

Statement of Reasons

Proposed Prohibition of Driving/Prohibition of Motor Vehicles, Various Roads in the Parishes of Newland and Littledean, Forest of Dean

Proposal

The proposal is to introduce the restrictions detailed below on the following roads:

Prohibition of Driving:

- Coxbury Lane (500029) from a point approximately 26 metres south-west of its junction with Tinmans Green (403212) to its junction with Coach Road (403025)

Prohibition of Motor Vehicles:

- Track from Newland towards Bircham Wood (500034) from a point approximately 147 metres east of its junction with Road from Swanpool Wood to junction with Almhouse Road (C357) for a distance of approximately 728 metres in a north-easterly direction.

Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Restriction with access exemptions:

- High Street (400118) for its entire length
- The Ruffit (400118) for its entire length
- Callamore (405072) for its entire length
- The Ruffit (400119) for its entire length
- Reddings Lane (400118) for its entire length

Reasons

The measures on Coxbury Lane are being proposed in order to address the inappropriate use of this section of Coxbury Lane by cycles and motorcycles. The Prohibition of Driving restriction will prevent all vehicles from using the road, which is a stepped area with a central handrail, and will provide a safe area for pedestrians to utilise.

Following concerns raised by local representatives about unsuitable motor vehicle use, the measures along the Track from Newland towards Bircham Wood (500034) are being proposed for the following reasons:

- For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.
- For preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property.
- For preserving the character of the road in a case where it is specially suitable for use by persons on horseback or on foot.
- To prevent unsuitable use by vehicles to provide a safe area for pedestrians, cyclists & horse riders.
- To prevent accelerated damage to vegetation, surrounding biodiversity, and the highway.

At the Ruffit, High Street, Callamore & Reddings Lane it is proposed to make a minor change to the existing prohibition of driving (except for access) restrictions to a prohibition of motor vehicles (except for access) restriction. This alteration is primarily proposed in order to permit the roads to be used by cycles and other non-motorised vehicles without an access requirement and to aid enforcement of the current restrictions. This new proposed restriction will also provide clarity to the public regarding the scope of the restrictions, as it will match the existing signage at the site. There will be no material changes to the effect the restriction has on residents over the current situation.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

The Council are proposing to implement the Prohibition of Driving & Prohibition of Motor Vehicle restrictions under Sections 1, 2 and 4 and Parts II and IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA).

More specifically, according to the RTRA, it is the duty of a highway authority to 'manage their road network' and 'to improve road safety'. Section 122 of the RTRA states that local authorities must, so far as is practicable, exercise their functions under the RTRA so as to 'secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic'.

The proposals therefore accord with the RTRA.

Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016

All of the associated signing will be in accordance with traffic signs regulations and general directions 2016 and Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 3.

Equality Act 2010

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

Residents & Statutory Consultation

An extensive residents/business consultation process has been carried out across all of the sites whereby a letter and site-specific plan were posted to residents/businesses directly affected by the proposals. This process garnered a majority support for the proposals.

A consultation process will also be undertaken alongside the public consultation with all of the Statutory Consultees, including the Police, Emergency Services, Freight Transport Association, Road Haulage Association, the local Parish Council, Local Highways Manager and County Councillor.

A Public Consultation (Notice of Proposal) process is now due to take place, hence the publication of these documents.