

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2016

**ANGUS COUNCIL (KIRRIEMUIR ROAD FORFAR) (COMBINED 20MPH VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT
ADJACENT TO SCHOOLS VARIATION, WAITING RESTRICTIONS VARIATION AND SCHOOL
KEEP CLEAR AREAS VARIATION) ORDER 2016**

REPORT BY THE HEAD OF TECHNICAL & PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report relates to the making of an Order for the purpose of varying the provisions of current Traffic Orders in respect of 20mph variable speed limit adjacent to schools, waiting restrictions and school keep clear areas at Kirriemuir Road Forfar

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee note the objection received during the consultation process and approve the making of the Order as published.

**ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME
AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are prosperous and fair
- Our communities are safe and strong
- Our communities are sustainable

BACKGROUND

Reference is made to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Committee held on 14 April 2015 when the Committee agreed to promote the necessary traffic regulation order to introduce various traffic restrictions on Kirriemuir Road Forfar associated with the formation of the new Forfar Academy campus.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND PUBLICATION

The Notice of Proposals was published on 16 October 2015 and Public Notices were erected at various locations along Kirriemuir Road Forfar.

In response to the publication of the proposals two letter of objection to the proposals was submitted by the operators of local businesses in Kirriemuir Road. One objection was subsequently withdrawn.

The outstanding objection is on the basis that the proposed restrictions directly adjacent to their premises combined with the alterations to the road layout will constitute a hazard for their customers, suppliers and staff. This in particular relates to right turning manoeuvres into the premises conflicting with other traffic right turning into the school access. The objector feels that the school access is badly situated and should be moved to allow better access to both the school and their premises.

The Head of Technical & Property Services response was that it is recognised that the school access positions may cause some inconvenience for vehicles accessing the objector's premises at certain periods. Some co-operation between respective drivers will be required and this would have been the case regardless of whether or not a right turning lane was provided for the school access. It is anticipated that the volumes of vehicles expected to be turning right into the new campus grounds will

be relatively low as the majority of pupils/staff/visitors should be approaching from the east whilst outside of the school peak times the turning movements will be only very occasional.

The school accesses/egress positions have been granted planning consent and will not change at this late stage. It is unfortunate that the new school access had to be located in close proximity to the access but this was unavoidable due to the prevailing ground conditions within the school site which informed the location of the campus building.

The Head of Technical & Property Services also clarified the impact of the specific restrictions as follow:-

The proposed **variable speed limit** would impose 20mph speed limit at various times (generally 8.30am - 9.30am, 12.00 - 2.00pm and 3.30 - 4.30pm) during days when the adjacent school is open. At all other times the existing 40mph speed limit will apply.

The proposed **'no waiting at any time' restrictions** (double yellow lines) would prohibit waiting to encourage drivers to enter the school grounds to drop off/pick up at the school in order and thereby reduce possible congestion on Kirriemuir Road in the vicinity of the school. These restrictions would however still permit a vehicle to wait if it is being used in delivering/collecting goods at adjacent premises for a maximum of thirty minutes.

The above waiting restrictions would still permit drivers to stop on the road in order to allow a person to board or alight from a vehicle. This could cause significant congestion on this major road and as such **'School Keep Clear Area' restrictions** are proposed on the south side of Kirriemuir Road between the new school accesses to prohibit vehicles from stopping on these road markings between 8.00am and 4.30pm, Monday - Friday. There are no exemptions to these restrictions during these effective time periods.

Overall the various proposed restrictions are intended to prohibit stopping and waiting and reduce traffic speeds at peak times to minimise possible congestion and maintain forward visibility for drivers approaching this vicinity in either direction. These can only benefit pedestrian and traffic safety and free traffic flow including access to and from the objectors premises.

The current proposals are shown detailed on **Appendix 1 and 2**.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs of the road markings and traffic signs necessary to enforce the proposed various restrictions will be met from the funding associated with the Forfar Academy Campus development.

CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Strategic Director - Resources, the Head of Corporate Improvements & Finance, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Local Commander of Tayside Division were consulted in the preparation of this report.

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NOTE:

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this Report :-

Report No. 157/15 – New Forfar Academy Campus – Proposed Traffic Restrictions Communities Committee - 19 April 2015