

**HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS
WATFORD JOINT MEMBER PANEL
Thursday 22 March 2012**

**PETITIONS, TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS & LOCAL
ISSUES**

Report of the District Manager

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the current status of petitions, to advise members of any objections to traffic regulation orders and to inform the Panel of any other local issues of importance.

2. PETITIONS RECEIVED

- 2.1 No new petitions have been received.

3. PETITIONS UPDATE

Petition – St. James Road One-Way

- 3.1 In Oct 2011 a petition was received from the residents of St James Road in the Vicarage Ward . The petition contained signatures from 112 residents who are requesting their road is made into a “one-way” street.
- 3.2 At the October 2011 Panel, members agreed to fund a survey of vehicle movements from Discretionary Budget, so that current levels of usage and direction of traffic flow can be established.
- 3.3 The volume survey carried out during week commencing 23rd November 2011 revealed a maximum daily flow of 534 vehicles in the direction of Cardiff Road, the one-way direction preferred by petitioners, with a daily flow of 71 vehicles in the opposite direction.
- 3.4 The on-street parking survey carried out on Wed 30 November 2011 showed of a total of 116 parked vehicles, only 6 were parked in the opposite direction to that preferred as the one-way direction, and these were located near the Cardiff Road end.
- 3.5 On the basis of these surveys, it appears most vehicle users are already moving in the preferred direction. It is therefore recommended to proceed to the next stage of outline design and informal consultation. It would be prudent to include the residents of Liverpool Road, Westbury Road, and Clifton Road in the informal consultation as some of the 71 vehicles moving in the opposite

direction to the preferred one-way direction may choose to use these streets.

Petition – First Avenue

- 3.6 In January 2012 a petition was received from the residents in First Avenue in the Tudor Ward . The petition contained signatures from 22 residents who are requesting their road is resurfaced before others in the area , particularly Fourth Avenue.
- 3.7 The central road maintenance team advised that whilst First Avenue had previously been in the Forward Works Programme, the latest countywide annual inspection had shown that many other roads in the county had deteriorated to a greater extent than First Avenue, hence it had been displaced off the FWP.
- 3.8 Fourth Avenue remains on the FWP for a thin surfacing treatment as it is a more cost effective treatment which will protect the road asset.
- 3.9 The treatment of First Avenue will be reassessed annually, and the next confirmation of schemes in the IWP / FWP will be available early April, and sent out to Panel Members soon after.

4. OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

**WATFORD SPECIALIST MARKET REPORT – CONSIDERATION OF
OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER –
HIGH STREET, THE PARADE, WATFORD**

- 4.1 Members agreed at the October 2011 Panel meeting to support overruling the two objections to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) (Prohibition of Driving and Cycling on Market Days) associated with the holding of 'specialist' markets on that specified area of High Street, The Parade.
- 4.2 The Order was sealed on 2nd February 2012, and came into effect on Monday 13th February 2012.
- 4.3. Contact Officer**
- 4.4 Yvonne Shaw, Town Centre & Programme Manager, Watford Borough Council
Tel: 01923 278146, Email: yvonne.shaw@watford.gov.uk

5 LOCAL ISSUES – update on National Grid Gas Works

- 5.1 National Grid have a substantial number of schemes in Watford during the coming year as part of their ongoing national mains replacement programme developed in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive, to replace all metal mains with new plastic pipe within 30 metres of buildings.
- 5.2 Members were previously updated on the programme at a Special Meeting held on 6th February.
- 5.3 The latest programme is contained as Appendix A. The actual works start and end dates are dependant on weather and unforeseen ground conditions.

6. LOCAL ISSUES – update on use of Watford bus lanes by hackney carriage vehicles

- 6.1 In February 2012, the Highways and Transport Panel agreed to recommend authorisation of the making of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to permit hackney carriage vehicles to use bus lanes and selected bus only routes in Watford.

These routes are:

Station Road bus lane

St Albans Road bus lane - southbound between Penn Road / Bedford Road and Station Road

Lower High Street bus only route - from Lower High Street to High Street (across Exchange Road) - but not vice-versa.

- 6.2 The experiment only applies to hackney carriages and does not include private hire vehicles (mini-cabs) or any other bus lane or bus only route in Watford.
- 6.3 As part of the statutory TRO application process, consultation will commence shortly with affected user groups. Consultation will be carried out with County and District Councillors, police, fire and ambulance services, Watford Borough Council, the Passenger Transport Unit and cycle groups.
- 6.4 It is expected that the Experimental TRO will be made and come into effect in the summer. The experiment is expected to run for a maximum period of eighteen months, but can be withdrawn sooner. If the experiment is successful, a permanent Order may be made at the end of the experimental period to make the changes permanent.

- 6.5 Traffic surveys will be carried out prior and during the experiment to monitor the effect of the changes. Objections can be received any time during the first six months of the experiment.
- 6.6 All necessary site works as part of the Order will be carried out just prior to the Experimental TRO coming into effect.

7. LOCAL ISSUES – major resurfacing of A412 St Albans Road

- 7.1 This road is due to be resurfaced from its junction with Longspring Road southwards to its junction with Station Road. The resurfacing involves milling out and replacing the existing worn out carriageway to depths varying between 45mm and 70mm. The resurfacing will only be concentrated on the worst areas on the carriageway leaving out sections that are in good condition. There will also be some cracksealing and replacement of iron covers that are in poor condition.
- 7.2 Due to the nature of the works, the volume of traffic on the road and the potential impact of the works to the surrounding road network, it was agreed that the works be carried out at night between 7:30pm and 6am under a road closure. The installation of traffic management equipment will begin at 7pm. These working hours will give a long enough window to complete the noisiest part of the works by midnight and have a sizeable area to get the most work done and thus reduce the both the duration and cost of the works. This will also minimise the noise disruption to the local residents.
- 7.3 The closure will be carried out in 2 phases. Phase 1 to be from Longspring to Balmoral Road and Phase 2 from Balmoral Road to Station Road. The works will not necessarily be carried out in that order and it will be possible to work in both areas at the same time but only one phase will be closed at a time.
- 7.4 The diversion route during the closures will be via A41, A4008, A411, A412 and vice versa.
- 7.5 It is planned to hold a meeting with the Members to discuss the scheme with them in the next 2/3 weeks to address any concerns if any that they may have.
- 7.6 Contact
Silency Musingarabwi, Project Engineer Tel 01707 356287
silency.musingarabwi@hertshighways.org.uk

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Members are requested to note the information and provide any comments to the relevant officer.

9. CONTACT OFFICERS

Dave Swan	District Manager	01923 257094
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Yvonne Shaw	Town Centre and Programme Manager Watford Borough Council	01923 278146
	E-Mail : yvonne.shaw@watford.gov.uk	