

## **Planning & Environment Committee**

### **Shaw Ridge Primary School Safety Zone**

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In August 2021, Swindon Borough Council Highways Team consulted on a preliminary proposal for school safety measures at Shaw Ridge Primary School which was considered by this Committee in September 2021. It was determined as follows (Minute 109)

RESOLVED that feedback is submitted to Swindon Borough Council in response to the consultation as follows:

- a) The Parish Council notes the strength of feeling across local residents the majority of whom have expressed concerns regarding these proposals
- b) The benefits of the traffic-calming measures proposed in the draft such as a speed restriction and part-time lights at the Ridge Green and Shaw Road are unclear
- c) Introduction of yellow lines is likely to worsen the current traffic problem and lead to a further migration of parking and drop-offs etc to other bordering streets, including Frampton Close, Eastleaze and the Bramptons.
- d) A risk assessment on potential and likely migration would be necessary as part of any proposal going forward – risks would be particularly acute in the Bramptons where road width is constrained by inclined grass verges and parking would therefore be entirely on the road.
- e) Reference is made in the draft proposal to behavioural change initiatives but there is a no evidence base shared at the current time for how the measures set out in the proposal would achieve this

#### **2. Feedback Swindon Borough Council**

- 2.1 Swindon Borough Council Highways team are given feedback on the consultation and created FAQs see attached.
- 2.2 This Council is being asked to consider the following update along with a design see attached. This proposal is for an experimental Traffic Regulation Order
- 2.3 In relation to this, it isn't clear what exact resource will monitor the impact of the scheme, for how long and in what locations. It is possible that the wide migration and disbursement of school related parking will make this a challenge to monitor consistently by the enforcement officers.
- 2.4 The education and behavioural change initiatives would benefit from clarification on how they will be resourced and monitored.

#### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That this Committee considers feedback to Swindon Borough Council Highways Team

Paula Harrison, Parish Manager

Julie Furneval <JFurneval@swindon.gov.uk>

The Council has committed to a 5-year programme to deliver School Safe Environment Zones (SSEZ) at all schools in Swindon to address road safety and congestion related concerns outside and around each school. SSEZ's will encompass a package of measures that aim to deter inappropriate parking behaviours and encourage behavioural change in the use of more sustainable modes of travel. The design of each SSEZ will be bespoke to the circumstances and characteristics of each school, its location and the current behaviours of its pupils and parents/carers. Measures will include engineering and / or education-based initiatives to deliver road safety improvements.

The introduction of parking restrictions - is one of the engineering options available to schools and has been identified as a feasible intervention to improve the congestion that currently occurs along Ridge Green. The parking restrictions which have been proposed is to try and mitigate any subsequent issues of conflict between vehicles and vulnerable road users that can arise due to vehicles parking inappropriately along this route.

The parking restrictions will be required to have a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) as with any TRO, a period of statutory consultation with those affected must be undertaken by the highway authority. The Local Ward Councillors have undertaken an informal consultation to gauge initial thoughts on the proposals. As a direct result of early feedback the proposals have been amended to alter to reduce some of the proposed restrictions (double yellow lines) on Ridge Green. Please see the proposed SSEZ plan attached.

It is acknowledged that the introduction of this SSEZ can represent a significant change for users of the road involved and as such Officers are suggesting the scheme be introduced as an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). This offers stakeholders the opportunity to experience the changes, to understand their impact prior to giving formal feedback and, where necessary, for adjustments to be made to the restrictions ahead of a decision being made on whether they be imposed permanently.

The statutory consultation period for an ETRO is therefore the initial 6 months of its 18 month term. Any representations, either in support or against, may be submitted via the Council's website. Full details would be shared with residents ahead of the commencement of any ETRO. Following the introduction of any ETRO the Council's Highways Officers, supported by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) would monitor driver behaviour and compliance with the new restrictions. During these visits any behaviours witnessed that have cause for concern would be dealt with accordingly.

When Officers are not in attendance, instances of vehicles parked across private driveways may be reported to the Council's Parking Enforcement team for their attention. Since 2018 the Council no longer requires parking restrictions to be in place to enforce this inappropriate parking behaviour.

Further information on this can be found on the Council website - Parking restrictions updates | Parking enforcement | Swindon Borough Council.

In order to achieve improvements in road safety and congestion around the school the proposed engineering measures for Shaw Ridge Primary School outlined in the attached plan are to be accompanied by complementary education based initiatives including;

- Use of the Council's Air Quality and Anti-idling toolkit that outlines activities and resources available to the school to promote positive actions
- Support to establish a Park & Stride scheme enabling pupils and parents/carers to park in a designated safe place and walk the final leg of their journey to school-
- Provision of banners displaying anti-idling and parking related messages in support of regular communications from the school to their parents/carers that promote positive behaviours
- Provision of secure cycle/scooter storage within schools.
- On-going support from the Council's Road Safety and Travel Plan Officers to assist the school in achieving recognition and award through the Modeshift STARS scheme for active travel education initiatives within the school.

I hope this offers further explanation to the proposals and in light of this we are recommending that the attached proposed SSEZ proceeds as an ETRO, allowing stakeholders the opportunity to experience the changes, to understand their impact and Officers the opportunity to monitor and modify should the need arise.

Once again we would like to thank you for your patience and the input you have provided to the SSEZ scheme for Shaw Ridge Primary School.

Kind Regards

**Julie Furneal MIHE**

Traffic & TRO Technician

Traffic Management & Road Safety

Swindon Borough Council