

Agenda Item No. 4(c)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAY, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

31 January 2019

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

PETITION SHIREBROOK, ALDER WAY – PARKING AND SAFETY ISSUES

(1) **Purpose of Report** To consider a petition requesting consideration be given to improving road safety along Alder Way, Shirebrook and hardening of the existing grass verges, and to approve the recommendation not to carry out these works.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

Background

At the meeting on 1 February 2018, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition containing 29 signatures, accompanied by 7 supporting letters (Minute No.16/18 refers). The petition reads as follow:

"I am writing on behalf of the residents of Alderway, Shirebrook in connection with the state of the grass verges and cars parking on the verges and sometimes completely on the pavements even blocking driveways.

I along with other residents are concerned with the state of parking on Alderway, the grass verges are an eyesore with mud everywhere, and this is dangerous if not a hazard for pedestrians. People cannot pass cars parked on and off the pavements on to the main road to pass parked cars. This is unacceptable and at some point I can foresee there being an accident if not a fatality. There are parked cars all along this road, some households having two or three, when the road was built it wasn't to accommodate so many vehicles.

Cars are parked all along the road when it's time to drop off/pick up kids from the school causing hazards and blocking driveways. It is time this was sorted once and for all. The highways department took action a few months ago by filling the verges with soil this has what now turned to mud and leaving deep holes where the cars have driven/parked over the soil.

The verges need to be removed or tarmacked to encompass the amount of vehicles within each household to ensure that pedestrians can actually use the pavements for what they were intended for.

This needs to be addressed; as such I have been in touch with Dennis Skinner my Local Member of Parliament whom is taking this matter further. Please as a concerned resident of Alderway do something now before the situation gets any worse."

Alder Way is a residential street with properties located along both sides. The properties are segregated from the highway with a footway and then adjacent the road there is highway verge. The road is approximately 5m wide and around half of the properties have converted their front gardens into parking and dropped the road side kerb to gain access. This, however, still leaves many properties without off-street parking and, therefore, they park on the road or verge.

Situated at the top of Alder Way are the Park Junior and Infant Schools which are also accessed from Park Road which runs parallel to Alder Way and suffers from the same parking problems as Alder Way. Parents choose to drive their children to school want to park as close as possible. This had led to the parking chaos that occurs around the majority of schools in the County and it is very difficult to control. Due to Alder Way and Park Road being particularly narrow, parking by parents on grass verges is a particular problem.

The plan attached to this report Dwg No. HMT/BG/136/18 shows Alder Way and Park Road and the proximity of the school to both these roads.

Attached to the petition was 7 letters and, in total, the Council has received 19 separate letters from residents concerned with the condition of the verges and state of the footways covered in mud.

Officer Comment

The driving up onto the verge to park is an offence, enforceable by the Police, although this is problematic as officers have to witness the actual act of driving onto the footway. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure has written to the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Hardyal Dhindsa, requesting that he contacts his locally based officers and requests that they carry out enforcement of this antisocial behaviour that is not only causing significant damage to the highway verges but putting pedestrians at risk from slipping on mud or being hit by a vehicle mounting the kerb.

Officers have currently advertised a Traffic Regulation Order to provide short sections of double yellow lines on the cul de sac Orchard Close, which has the main entrance to the school located off it. However, parking restrictions

outside schools are notorious to enforce as parents are usually waiting in their vehicle and if they see a Civil Parking Enforcement Officer they just drive away. It is hoped, however, that these short sections will be well respected, as this is where the most pedestrian activity occurs.

Highway Maintenance officers have previously re-soiled and seeded the grass verges on Alder Way but, following the severe wet weather, the verges have returned to their current muddy state. A recent site visit to Alder Way and Park Road, which suffers similar problems with parking, has taken place with highway officers, with a view to formulating a plan of action. There is, however, a significant cost involved with repairing verges or hardening them, not only now but in the future, with ongoing maintenance costs. Problems experienced in this area are prevalent throughout the County.

Officers in the Traffic and Safety Team have written to all the residents of Alder Way asking them to consider where they park and the damage that they cause not only to the verges but also the footways and to ask those who do not have off-road parking to consider applying for a dropped vehicle access to remove some of the road side and verge parking.

Officers in the Road Safety Team have also contacted The Park Junior and Infant Schools to see if they would like the Road Safety Team to visit and discuss travel modes and road safety. The Schools have not taken them up on this offer to date.

Unfortunately, the request to harden all the verges on Alder Way and Park Road will not be possible at the present time due to the estimated costs involved, which would likely exceed £100,000.

The Local Member, Councillor Christine Dale, has also requested improvements to the existing road signing around the schools and officers have agreed to review this.

