

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: THE FALKIRK COUNCIL (LIDO LANE, STENHOUSEMUIR)(ONE-WAY TRAFFIC AND RESTRICTED ACCESS) ORDER 2012
Meeting: PLANNING COMMITTEE
Date: 19 SEPTEMBER 2012
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Ward: Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst

**Local Members: Councillor Stephen Bird
Councillor Steven Carleschi
Councillor Charles MacDonald
Councillor Craig Martin**

Community Council: Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council

Council Officer: Russell Steedman - Network Co-ordinator

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks a decision on The Falkirk Council (Lido Lane, Stenhousemuir)(One-Way Traffic and Restricted Access) Order 2012, the purpose of which is to restrict vehicular access on Lido Lane to buses and cyclists only, and in one direction only. In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this decision requires to be made by Committee as unresolved objections have been received to the making of the Order. In terms of the relevant legislation, the authority requires to consider all objections made and not withdrawn before making the Order.
- 1.2 Members should be aware that it is available to them to call for a hearing on the Order should they find themselves unable to determine whether the Order should be made or not at this stage. Such a hearing would be conducted by an independent party appointed by the Council from a list of persons compiled by the Scottish Ministers for that purpose. Members would then need to consider the report and recommendation of the Reporter before making a determination.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) permits access to Lido Lane to buses and cyclists only and restricts access to one direction only from Hallam Road in a westerly direction to James Street in Stenhousemuir.
- 2.2 The extent of the proposed restrictions is shown on the drawing numbered TRO/001 attached.

- 2.3 Planning consent was granted at a special meeting of the former Regulatory Committee on 26 July 2006 for the redevelopment of Stenhousemuir town centre. Lido Lane was constructed as part of this redevelopment.
- 2.4 From the outset of planning proposals, Lido Lane has been considered and referred to as a “one way bus link” and it was considered necessary to facilitate the introduction of a local bus service whilst safeguarding the adjacent residential communities from an increase in general vehicular traffic.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 54 objections were received to the proposed Order, 52 of which were by way of signatures on a pre-prepared objection letter.
- 3.2 The 52 signature objection, prepared by a local taxi company, bases its objection on two points. These are:
- a) Taxis being a “public service”
 - b) Access to this route saving drivers time and public money on taxi fares as Hallam Road is regularly busy and Lido Lane is often used as an alternative route by taxi drivers.

One of the other 2 objections was made on the grounds that they believe Lido Lane should be one way for both buses and taxis as the proposed restrictions would penalise taxi trade and passengers and increase the amount of traffic on Main Street. The other objection was based on the inconvenience to local constituents who use the taxi service, in particular the elderly, and any increase in fares that being prohibited from Lido Lane may result in.

- 3.3 Development Services responded to objectors on 6 July 2012 explaining:-
- a) Lido Lane was constructed in line with planning consent as part of the Stenhousemuir town centre redevelopment. Planning consent was granted at a special meeting of the former Regulatory Committee on 26th July 2006.
 - b) Development Services’ proposals to implement such restrictions are necessary to safeguard the local residential community from rat running vehicles. An increase in vehicle numbers within residential areas can pose safety concerns.
 - c) That within the Falkirk Council area, taxi services are not “public service” vehicles as defined by the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981. Private Hire vehicles within the Falkirk Council area have few markings distinguishing them from private vehicles. To permit taxis and Private Hire vehicles to use Lido Lane may confuse other motorists as they may mistake the Private Hire vehicles as normal vehicles and assume it is permissible to use Lido Lane as a route from Hallam Road. Central Scotland Police would also have difficulty in easily distinguishing between private vehicles and Private Hire vehicles therefore making enforcement difficult. Whilst it is a condition of a taxi

operators license that they display a roof sign, most taxis in the Council area are saloon type cars as opposed to black cab type vehicles and so confusion could also occur in relation to these vehicles.

- 3.4 Objectors were asked to formally withdraw their objections.
- 3.5 No objections were withdrawn. Two objectors wrote to formally maintain their objections and hence a Committee decision is required in accordance with para 1.1.
- 3.6 Central Scotland Police have advised that they are in support of the proposals.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The purpose of The Falkirk Council (Lido Lane, Stenhousemuir)(One-Way Traffic and Restricted Access) Order 2012 is to safeguard the adjacent residential streets from additional vehicular traffic caused by vehicles who are using the streets as a rat run. An increase in vehicle numbers within residential areas can pose road safety concerns. It is noted, that within the adjacent area, there are not only residential properties, but also a health centre where it is likely a significant number of elderly people may be in attendance. Also located nearby is Robertson Court, an elderly persons' residential complex, situated on grounds adjacent to Lido Lane and a play park where high numbers of children are likely to play. Restricting access to Lido Lane would minimise the road safety danger posed to all road users and pedestrians, but, more significantly, the dangers to vulnerable groups such as the elderly and children. As such it is considered necessary to put in place the legal framework to enforce restrictions necessary to facilitate the "one-way bus link" as approved in the 2006 planning consent.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 **Members are asked to consider the terms of the report including the objections and determine whether the Order should be made.**

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Director of Development Services

Date: 4th September, 2012

Contact Officer: Russell Steedman, Network Co-ordinator Tel: Ext 4830

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The Falkirk Council (Lido Lane, Stenhousemuir)(One-Way Traffic and Restricted Access) Order 2012
2. Consultation responses
3. Letters of objection and correspondence

