

Agenda Item No. 4(b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

7 July 2015

Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Environment

**OBJECTIONS TO REVOCATION OF PROHIBITION OF DRIVING ORDER
PROPOSAL – MARKET STREET, ECKINGTON**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek agreement of the Cabinet Member not to revoke the existing prohibition of Driving Order on Market Street, Eckington, following objections received as a result of consultation on proposals.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

Background and Site Details

The existing Prohibition of Driving Order was implemented on Market Street in Eckington in 1980, at a time when an improved route for through traffic became available from High Street, along Pinfold Street to Church Street. With good provision of free parking close to the shops on Market Street, this presented an opportunity to improve amenities for pedestrians by removing potential conflict with moving traffic.

In recent years, Yorkshire Water carried out a £2m scheme to improve the drainage in Market Street and, as part of the scheme, offered to reinstate the existing block paved pedestrianised area with better quality surface to help to contribute towards North East Derbyshire District Council's regeneration aspirations for the town. Therefore, it offered an additional £50,000 on top of its scheme costs to cover the works. This was boosted by further contributions from the Parish Council (£10,000) and the Eckington Development Company via the Mary Portas scheme (£9,000). The District Council appointed a landscape architect to produce some options for the area and, following much public consultation, a final design was agreed and implemented.

During the various meetings that took place, as part of this process, it was suggested that re-introducing some traffic into Market Street would help to stimulate business, etc and the street could operate as a shared space. It was eventually agreed to consider feedback from local consultation events that were taking place in the town which showed support for such a measure. The proposals were also presented to the Parish Council meeting in March 2013

where members were fully supportive of re-opening Market Street to one-way traffic. The Eckington Town Team was also supportive of this proposal.

As part of the Traffic Regulation Order consultation procedure, an e-mail was sent out as a consultation document to a number of contacts, including Eckington Parish Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, various access groups and the emergency services amongst others. No responses were received to this consultation apart from some comments from Guide Dogs UK. Therefore, it was considered that there were no objections to the proposal and the procedure was progressed to the formal advertisement stage.

A copy of Drawing No HMT/JRB/206/13, showing the proposals as advertised, is attached at Appendix 1.

Objection Details

In total, seven objections have been received to the advertised proposals, which can be summarised as follows:

- 1) A local Councillor feels that revocation would have a negative impact on Eckington town centre for the following reasons:
 - i) Decrease growing revival of town centre.
 - ii) Increase speed offences and risks to pedestrians.
 - iii) Negative environmental effect.
- 2) A local resident, who recalls benefits derived by pedestrians following the opening of Pinfold Street as a town centre by-pass route, lists the following considerations:
 - i) Market Street will be used as a shortcut by lazy drivers.
 - ii) Traffic queues will build up at each end of Market Street.
 - iii) An end to a gentle village area enjoyed by young and old.
 - iv) Increased vehicle speeds in both directions on Market Street.
 - v) Increased noise nuisance for people living on Market Street.
 - vi) Increased exhaust emissions for residents of Market Street.
 - vii) Increased danger for pedestrians on Market Street.
 - viii) Suggested restoration of the zebra crossing on Southgate.
- 3) On behalf of the Parish Council:
 - i) The revocation would not preserve or improve the amenities of the area.
 - ii) Danger to pedestrians would increase.
- 4) A district and parish councillor had the following reasons for objecting:
 - i) Part pedestrianised area used for socialising in local cafes and pubs.
 - ii) Problems with drivers ignoring “No Entry” could increase.

