

Report to Rochdale South Township Delegated Sub-Committee



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| Date of Meeting | 17 th November 2021 |
| Portfolio | Cabinet Member for Highways and Housing |
| Report Author | Darren McCrohan |
| Public/Private Document | Public |

Objection to Proposed Traffic Order Waiting Restrictions, Back Drake Street, Rochdale

Executive Summary

- 1.1 Local representation identified concern with regard to obstructive footway and carriageway parking along both sides of Back Drake Street. This can compromise operational width for general traffic, restricting access for Goods Vehicles, and limiting sightlines for both drivers and pedestrians along Back Drake Street and its junction with Caton Street.
- 1.2 Rochdale South Township subsequently approved the investigation, development, and promotion of an appropriate scheme.
- 1.3 The approved scheme was advertised between 14th April and 5th May 2021 and one objection was received. This report considers the objection received.

Recommendation

- 1.4 Committee should consider whether the proposed Traffic Regulation Order, 'Borough of Rochdale ((Civil Enforcement of Traffic Contraventions) (Various Streets) (Rochdale Township) Order 2008) (Amendment) (No. 184) Order 2021' be implemented as advertised, be amended, or be abandoned in light of the objection received (provided as **Appendix C** to this report).
- 1.5 It is the recommendation of Highways that the original scheme should be implemented as advertised to appropriately protect local access and enhance operational safety at this location for both pedestrians and drivers.

Reason for Recommendation

Copy of Statement of Reasons:

- 1.6 *“Local representation and site observations have identified the need to introduce an appropriate Prohibition of Waiting restriction on kerbside parking along the section of Back Drake Street from Moore Street up to and including its junction with Caton Street.*

- 1.7 *The purpose of this proposal is to mitigate the effects of indiscriminate parking known to occur along both sides of this route, which can impede vehicular access and cause obstruction of the footway.*
- 1.8 *Back Drake Street is a narrow route providing local access to the rear of commercial and residential premises. At only 4.5 to 4.7m wide, intended 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions along both sides of Back Drake Street are considered necessary for protecting access, providing appropriate footway for pedestrians, and for maximising operational width for two-way traffic movement.*
- 1.9 *Additionally, to mitigate visibility compromised currently by kerbside and footway parking, it is proposed to extend the intended restrictions to include approaches from Caton Street to its junction with Back Drake Street.*
- 1.10 *The proposals will extend to the existing prohibition of waiting and loading restrictions already operational along Moore Street.*
- 1.11 *It is considered that these proposals will not be detrimental to local occupiers given the established provision of rear courtyard areas for those premises along the eastern side of the route (fronting Drake Street) and the existing availability of on-street parking on St. Chad's Close for those residential properties backing on to the western side of Back Drake Street.*
- 1.12 *There have been no recorded injury collisions along the subject route during the most recent 36-months. The proposals nevertheless are considered beneficial in terms of maintaining safe access at this location for all users of the highway.*
- 1.13 *The route is not Strategic Highway.*
- 1.14 *Reduced hours of 'No Waiting' would not offer a sufficiently viable solution in maintaining access and in supporting the operational safety for users of the route.*
- 1.15 *Promoting reduced restrictions along just one side of Back Drake Street would compromise the scheme given width limitations of the route."*
- 1.16 A drawing of the advertised scheme is included as **Appendix A** to this report.

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| Key Points for Consideration |
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- 1.17 One objection was received during the 21-day consultation period. This is included verbatim as **Appendix C** to this report.
- 1.18 The following provides Highways interpretation and response on each of the key objection points received, supporting the recommendation made herein.

| Issues Raised | Highways Response |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. <i>There is not enough parking in the area.</i> | The proposal responds to local concerns over compromised access and safety associated with a narrow carriageway (only 4.7m at its narrowest point). Highways consider there to be adequate on-street parking available elsewhere in the locality along wider, more appropriate streets to the north and south of Drake Street. |

