

## Statement of Reasons

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### **Gloucestershire County Council (School Streets Prohibition of Driving - Warden Hill Primary School and Tewkesbury C of E Primary School) (Cheltenham Borough and Tewkesbury Borough) Experimental Order 2020**

**AND**

### **Gloucestershire County Council On-Street Parking Order 2017 (School Streets - Various Roads Surrounding Warden Hill Primary School And Tewkesbury C Of E Primary School) (Cheltenham Borough And Tewkesbury Borough) (Experimental Variation) Order 2020**

#### **Proposals**

1. The introduction of an experimental Prohibition of Motor Vehicles restriction between the hours of 8.15-9.15am & 2.30-3.30pm Monday-Friday on the following streets:
  - Durham Close in Warden Hill, Cheltenham
  - Rope Walk in Tewkesbury
  
2. The introduction of experimental:
  - Mandatory No Stopping on School Entrance Markings;
  - No Waiting at Any Time;
  - No Waiting Mon-Fri 8.15-9.15am & 2.30-3.30pm;
  - No Waiting 8am-5pm Except Bank Holidays;
  - No Loading Mon-Fri 8.15-9.15am & 2.30-3.30pm

restrictions along roads surrounding Warden Hill Primary School and Tewkesbury C of E Primary School which will include the suspension of various waiting restrictions for the duration of the Experimental Order.

#### **Reasons**

To facilitate the County Council's trial of 'School Streets' outside two primary schools in the county – Warden Hill Primary School in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury C of E Primary School.

The Government issued Statutory Guidance to all Highway Authorities in May 2020 requiring those Authorities to deliver 'transformative change', including - but not limited to - the introduction of 'School Street' schemes. Further more, those changes should be made within an 'urgent timeframe' and the Government have made additional funding available for the implementation of such schemes. In light of this, the County Council passed a Motion to trial 'School Street' schemes in the County.

'School Streets' are a relatively new concept that have already been trialled in the metropolitan boroughs of London and have since spread across the UK to other large cities. It involves closing roads near to schools to motorised traffic during school start and finish times. This not only makes the roads around those schools safer during the busiest parts of the day, but can also help reduce the amount of pollution that school children are exposed to outside schools and encourage modal shift so that there is less reliance on the car for the school run. In addition, 'School Streets' could assist schools in maintaining the social distancing measures that they are having to introduce

during the Covid pandemic by creating more space for pupils and their parents/carers who would be able to safely use the road space as well as the pavements.

Therefore, in order to meet the Government's 'urgent timeframe' to trial 'School Streets', the County Council intend to introduce an Experimental Prohibition of Driving (PoD) Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) on Durham Close in Warden Hill, Cheltenham and on Rope Walk in Tewkesbury. This ETRO would ban the majority of motorised vehicles from entering those streets between the hours of 8.15-9.15am and 2.30-3.30pm Monday to Friday. There is future scope to introduce physical barriers at the entrance to the roads to help enforce the closures between the restricted times with designated operators present to allow exempted vehicles access/egress. There are exemptions to the ETRO which have been kept to a minimum in order to make the ETRO easy to understand and operate. There will be exemptions for all residents living in the closed roads and staff requiring access to the school car parks as well as the emergency services, social care, utility/services/highway repair and maintenance and blue badge holders. It should be noted that deliveries to premises within those roads will not be allowed during the times of the closures. It should also be noted that this prohibition only applies to motor vehicles, so pedal cycles and scooters are not affected.

The County Council also intend to introduce a further ETRO that will facilitate the 'School Streets' closures by introducing various parking/waiting/loading restrictions on an experimental basis on some of the roads surrounding the school streets (WR). This will help manage the displacement of traffic that will be prohibited by the PoD ETRO.

The two primary schools that are taking part in the 'School Street' trial already have existing advisory No Stopping on School Entrance marking restrictions (zig-zags) and the WR ETRO will introduce times / time changes to make these restrictions enforceable. The times of operation will also be consolidated so that they would be uniform throughout the local area for consistency and to make them easy to understand for all road users i.e. Mon-Fri 8am-5pm in Tewkesbury and Mon-Fri 8am-4pm in Cheltenham. These times tie in with the school times.

The proposed waiting restrictions would make the surrounding streets safer and supplement Rule 243 of the Highway Code i.e. no parking within 10 metres of a junction. They would also prevent inconsiderate parking close to the schools and lessen the impact on local residents. They may also encourage modal shift for the 'school run'.

### **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**

Both of the ETRO proposals will be implemented under Sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The specific grounds which the County Council are relying on are encompassed in the following sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984:

- Section 1 (a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other such road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.
- Section 1 (c) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians).
- Section 1 (f) for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

In addition, thorough consideration was given to the factors set out in Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in proposing this Traffic Order.

**Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016**

All of the associated signing will be in accordance with traffic signs regulations and general directions 2016.

**Equality Act 2010**

Thorough consideration was given to the equalities duty of the County Council under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

**Statutory Consultation**

The Police have not raised any objections to the proposals.