

**OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER:  
MILL ROAD, LODE, 201x PROHIBITION OF WAITING**

*To:* **Cabinet**

*Date:* **15<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

*From:* **Acting Executive Director : Environment Services**

*Electoral division(s):* **Woodditton**

*Forward Plan ref:* **N/A**

*Key decision:* **No**

*Purpose:* **To consider objections to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order 'Mill Road, Lode, 201x Prohibition of Waiting'**

*Recommendation:* **That Cabinet:**

- (i) determine the objections**
- (ii) introduces the Order as advertised**
- (iii) informs the objectors accordingly**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 This item is to determine objections received to a proposed Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit waiting in an area of Mill Road, Lode. It is coming before Cabinet as there is currently no Traffic Management Area Joint Committee operating for East Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2 Mill Road, Lode, is a predominantly residential cul-de-sac leading to an unoccupied mill building to the rear of the National Trust's Anglesey Abbey. Although a large car park is provided for the Abbey property fronting the B1102, Mill Road (particularly its western end), provides a popular and convenient alternative parking location primarily for walkers and visitors.
- 1.3 Many of the residential properties fronting Mill Road lack off-street parking provision. A small turning area exists at the end of the road adjacent to Lode Mill. Parking by visitors to the area can obstruct turning, access to property entrances and reduce on-street parking availability for local residents. The road is very narrow (around 4 metres) in parts and a bend limits forward visibility for road users. Obstruction of the turning area forces larger vehicles reaching the end of Mill Road to reverse some distance in order to turn safely.
- 1.4 During the summer of 2009 representations were received from the local community about the access difficulties and hazards presented by the parking behaviour of visitors to the area. It was alleged that some vehicles had to reverse the full length of Mill Road to its junction with High Street in order to turn. The concerns led to a site meeting between officers, representatives of Lode Parish Council, a local District Councillor, the Police Community Support Officer and a selection of concerned local residents.
- 1.5 The meeting recognised the difficulties presented and the efforts made by the Police to reduce the level of obstruction parking occurring. However, the Police are only able to provide an occasional presence and consequently the issue was proving difficult to deal with effectively. The meeting concluded that there appeared to be scope to introduce formal controls on parking, that should both encourage better parking behaviour and make it more straightforward for the Police to take action against any offenders.
- 1.6 Where restrictions are introduced and prove effective, then displacement of parking can occur which can impact upon other areas. It was therefore recognised that any proposals would have to be developed carefully in order to ensure they were supported by most local residents. Officers advised that before proceeding further, the local community should weigh up the overall benefit and come to a considered consensus view.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

### **2.1 Development of proposals**

- 2.1.1 All Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) can be expected to inconvenience some road users for the benefit of others, so public opinion is likely to be split. Before promoting any restrictions, the County Council as local highways authority has to satisfy itself that there are clear grounds (such as improving road safety or reducing congestion)

for proceeding, and that the restrictions are in the overall public interest.

- 2.1.2 During the summer of 2010, and following further local consultation and discussion, Lode Parish Council requested that the introduction of parking restrictions in Mill Road should be taken forward. The Parish Council recognised the potential impact of restrictions in Mill Road on the ability of local residents to readily find on-street parking availability, but felt that on balance, the access and safety considerations and overall benefit to the local community were of greater significance.
- 2.1.3 Since the parking difficulties and consequent access and safety concerns experienced in Mill Road are commonplace, and not linked just to particular times or events, any restrictions introduced would need to be effective at all times, rather than be time limited.
- 2.1.4 This area of Lode falls within the recognised conservation area for the village, and East Cambridgeshire District Council are in the process of undertaking work to preserve and enhance the environment. They have agreed that any work associated with this TRO could come under the umbrella of this project. Funding is therefore available to promote and introduce suitable parking restrictions in Mill Road, at no cost to the County Council.

## 2.2 Consultations

- 2.2.1 Preliminary consultations were undertaken with all required organisations likely to be interested or affected. These included Lode Parish Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and local Councillors, County Councillor M Shuter, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, East of England Ambulance Service, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service, The Clerk to the Traffic Commissioners and The Freight Transport Association. No objections to the proposed restrictions were raised at this stage.
- 2.2.2 As a consequence a draft Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit waiting in the area at all times was advertised in the local press, with copies of the notices erected on street, on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010. A drawing showing the extent of the proposed prohibition is attached as **Plan A**.

