

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: **Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure**
DATE: **22nd January 2013**
DIRECTOR: **Gordon McIntosh**
TITLE OF REPORT: **The Bush, Peterculter – Proposed Road Closure**
REPORT NUMBER: **EPI/12/276**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Committee on the background to the proposed road closure on The Bush, Peterculter and the requirement to revise the previous decision by committee and re-commence the last stage of the legal process for the required Traffic Regulation Order.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that members:

1. Rescind the previous decision by Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure on 31 May 2012, and therefore instruct officers to advertise the new location with a report back on the outcome to a future meeting of this Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the proposed closure would be funded from the Cycling, Walking, Safer Streets grant funded budget. The estimated implementation cost of the works is £6,000 and requires minimal maintenance costs.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Background

Officers had received a number of concerns raised through residents and the local Councillor about volume and speed of 'through traffic' along The Bush, Peterculter. This road is very narrow with no footway on either side and is causing safety concerns to pedestrians utilising this route. It was felt that if the volume of through traffic was reduced, and only traffic using the road was to take access, then pedestrian safety would be increased considerably.

Officers had agreed with Councillor Boulton in November 2011 to carry out an informal consultation with the residents, in which a number of proposals were prepared that would effectively reduce the number of vehicles utilising this road. The residents were requested to identify their preference in order from a list of 8 with the responses received collated and scored on a point basis. From the responses it was clear that the preferred option was for The Bush to be closed to through traffic.

At the Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure Committee meeting on 31st January 2012 approval was given to the progression of the required Traffic Regulation Order for the proposed closure of The Bush with the location of the closure situated between 30 & 33 Hillside Road (Location shown in Appendix A). Following this the statutory consultation exercise was carried out with there being no objections lodged. Officers then proceeded to undertake the Public Advertisement stage at which there was also no objections lodged.

However during this time further discussions were held with the residents of The Bush and Councillor Boulton with regard to the preferred location for the closure. The residents expressed their preference for the proposed closure to be situated at the rear access of 'Inchrory' (Location shown in Appendix B), this was subject to a minor amendment to move this closure 30m or thereby north of this location as to be situated at the boundary of No. 35 and 37 (Location shown in Appendix C). This location had changed from the initial location consulted upon at the statutory stage of the process where it had been suggested to be installed on Hillside Road between No.'s 30 & 33.

Unfortunately the original location was prescribed at the Public Advertisement stage in error. Following the completion of the Public Advertisement process the proposed closure was reported to Committee on the 31st May 2012 and was approved as no objections had been received.

It is felt that objections may not have been lodged as local residents had assumed that the proposed closure was to be relocated following the meeting on the 22nd March 2012.

- 5.2 As there is uncertainty as to the process being 'fair and open' it is proposed that the whole process recommence to allow the most recently agreed location with residents (Appendix C) to be consulted upon formally. While this will have resulted in a delay it will ensure that the Council do not fall foul to accusations of failing to follow regulatory procedures correctly.

6. IMPACT

This report meets with the local Community Plan objectives to continually improve road safety and maximise accessibility for pedestrians and all modes of transport.

These proposals will be of interest to the residents/proprietors on the affected streets, and also other pedestrians who utilise this street.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

'Various, small scale traffic management and development associated proposals (New Works)', Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure Committee, 31 January 2012.

<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=18330>

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Michael Cowie
Traffic Management Team
micowie@aberdeencity.gov.uk
(01224) 538050

Consultees comments

Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee

Convener: Councillor Barney Crockett – *has been consulted 07/12/12*

Vice Convener: Councillor Ramsay Milne – *has been consulted 07/12/12*

Councillor Marie Boulton – *has been consulted 07/12/12*

Councillor Aileen Malone – *has been consulted 07/12/12*

Councillor M Tauqeer Malik – *has been consulted 07/12/12*

Council Officers

Barry Jenkins, Head of Finance, Corporate Governance – *has been consulted and has no comments from Finance*

Jane MacEachran, Head of Legal and Democratic Service – *has been consulted*

Ciaran Monaghan, Head of Service, Office of Chief Executive – *has been consulted*

Gordon McIntosh, Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure – *has been consulted*

Hugh Murdoch, Head of Asset Management and Operations, E,P and I – *has been consulted*

Margaret Bochel, Head of Planning & Sustainable Development – *has been consulted and has no further comments.*

Mike Cheyne, General Manager, Operations – *has been consulted*

Neal Carnegie, Community Safety Manager – *has been consulted*

Dave Young, Account Manager, Corporate Governance – *has been consulted*

Laura Watson, Service Co-ordinator E P & I

Mark Masson, Committee Services Officer