- iii) Parking and dangerous turning, already being ignored, could worsen.
- 5) On behalf of Eckington Town Team:
- i) Increased danger to pedestrians.
 - ii) Increase in number of cars parked in the precinct.
 - iii) The road would have to be closed on Fridays for the street market.
 - iv) There are nearby free car parks.
 - v) Increasing exit manoeuvres from Market Street would be dangerous.
 - vi) Shop keepers survived during complete closure necessitated by recent Yorkshire Water improvement works.
- 6) A nearby resident felt that:
- i) Exact details were not provided for consultation.
 - ii) A lack of enforcement is currently an issue and this would increase danger.
 - iii) Suggestion of closing road completely by physical measures.
 - iv) Changes to the current precinct status are likely to have an adverse effect.
- 7) On behalf of Eckington Tenants and Residents Focus TARG:
- i) Speed of traffic through the precinct is already unsuitable.
 - ii) Increased danger for pedestrians on Market Street and when crossing at Southgate end.

Officer Comments

The proposal does not involve removing the existing one-way Order, which would stay in force. From the detail in the objections received, this may not have been clear.

A balanced view needs to be taken as to whether through traffic will genuinely help to regenerate the street or whether it would just serve to alienate pedestrians who may start to feel threatened by traffic when using it. There is already a high level of non-compliance with the existing traffic restrictions and the street could attract a lot of car parking should it be opened to legitimate through traffic. It would not be desirable to have to implement waiting restrictions which will require associated signs and road markings, especially bearing in mind the new surface treatment.

In view of the objections received, both from individuals and local community groups, it would now appear that there is a preference for enhancement of pedestrian facilities rather than allowing increased vehicular use. Therefore, it is not proposed to proceed with the revocation of the prohibition of driving

Order on Market Street, Eckington. This would leave the restrictions as they are currently, with the onus on the Police to enforce them.

Local Member Comment

Councillor Brian Ridgway has been informed and no comments or objections have been received.

- (3) **Financial Considerations** There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

Other Considerations

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

- (4) **Key Decision** No.