## 2.3 Objections

- 2.3.1 Six objections have been received to the advertised proposals:

Objector No	Substance of Objection	Resident of
1	A, B	Mill Road, Lode
2	B, C	Mill Road, Lode
3	B, D	Mill Road, Lode
4	A, E, F, G	Mill Road, Lode
5	A, E, G, H, I	Mill Road, Lode
6	B, J	Mill Road, Lode

Objection	Substance
A	Concerned about the potential loss of on-street parking close to their home
B	Concerned that parking displacement will occur impacting further along Mill Road

C	Suggestion for a residents' parking scheme
D	Consider the National Trust should take more responsibility
E	Dispute road safety grounds for proposals
F	Request to create additional resident parking by hardening an area of highway verge
G	Dispute the need for or appropriateness of the proposals
H	Concerned that this issue appears to divide the local community
I	Question the validity of the Parish Council's local consultation
J	Concerned about the impact of yellow lines in this sensitive area of the village

2.3.2 Lode Parish Council, County Councillor M Shuter, and District Councillors R Stevens and C Bryant have confirmed their support for the proposals. Supportive comments have also been received from some residents. Copies of the letters of objection, and comments in support, are available for Member inspection should they wish.

## 2.4 Comments

2.4.1 Whilst the Council recognises that the ability to park freely in Lode Road has provided a useful public amenity, it is considered that the associated hazards created, linked to emergency access and the ability of vehicles to turn round in a safe manner at the end of the road, have now risen to an unacceptable level of risk. Alternative locations for parking exist within close proximity.

2.4.2 **Plan A** also identifies the area of grassed highway verge that some local residents have requested be hardened and improved to accommodate a parking area for residents. The area is quite small which would limit the number of spaces potentially available. No funding is currently available to promote this work, which could be complex and of significant cost, and consequently the suggestion has not been investigated further at this stage. County officers would be happy to work with the community to further investigate this should appropriate funding become available from an alternative source.

2.4.3 The likely need and level of support for an on-street residents parking scheme is also unclear at this stage. Depending on the outcome of the introduction of any restrictions on parking, these may be options which the local community might want to consider in the future, provided sufficient resources can be made available.

2.4.4 Lode Parish Council have had discussions with the National Trust about the difficulties posed within the village by inconsiderate parking by visitors. The Trust are understood to be investigating the provision of further parking capacity nearby, which might reduce the impact upon local residents.

2.4.5 Since the promoted restriction is not limited in duration, suitable double yellow lines are sufficient to alert road users and no further highway signing is necessary. If approved, narrow primrose coloured lines would be laid consistent with the normal approach in conservation and other sensitive areas.

2.4.6 Funding is available from East Cambridgeshire District Council to introduce the restrictions provided that the decision whether or not to do so is taken locally.

2.4.7 The Council is responding to a community lead desire to improve safety and better manage traffic movement in this area of Lode. There are those that will be

inconvenienced, but it is considered relatively marginally so, and on balance the anticipated access and safety benefits are considered to have greater significance.

### **3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **3.1 Resources and Performance**

- 3.1.1 There are no significant implications for the County Council for any of the headings within this category anticipated. The costs of introducing the restrictions are to be met by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Provided the objections are determined locally there are no risks to the County Council and ongoing maintenance requirements are considered negligible.

#### **3.2 Statutory Requirements and Partnership Working**

- 3.2.1 There are no significant implications for any of the headings within this category anticipated. The County Council acts as highway authority for local roads and the restrictions proposed are in accordance with The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Lode Parish Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council support the proposals.

#### **3.3 Access and Inclusion**

- 3.3.1 There are no significant implications for any of the headings within this category anticipated. If implemented the proposals will reduce obstruction, improve access (particularly for pedestrians and cyclists) and enhance road safety.

#### **3.4 Engagement and Consultation**

- 3.4.1 There are no significant implications for any of the headings within this category anticipated. The Council is responding to a community lead desire to improve safety and better manage traffic movement in this area of Lode. The majority of residents will benefit from enhancements in access and safety. The local Member, district members and Lode Parish Council support the proposals.

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
Consultation and advertisement information including correspondence	Box ET1029, Cambridgeshire Highways, NorthEast Area, Stirling Way, Witchford, Ely, Cambs CB6 3NR