

BRIEFING TO THE FAILSWORTH & HOLLINWOOD DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

Highways & Engineering Service Update

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Purpose of Report

To provide the District Executive with an update on issues raised by Councillors and members of the public and to give an overview of the current activity in Highways.

1 UPDATE ON ISSUES RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The following issues have been raised by members (feedback in *italics*):

1.1 No issues to report.

2 UPDATE ON PROGRAMMES OF WORK

2.1 Highways Capital Programme 2016 - 2017

2.1.1 The Highways Capital Programme has no major works to be carried out in Failsworth.

2.2 Wickentree Lane Accident Reduction Scheme

A new project is being developed on Wickentree Lane as part of the 2015/16 Capital Programme.

Numerous complaints have been received regarding the speed and volume of traffic using Wickentree Lane and Wrigley Head, Failsworth. A study has therefore been undertaken to try and resolve these issues.

The majority of concerns received are connected with Oldham bound traffic on the A62, choosing to use Wrigley Head and Wickentree Lane as an alternative.

to avoid the congestion that can be experienced along the A62 at peak times. Concerns have also been received from residents and the owners of Housing Units regarding the speed of traffic particularly in the Wickentree Lane area and have requested that measures are introduced to address this issue.

A scheme has therefore been designed which will prohibit traffic from driving along the full length of Wrigley Head and Wickentree Lane, in a north easterly (Oldham bound) direction. Motorists will be able to drive along the full length of Wrigley Head and part way along Wickentree Lane, but a prohibition of entry restriction and a restricted road width will be imposed prior to the Croft Street junction which will prevent access to Oldham Road. This location has been chosen as it has less impact on the majority of residents and will hopefully reduce vehicle speeds where there is a higher concentration of pedestrian crossing movement's i.e. at the Housing Units entrance. Motorists will still be permitted to drive the full length of both streets in the opposite direction (Wickentree Lane – Wrigley Head)

In addition to restricting traffic movements, it is also proposed to introduce traffic calming measures on Wickentree Lane where residents are experiencing anti-social driving problems.

A consultation exercise is currently underway where we are seeking feedback to the proposals ahead of undertaking the statutory consultation for the introduction of the necessary traffic orders and finalising the detailed design.

Update November 2015: The consultation took place with residents and businesses during the first two weeks in October.

Approximately 470 consultations were delivered and 36 responses have been received; 26 from residents and 10 from businesses.

It is clear from the responses received there is support for the introduction of traffic calming measures, due to the high speeds that residents feel they are experiencing, but the support for the prohibition of entry is not as high.

Residents are concerned that if the prohibition of entry is introduced, motorists will attempt to use the residential side streets as access to the A62, therefore displacing the problem.

Some residents are also concerned that not being able to access the A62 from Wickentree Lane will have a detrimental effect on their journey to work.

The businesses do not generally support either the traffic calming or the prohibition of entry proposals; comments have been received that the businesses use Wrigley Head and Wickentree Lane to avoid the congestion along the A62.

Recommendation to be put back to the ward members:

- In view of the lack of support for the prohibition of entry and the problems of displaced through traffic perceived by residents within the side streets, it is suggested the scheme be amended to remove this proposal from the scheme and retain two-way traffic. This would result in the introduction of a junction plateau only at the Croft Street junction.
- The traffic calming measures are amended to take into account the concerns of residents regarding noise and parking. The Features be changed to junction plateaux which generate less noise for vehicles and should not affect current parking arrangements.
- The waiting restrictions proposed within the Crown Street / Mitre Street / George Street area are amended to maintain as much on-street parking as possible to help avoid displacement.
- Consideration is given to the introduction of residents only parking along Crown Street.

Update January 2016: The above recommendation was put to Cllr J McMahon; he wanted the original proposal for the prohibition of entry to remain in the proposals.

A second follow up letter drop has been undertaken with the local residents and businesses with a view that the formal TRO process commences imminently. Works are expected to be delivered in the summer of 2016.

Update October 2016: The TRO was advertised summer 2016. Objections were received to the proposals for waiting restrictions in the vicinity of Ivy Mill. The TRO committee panel has now resolved to implement the measures as proposed. Waiting restrictions and residents parking scheme will be progressed by in house contractors in the next few weeks. Works programme for traffic calming is to be determined once a contractor is procured. Contact with Housing Units is to be arranged to confirm most appropriate dates for implementation. Works to be completed before March 2017.

2.3 LTP

2.3.1 Tesco, Failsworth

As a result of recent feedback the design was revisited to include extra features. As a consequence of that the scheme would cost more than the available LTP funding in 13/14 so a revised bid was submitted for LTP 14/15 and an extra 53k of funding was secured. Unity is now in the process of refining the design. Construction stage is planned for December 2014.

Update November 2014: Detailed design is now complete so Regeneration and Brookhouse are negotiating the improvements with Tesco. Tesco will need to agree to the improvements as part of their lease agreement.

Construction work is scheduled for after the Christmas embargo i.e. mid-January 2015.

Update January 2015: The scheme is currently on hold pending further discussions with Tesco concerning their initial request that the 'through route' is adopted by the council prior to them agreeing to the proposed improvements.

Update March 2015: The scheme is still on hold. The road in its current form / alignment would not meet adoption standards. Significant realignments, installation of new signalised junctions and structural work to the existing canal bridge would be required to make the link to an adoptable standard. An outline cost estimate for the works would be up to £3m.

Update July 2015: Discussions are ongoing with Tesco to secure a resolution to the proposals.

Update October 2015: Discussions are still ongoing with Tesco to secure a resolution to the proposals.

Update November 2015: Discussions are still ongoing with Tesco to secure a resolution to the proposals.

Update January 2016: A meeting was held with Tesco on 17th Nov. The proposals developed were due to be sent onto the wider Tesco Management group for feedback and a decision if they can be constructed. Chasing emails have been sent but no decision has been communicated back yet.

Update October 2016: *Various discussions have been held between Tesco, Brookhouse and OMBC Regen over recent months. Tesco have tabled alternative proposals which better suit their supermarket operations (new alignment through the car park which maximises parking closer to the store). These proposals are more expensive and have been costed to identify additional budget pressure. OMBC Strategic Transport are investigating funding issues and querying the possibility of Tesco financing the scheme.*

2.4 Utility works

- 2.4.1 The most recent quarterly Utilities Co-ordination meeting was held on 2 September 2016 and no major planned works were noted for the Failsworth & Hollinwood area at this time.

Update October 2016: *Virgin Media roll out of network and National Grid Gas working on Hollins Road.*