

REPORT TO: Environment & Urban Renewal
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 11 September 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Transportation

SUBJECT: Petition requesting the introduction of bollards and waiting restrictions to prevent parking on part of Cronton Lane, Widnes.

WARDS: Farnworth

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report on a petition that has been received, requesting the introduction of bollards and waiting restrictions to prevent parking on part of Cronton Lane, Widnes.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That the petition request for the introduction of further waiting restrictions east of Hill View on Cronton Lane, together with the installation of bollards to prevent 'driving on', should be refused and the lead petitioner informed accordingly.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 An 18 name petition has been received from residents of properties towards the east end of Cronton Lane, Widnes, the properties being generally situated between the limits of the existing waiting restrictions on Cronton Lane, and the junction with Hill View. The covering letter for the petition is attached as Appendix 'A' together with a drawing of the area as Appendix 'B', drawing number 9228.

3.2 The petition raises concerns over abuse of the existing waiting restrictions in the area, obstruction of driveway entrances and sight lines, and vehicles being parked on the footway. It requests that the existing 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions at the east end of Cronton Lane be extended in effect as far as Hill View and that drivers be prevented from driving up onto the footway by the installation of a number of bollards on both sides of the road, installed as per the existing units in the area which have proved effective in stopping 'driving on' near the Cronton Lane shops.

3.3 The requested waiting restrictions and installation of bollards are not problem-free and a number of issues need to be considered:

[1] This would cause problems for the customers of the shops and potentially displacement of parking onto Norlands Lane - where parking is already becoming an issue – and other adjacent roads.

[2] These measures would be visually detrimental to the area.

[3] Extra waiting restrictions could potentially be abused by 'just for a minute' parkers. Parking in this area is mainly by customers of the shops, which is mainly short stay with a frequent turnover, and by residents.

[4] The measures would be highly inconvenient for the residents themselves as it would prevent them from parking outside their own homes.

[5] These proposals could trigger objections from customers of the nearby shops and the business owners as happened on previous occasions.

[6] There have been no other requests for parking restrictions in this area.

- 3.4 Ward councillors have contacted Cheshire Police for more enforcement of the existing waiting restrictions; however this could exacerbate the existing complaint. They have also been asked to ensure parked vehicles do not cause an obstruction to through traffic.

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The ward councillors for Farnworth have been consulted.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total cost of introducing the requested waiting restrictions and bollards would be approximately £6,000.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct policy, social inclusion, sustainability, value for money, legal or crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 7.1 Children & Young People in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority.

- 7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

- 7.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority.

- 7.4 A Safer Halton

The proposed waiting restrictions and bollards could serve to prevent obstruction and protect sightlines for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike.

- 7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

- 7.6 There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 There is a variable and uncertain road safety risk associated with not introducing these requested waiting restrictions and bollards, the degree of risk depending on the degree to which drivers would continue to park so as to obstruct the highway, desire lines and sight lines along Cronton Lane.

9.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES.

9.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Report to Executive Board Sub- Committee 7 December 2006 - Proposed Zebra Crossing – Cronton Lane, Widnes

Cronton Lane Residents,
Widnes,
Cheshire,
WA8 5AJ

24th April 2013

Farnworth Ward Councillors,

Municipal Buildings,
Kingsway,
Widnes,
Cheshire,
WA8 7QF

Dear Sirs/Madam,

We are writing to you regarding the parking problems on Cronton Lane. This is regards to both sides of the road adjacent the shops on Cronton Lane.

Vehicles park on the double yellow lines & where no double yellow lines exist, blocking our entrances. They also park on the pavement which blocks our view of the oncoming traffic. All the signatories below agree that there will shortly be a serious road traffic accident. Bollards are fitted in front of a few of the houses to prevent parking on the pavement but these only extend to the yellow line area. We would like your support to have the double yellow lines & bollards extended.

There are times when cars at speed mount the kerbs making it dangerous for pedestrians.

