

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: THE FALKIRK COUNCIL (CROSSGATEHEAD ROAD, BRIGHTONS)  
(ONE-WAY TRAFFIC) ORDER 2012**  
**Meeting: PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 30 JANUARY 2013**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**Ward: Upper Braes**

**Local Members: Councillor Gordon Hughes  
Councillor John McLuckie  
Councillor Rosie Murray**

**Community Council: Brightons Community Council**

**Council Officer: Russell Steedman – Network Co-ordinator**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report seeks a decision on The Falkirk Council (Crossgatehead Road, Brightons) (One-Way Traffic) Order 2012. 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 In terms of the relevant legislation, the authority requires to consider all objections made and not withdrawn before making the Order.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 There have been long running issues on roads in the immediate vicinity of Wallacestone Primary School relating to inconsiderate parking and associated congestion caused, in general, by parents dropping off and picking up children attending the school.
- 2.2 Both the school and Central Scotland Police have attempted to manage the parking and congestion through the introduction of several voluntary schemes. One such initiative was the introduction of a voluntary one-way system whereby parents would travel south along Park Avenue, west along Braemar Gardens (passing the school) and north along Crossgatehead Road. Although the majority of parents adhere to this system, there are a significant number of parents who, for whatever reason, do not.

- 2.3 Currently, the combination of two-way traffic and parked vehicles hinders the school bus from approaching and leaving the school, particularly on Crossgatehead Road. The route the bus currently takes is south along Park Avenue, west along Braemar Gardens (passing the school) and north along Crossgatehead Road.

### **3. PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 During a site meeting attended by Central Scotland Police, local Members, parent council representatives and Council officers, various options to manage parking and vehicle movements were discussed.
- 3.2 A package of measures replacing the voluntary measures initiated by the school was suggested. The proposed measures take the form of an enforceable one-way system and waiting restrictions on the section of Crossgatehead Road, between Braemar Gardens and Briar Brae.
- 3.3 The One-Way Order on Crossgatehead Road is considered the best compromise between encouraging parents to travel in a clockwise direction along the school frontage whilst causing the least disruption to local residents wishing to exit their homes in the vicinity of the school.
- 3.4 The statutory procedure for promoting traffic regulation orders (TRO's) for both the one-way system and waiting restrictions was instigated and appropriate notices of intention were provided on-street and in the local press in the prescribed manner.
- 3.5 Plans of the area showing the proposed extent of the one-way system and waiting restrictions are appended.

### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Two objections were received in relation to the proposed One-Way Order on Crossgatehead Road. These objections have not been withdrawn following explanatory correspondence. Both objections were made by residents who take access to their properties from Braemar Gardens. No objections were received in relation to the proposal to introduce waiting restrictions on Crossgatehead Road. Hence, the waiting restriction TRO was made on 11 October 2012 in the normal manner.
- 4.2 The objections to the One-Way Order are based on the following issues:-
- 4.2.1 One objector stated that their son has severe learning difficulties and that a mini-bus collects him in the morning. The objector suggests that the Order will introduce difficulties in that the door of the mini-bus would be located on the off-side of the road, thus requiring their son to walk across or into the road to gain access to the bus. The same objector suggests that the Order would hamper the ability of emergency vehicles to attend a call-out. The objector also suggested that should a large vehicle travel along Park Terrace toward Crossgatehead Road, it would either have to reverse back down Park Terrace or turn right down the unadopted section of Crossgatehead Road.
- 4.2.2 The second objector advised that the effect of the Order would be to require all vehicles wishing to access Braemar Gardens, Willowbrae and Hillview Road to

travel in front of their house on Park Avenue. The second objector also advised that there is regular traffic congestion at the junction of Park Avenue and Braemar Gardens and that their boundary fence has been knocked down twice.

4.3 Development Services responded to the objectors on 5 October 2012. It was acknowledged that the implementation of the Order would require some residents to alter their current practices. With respect to emergency vehicles, the objector was advised that Central Scotland Police, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Ambulance Service had all been consulted on the proposed one-way system and waiting restrictions. No adverse comments were received. The comments relating to larger vehicles suggested that the objector was unaware of the extent of the proposed one-way system. The implementation of the one-way system would not prevent vehicles from turning left up Crossgatehead Road from Park Terrace and then turning right into Briar Brae and as such a plan was sent to the objector to clarify the proposal. It was acknowledged that the effect of the Order would change current traffic flow patterns. The objector was advised that the Order was not considered to increase the likelihood of accidents and should improve overall road safety.

4.4 The objectors were asked to formally withdraw their respective objections.

4.5 The objections have not been withdrawn and hence a Committee decision is required in accordance with paragraph 1.1

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 The purpose of the proposed Order is to improve road safety and to ease congestion experienced at the times parents drop off and pick up their children from Wallacestone Primary School. The congestion is due, in part, to parents attempting to travel in both directions along narrow roads on which cars are parked. The congestion causes significant delays for the school bus.

5.2 The Order is proposed to be implemented in association with a short length of waiting restrictions on Crossgatehead Road and is intended to encourage vehicles to pass the school on Braemar Gardens in a clockwise direction.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 **Members are asked to consider the objections and whether the Order should be made.**

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**Director of Development Services**

**Date: 3 December 2012**

Contact Officer:            Russell Steedman, Network Coordinator            Tel: Ext 4830

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. The Falkirk Council (Crossgatehead Road, Brightons)(One-Way Traffic) Order 2012
2. Letters of objection and explanatory correspondence

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers can contact Russell Steedman on ext 4830.