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| <p>b. <i>The area is a business area and in order to ensure that there are no difficulties (including financial burden) on local businesses, parking should not be restricted.</i></p> | <p>The needs of local businesses have been considered in development of the proposals.</p> <p>Many of the affected businesses along Drake Street have rear courtyard parking accessible from Back Drake Street and site observations have shown there to be capacity available with variable utilisation.</p> <p>The scheme will support local businesses who have reported difficulty with Goods Vehicles accessing rear courtyards and having to offload on the highway as a result of obstructive parking.</p> <p>The local area is considered highly accessible by all modes of public and private transport and as noted previously, there is alternative on-street car parking available elsewhere in the locality.</p> |
| <p>c. <i>The area is far enough from the town centre to not require restrictions.</i></p> | <p>The proposed scheme responds directly to local concerns raised over compromised access and perceived road safety issues for drivers and pedestrians arising from indiscriminate and obstructive double-parking along Back Drake Street. The proposal has considered and sought to balance access and safety with the needs of local businesses, for whom many already have rear courtyard parking as well as accessibility on-street parking space available elsewhere in the locality.</p> |
| <p>d. <i>It would be unsafe to walk to a car park in winter when it gets dark earlier.</i></p> | <p>As noted above, the scheme restricts neither access to existing rear courtyard parking nor to on-street car parking readily available in the locality.</p> |

1.19 Alternatives in terms of reduced hours of restriction and/or a lesser scheme with the prohibition implemented just along one-side of Back Drake Street, have been considered but discounted on the basis of seeking to protect access and road safety for all users of Back Drake Street. The existence and availability of on and off-street car parking elsewhere in the locality has supported this decision.

1.20 Should Committee decide not to introduce the restrictions as proposed then the noted issues of indiscriminate obstructive parking as reported to Township will not be appropriately addressed.

Costs and Budget Summary

1.21 The cost of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order is estimated to be £4,000 and would be met by the Rochdale South Township Capital Fund.

1.22 Should the Committee wish to make further changes to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order it may, subject to advice from Legal, require re-advertising which will incur additional costs that will need to be met by the Township.

Risk and Policy Implications

1.23 The scheme is promoted and recommended as part of the Council's statutory responsibility to ensure that its highways operates safely and efficiently for all road users.

Consultation

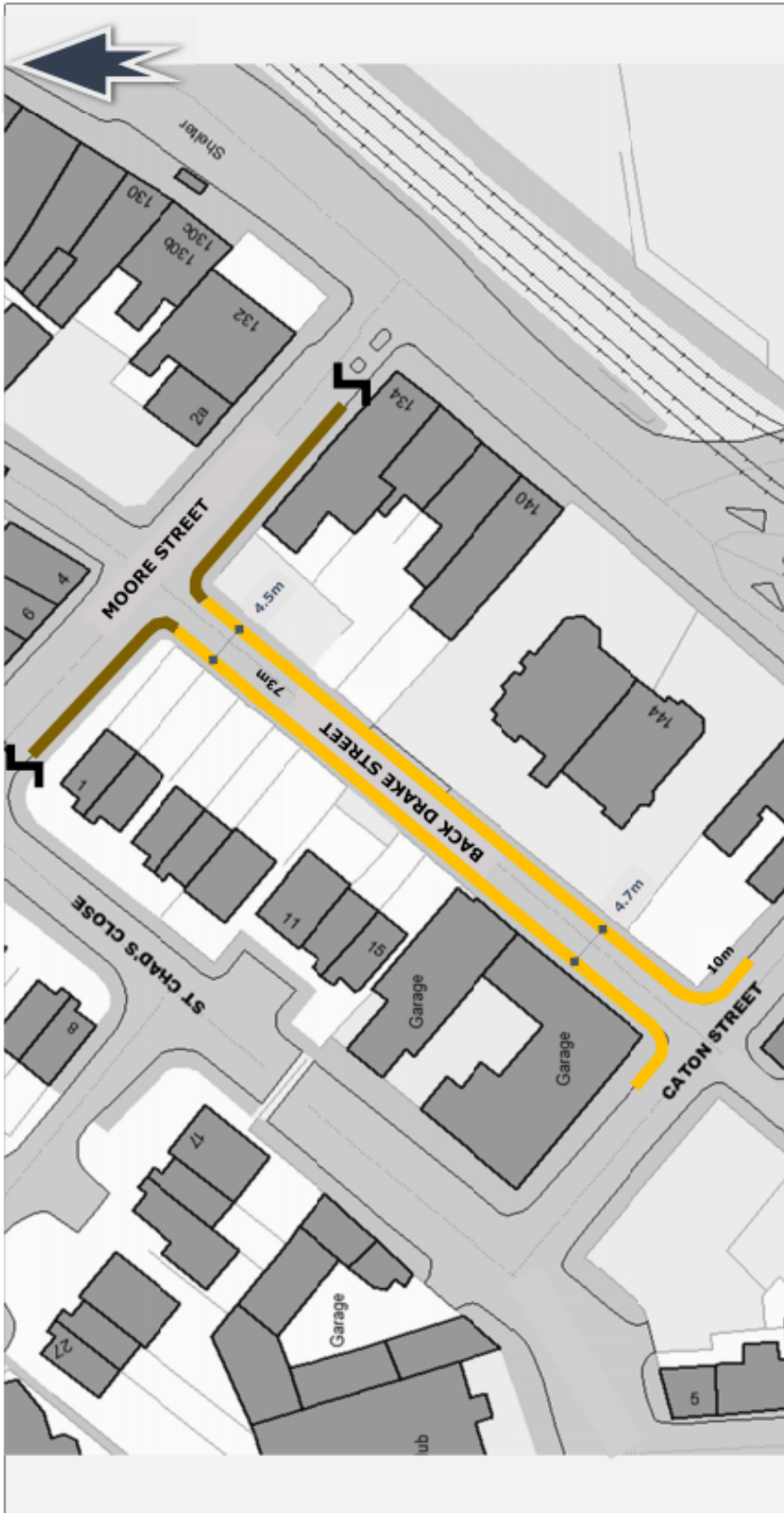
- 1.24 Consultation, required by the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, has taken place.
- 1.25 Statutory consultation was undertaken in January 2021 with emergency services and Transport for Greater Manchester. The proposals have the support of these bodies.
- 1.26 Notices of Intention were posted on-site and published in the local newspaper on 14th April 2021 (included as **Appendix B** to this report).
- 1.27 The consultation objection period ran until 5th May 2021.