Local Member Comment

Councillor Christine Dale is very supportive of any measures to harden the verges.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of repairing any isolated verges will be met from the 2018-19 Area Maintenance Revenue budget.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 states that it shall be the duty of every Local Authority exercising the functions in that Act (so far as practicable having regard to the matters listed below) to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

The matters referred to above are-

- 1) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;
- 2) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run; 2ii) the national air quality strategy prepared under Section 80 of the Environment Act 1995;
- 3) the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles; and
- 4) any other matters appearing to the Local Authority to be relevant.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

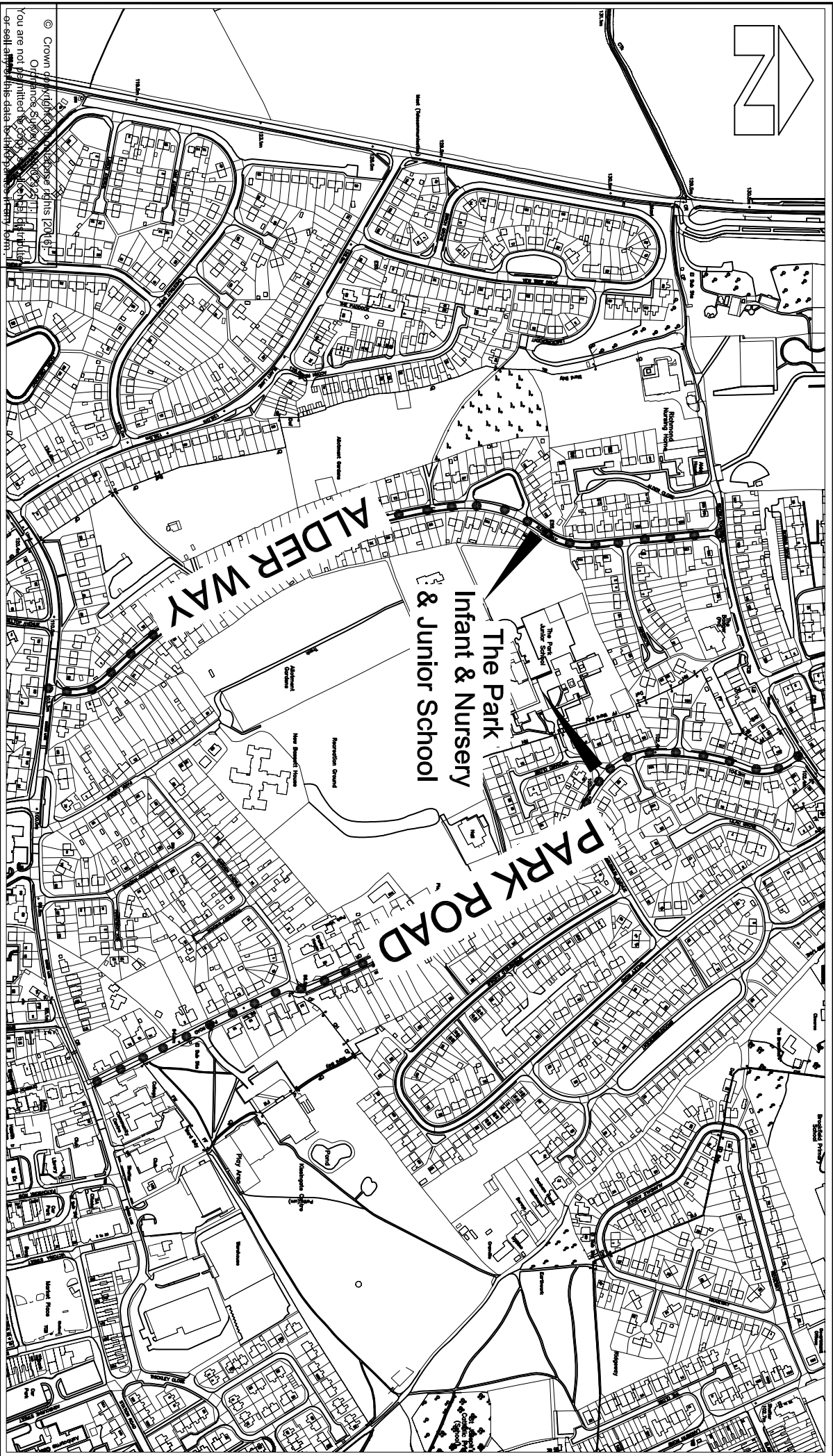
(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Bridget Gould, extension 38579.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

- 8.1 The Cabinet Member acknowledges the proposed improvements to road safety but refuses the current request to have the verges hardened along Alder Way.
- 8.2 The Local Member, Head Petitioner and the Chief Constable be notified accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment



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Improving life for local people

MIKE ASHWORTH
Strategic Director
Economy, Transport and Environment



FM641223 / FM641224

AMENDMENT DETAILS

BY	CHKD	APVD	DATE	NO.

PROJECT TITLE

ALDERWAY AND PARK ROAD
SHIREBROOK

DRAWING TITLE

REQUEST FOR VERGE HARDENING

DRAWN

B. GOULD

CHECKED

S. TRANTER

APPROVED

S. TRANTER

Date

MARCH, 18

Date

MARCH, 18

Date

MARCH, 18

Project / Confirm
Reference No.

Drawing
Number

HMT/BG/136/18

SCALE

N.T.S.