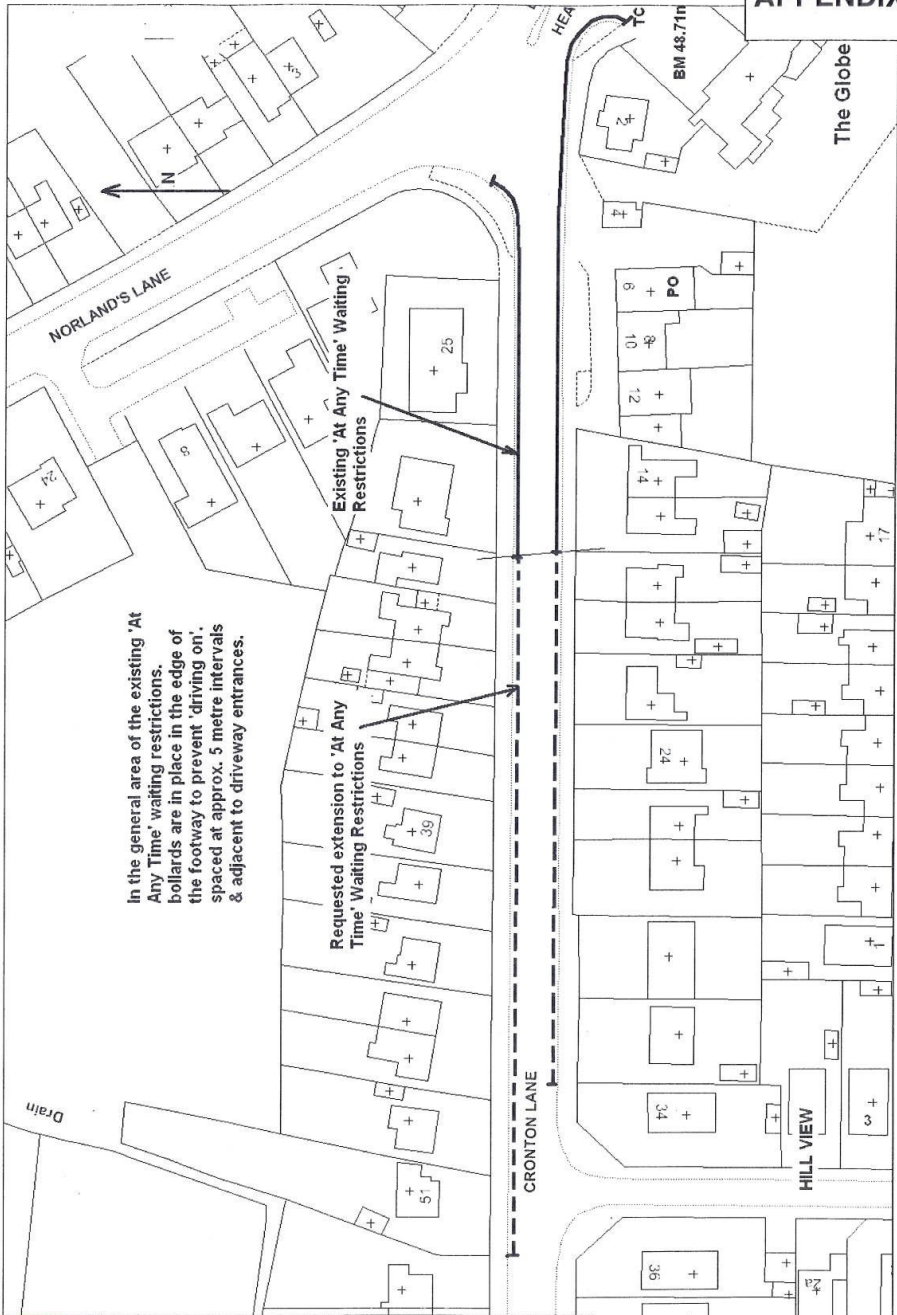
Whilst we appreciate that the local shops provide a service, the extent to which the local area has had extensive housing developments has also increased the traffic in the area.

The situation is at its worst during rush hour times & evenings whilst people are trying to use the local facilities.

We all feel that before long, somebody is going to be seriously hurt. If you could provide support to prevent a potential accident, we would appreciate it very much.

Yours sincerely

The residents of Cronton Lane



In the general area of the existing 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions. Bollards are in place in the edge of the footway to prevent 'driving on', spaced at approx. 5 metre intervals & adjacent to driveway entrances.

Petition Requesting Extension of 'At Any Time' Waiting Restrictions and Bollard Installation, Cronton Lane, Widnes
 Scale: NTS Date: Jun 2013
 Drawn: SJ Checked: []
 Drg. No.: 9228



HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Mick Noone, BA(Hons), M.Sc., C.Eng.,
 MICE, MCIT, CMILT
 Operational Director - Policy, Planning & Transportation Department
 Municipal Building, Kingsway,
 Widnes, WA8 7QF. Tel: 0303 333 4300
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