APPENDIX A
COPY OF PETITION

OMBC
Copies to: Jim McMahon
Norman Briggs
David Dawson

William Jordan
8 Pole Lane
Failsworth
Manchester
M35 9PB

POLE LANE RESIDENTS PETITION

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached a petition which has been signed by 46 people in the space of a few days in support of the Pole Lane residents request to have Pole Lane closed off at the junction with Oldham Road.

People who live on Pole Lane, in the neighbouring streets and further afield visitors to the area have all signed and think it would greatly improve the conservation area around Failsworth Pole.

Myself and the Pole Lane residents hope that you will give this proposal your full support and respect the wishes of the people who live in the Failsworth Pole area.

Yours sincerely and on behalf of the residents,

William Jordan



POLE LANE RESIDENTS REQUEST TO OLDHAM COUNCIL

For the last few weeks the top of Pole Lane, where it joins the A62 Oldham Road, has been closed to traffic because of the National Grid works that are in progress. Since this work was started the residents have noticed a massive improvement in their quality of life in what is historically the centre of and the focal point of Failsworth. We the undersigned feel strongly that we would like the road to remain the same in the future and enhance the conservation area status of Failsworth Pole by blocking off the junction with Oldham Road permanently. This would of course require a residents parking permit scheme to be implemented in order to prevent the end of the lane becoming a car park for the local pubs.

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<u>RESIDENTS</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
W. JORDAN 14	8 POLE LANE FAILSWORTH M35 9
Phillippo I love pole lane closed	5 pole lane fail M35 9pb
Kroyd / child McGuire	6 POLE LN FAILSWOR

RESIDENTSADDRESS

IAN CAMPBELL

7 ASHTON RD, EAST

Jennifer Campbell	7 ASHTON RD EAST
Steve Collins	6 THE HEATH OVR
Jeanette Jackson	9 POLE LANE 141 Lane Head Lees Oldham
Alison Thorpe	33 Kingston Rd. Failsworth
N Bracken	44 Warwick Rd Failsworth
Ella Thorpe	33 Kingston Rd. Failsworth
Isobel Bracken	44 Warwick Rd. Failsworth
Tracy Sharp	3 Pole Lane Failsworth
Caroline Mosterska	23 Pole Lane Failsworth

RESIDENTS	ADDRESS
D MURPHY	7 POLE LANE
K MURPHY	7 POLE LANE
Kay Murphy	35 Ashton Rd E
E. Leach	20 Ashton Rd
D. Dooly	9 Evening St.
M. White	10 Pole Lane
I. Hey	37 Pole Lane
P. Mather	41 Pole Lane
P. McAREN.	50 POLE L
P. Eckert	46 POLE LANE
W BROWN	14 Pole Lane.

RESIDENTS	ADDRESS
Jayne McGuinness	4 Pole Ln Fairswick
Bert Guinness	4 Pole Ln Fairswick
Neil McGuinness	4 Pole Lane Fairswick
Karen & Loraine McCall (visitors)	52 Littlebrook Rd Sale
Maddie McCall (visitors)	13 Dalton St Fairswick
Jeanne & Darren Conner's family (visitors)	Eldwick Rd Bingley
KAREN WATKINS-BOOTH	19 POLE LANE
Aaron Marsden	16, pole lane
Michelle Lockett	54 Parkington Street Jlw.

RESIDENTS

ADDRESS

and	1 Kershaw Road Faulsworth M35 9PU
	87 Wimbleton Rd Faulsworth M35 9LF
ams	7 Belgrave faulworth M35 9LN
alt	5 Belgrave faulworth M35 9LN
JOY	21 POLE LANE FAULSWORTH M35 9PB
IND KERR	11 Pole Ln M35 9PF
Royle	4 Farm St. M35 0JR



The information contained on this map is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a legal document. The information is provided as a service to the public and is not a guarantee of accuracy. The information is provided as a service to the public and is not a guarantee of accuracy. The information is provided as a service to the public and is not a guarantee of accuracy.

Sheet No.	1
Project No.	23761/A3/253/1
Scale	1" = 200'
Date	08/13/13
Author	SR
Checker	SR
Appr'd by	DD

Unitypartnership

HIGHWAYS & ENGINEERING
 Henderson House, Channahon, Illinois, USA

Project: Pavilion - Flow Lane, Fairmont

DATE	NO	DESCRIPTION
08/13/13	01	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
08/13/13	02	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
08/13/13	03	ISSUED FOR PERMIT

Scale: 1" = 200'

Project No.: 23761/A3/253/1

Key:

- No DOWING at Any Time
- No DOWING (Intermittent)
- PARCELS