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

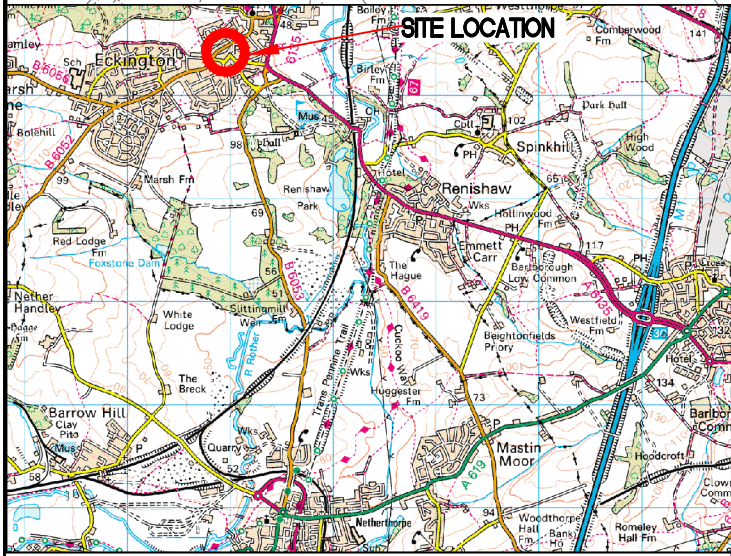
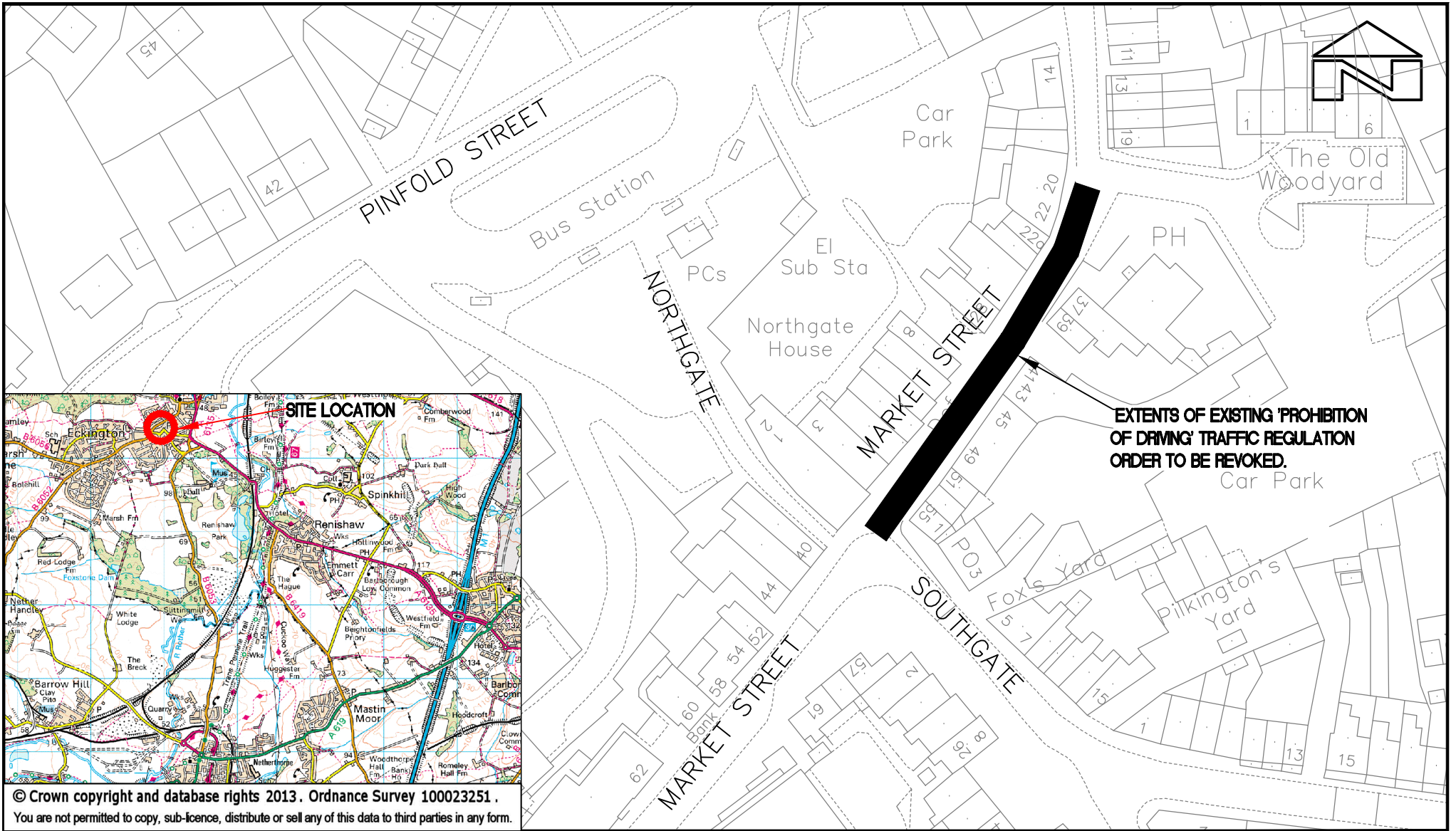
- (6) **Background Papers** Correspondence held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Sue Pollard, extension 38634.

- (7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member approves that:


7.1 No further action be taken with the existing Prohibition of Driving Order on Market Street, Eckington.

7.2 The local Member and objectors be informed accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment



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<div><div><div>DERBYSHIRE</div><div>County Council</div><div>Improving life for local people</div></div></div> <div>MIKE ASHWORTH Acting Strategic Director Environmental Services</div>							PROJECT TITLE		DRAWN	CHECKED	APPROVED
							ECKINGTON REVOCATION OF PROHIBITION DRIVING TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER		JRB	SA	SA
									Date	Date	Date
							DRAWING TITLE		Project / Confirm Reference No.		SCALE 1:1000
							CONSULTATION DRAWING		ECKINGTON_TRO		
AMENDMENT DETAILS						BY	CHKD	APVD	DATE	NO.	Drawing Number HMT/JRB/206/13 <small>ORIGINAL DRAWING SIZE 297 x 210 (A4)</small>