

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Officer Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Adrian Gray
<b>Title:</b>	West Street, Ringwood – Prohibition of Driving proposal
<b>Reference:</b>	A1043

**Tel:** 01962 846892

**Email:** [adrian.gray@hants.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.gray@hants.gov.uk)  
[kevin.hyde@hants.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.hyde@hants.gov.uk)

### 1. The decision:

1.1. That a traffic order be implemented in accordance with the relevant sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA), the effects of which will be to prohibit driving between the entrance to the Car Park of the Fish Inn at the junction of West Street and the A31 Bypass, in a south-easterly direction for an approximate distance of 10 metres.

### 2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. Highways England propose a road widening scheme along the A31. Part of the work will involve, in the interest of safety, closing the existing exit from the western boundary of the entrance to the Fish Inn public house along West Street, Ringwood in a north-westerly direction to its junction with the A31 dual-carriageway.

The existing verge and footway either side of the current road crossing at this junction will be extended across the existing carriageway to form safer facilities to pedestrians who currently use the facilities alongside the A31.

2.2. No objections or representations were received in response to the public consultation which took place between 28 August and 18 September 2020 and all documents were available for public viewing between these dates on the public notice website. The proposal notice appeared in The Hampshire Independent on 28 August 2020. Revised government legislation regarding deposit points during covid-19 was followed. New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council offices were also sent copies to hold in anticipation of facilities reopening in the future.

The proposal was initially advertised on 3 July 2020 but due to an administrative error the notice only appeared on the public notice website for one day (30 June 2020). It was therefore decided to readvertise to comply with government legislation.

A copy of a letter of objection addressed to Ringwood Town Council was received by Stuart Jarvis on 14 August 2020 from Letchers Solicitors of Ringwood, three weeks after the consultation period had ended. Mandy Ware, Team Leader West, wrote to them on 20 August 2020 advising that the proposal was being re-advertised on 28 August and that they should write in during the consultation period should they wish to submit an objection. She stressed that it was important to follow the instructions in the

notice. A link to the public notice website was included. No further correspondence was received. However, in light of the original letter received in response to the earlier advertisement, consideration was given to the concerns raised, and concluded that the predicted congestion identified in the letter will not occur as a consequence of the scheme and that while there may be some inconvenience, this is outweighed by the safety benefit of the change.

2.3. Due consideration has been given to RTRA 1984 section 122(1) and (2) and any other relevant legislation. In this case the Decision Maker acting on behalf of the Local Authority considers this TRO expeditious, for the convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians).

2.4 The decision outlined in paragraph 2.3 (above) to exercise the functions of the Local Authority under RTRA 1984 sections 122(1) and (2) has been reached on the basis of what is reasonably practicable after due regard has been given to:

- Access to the Fish Inn car park will still be maintained from West Street.
- The change is to be implemented as a safety measure given that Highways England propose a road widening scheme along the A31.

The existing verge and footway either side of the current road crossing at this junction will be extended across the existing carriageway to form safer facilities to pedestrians who currently use the facilities alongside the A31.

### **3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. None

### **4. Scheme Funding:**

4.1. Capital

### **5. Conflicts of interest:**

5.1. None

### **6. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:**

6.1. None

### **7. Supporting information:**

7.1. Local Member, Councillor Michael Thierry, supports the proposed change.

7.2. Police also support the proposal.

7.3. Ringwood Town Council fully support the proposal.

**Approved by:**

*Adrian Gray*

**Date:**

**09/10/2020**

**Adrian Gray, Head of Highways (Traffic)**

**On behalf of the Director of Economy, Transport and  
Environment**