Background Papers

- 1.28 Not applicable.

For Further Information Contact:

Darren McCrohan
01706 924518
darren.mccrohan@rochdale.gov.uk



Key to Traffic Restrictions:

 Proposed No Waiting at Any Time

 Existing No Waiting & No Loading at Any Time

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|  <p>ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL</p> | <p>Proposed No Waiting Restrictions Back Drake Street and Caton Street, Rochdale</p> | <p>© Crown copyright. All rights reserved Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council Licence No. LA076279 2020</p> | <p>SCALE: NTS DATE: 9/12/20 DWG NO. H60/1334 DRAWN BY: DMc</p> |
| <p>NETWORK MANAGEMENT HIGHWAYS AND PROPERTY</p> | | | |

TRO Ref. No. H60/1334

**BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE
((CIVIL ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS)
(VARIOUS STREETS) (ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP) ORDER 2008)
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 184) ORDER 2021**

Back Drake Street, Rochdale

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Rochdale Borough Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1(1), 2 and 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intend to make an Order, the effect of which would be to amend the Borough of Rochdale (Civil Enforcement of Traffic Contraventions) (Various Streets) (Rochdale Township) Order 2008 by inserting the following:-

**Schedule No. 1.1
No Waiting at Any Time**

Back Drake Street, Milkstone and Deeplish Ward

- n(i) both sides from a point 2 metres south-west of its junction with Moore Street to its junction with Caton Street, for a distance of 73 metres in a south-westerly direction

Caton Street, Milkstone and Deeplish Ward

- n(i) the north-eastern side from a point 10 metres north-west of its junction with Back Drake Street to a point 10 metres south-east of its junction with Back Drake Street in a south-easterly direction

A copy of the proposed Order and a map showing the lengths of road concerned, together with the Council's Statement of Reasons for making the Order, may be viewed on the Council's website www.rochdale.gov.uk/roads, or by phoning Highways on 0300 303 8879 to request a copy via post.

Objections to the proposed Order, stating the grounds on which they are made, must be made in writing and forwarded to trafficorders@rochdale.gov.uk or, alternatively, to Network Management, Floor 2, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU to reach the Council on or before 5th May 2021, quoting H60/1334.

Dated this 14th day of April 2021



Asif Ibrahim
Assistant Director (Legal, Governance & Workforce)
Rochdale Borough Council

Number One Riverside
Smith Street
ROCHDALE
OL16 1XU

APPENDIX C – Objection(s) Received

Objection 1 – as received

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 April 2021 17:08
To: Traffic Orders <traffic.orders@rochdale.gov.uk>
Subject: TRO Ref No H60/1334

Dear Asif

In respect of the above reference, I object to the proposal on the basis of the following:-

- *There is not enough parking in the area.*
- *The area is a business area and in order to ensure that there are no difficulties on local businesses, parking should not be restricted.*
- *By enforcing a restriction, you will increase a financial burden during difficult times.*
- *The area is far enough from the town centre to not require restrictions.*
- *It would be unsafe for me to walk to a car park in winter when it gets dark earlier.*

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]