

Report to Norwich highways agency committee
21 January 2016

Item

Report of Head of city development services

11

Subject Night time economy- Prince of Wales Road (side road)
access and waiting restrictions

Purpose

To note the results of the recent public consultation for permanent traffic regulation orders that relate to proposed access and waiting restriction changes to residential side roads adjacent to the Prince of Wales Road as part of the Night time economy initiative, and to receive an oral update at the meeting.

Recommendations

To:

- (1) authorise the head of city development services to carry out the necessary statutory procedures to implement a permanent traffic regulation order that will have the following provisions:
 - (a) to prohibit motor vehicle access: 11.00pm – 12.00 midnight and 12.00am – 06.00am on any day except Christmas Day, from the junction of Prince of Wales Road with the following streets:
 - (i) Cathedral Street
 - (ii) St Faiths Lane
 - (iii) Recorder Road;with the exemptions detailed in paragraph 14 of the report;
 - (b) to amend waiting restrictions relating to on street charging for pay and display times on bays on Cathedral Street, Recorder Road and St Faiths Lane as shown on the plan in Appendix 2, and detailed in the report
- (2) continue the discretionary measure that private hire vehicles or taxis may wait at Castle Meadow and Bank Plain during the time of the Prince of Wales Road side road access restrictions only. This measure will be subject to review by the head of city development in consultation with the chair and vice chair of the Norwich Highways Agency committee, if necessary.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority for a safe, clean and low carbon city and the service plan priority to implement the Local Transport Plan

Financial implications

The cost of the Traffic Regulation Order and associated signage will be met from the highways budgets this will not exceed £4,500

Ward/s: Thorpe Hamlet

Cabinet members:

Councillor Bremner – Environment and sustainable development

Councillor Keith Driver - Neighbourhoods and community safety

Contact officers

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Background documents

None

Background

1. A report concerning the experimental late night road closure of Cathedral Street, St Faiths Lane and Recorder Road between 11.00pm and 6am on Fridays and Saturdays was considered by the June 2014 meeting of the Norwich Highways Agency Committee. In September 2015 it was agreed that these access restrictions be made permanent extended to include bank holidays and the evenings prior to them with additional complimentary waiting restriction amendments
2. The provisions of the proposed permanent traffic regulation orders form part of a package of measures developed by the City Council in conjunction with the Norfolk Constabulary, to reduce the negative impacts of the night time economy on local residents caused by waiting vehicles and traffic on residential side roads directly adjacent to the Prince of Wales Road.
3. The experimental traffic regulation order has been regarded as success by the majority of local residents, local police officers and city council parking services without causing detriment to the function of the highway network or local businesses including private hire companies and their drivers.
4. Notably at least five residents contacted the city council following the Sept 2015 NHAC meeting to express their satisfaction with the positive effects of the experimental access restrictions and to express their support for making these provisions on a permanent basis having been canvassed by their local ward members.

Progress

5. As agreed at the committee's meeting in September 2015, transportation officers contacted the Department for Transport (DfT) traffic signs division with regard to gaining agreement for a bespoke design for regulatory traffic signs for the part time access restrictions. Officers have been unable to negotiate a sign that covered the proposed access restrictions that was acceptable to the DfT
6. Consequently Norfolk Constabulary, the committee's chair and vice chair and ward members were consulted and the permanent traffic regulation order provisions were amended so that the access restrictions from 11pm to 6.00am would be in force on any day. This makes the signage straightforward and clear. Physical barriers and enforcement of the access restrictions will continue to be conducted primarily on Friday and Saturdays and as police resources allow. Although the restriction will effectively be in force legally every day, this approach ensures that the restriction can be properly signed, and enforced at any time as necessary. It also means that additional enforcement can be carried out for on other days; for example if there is a major sporting or public event on a weekday evening e.g. Halloween, World Cup etc.
7. The required statutory consultation commenced on 15 December 2015 with a closing date of 8 January 2016.
8. The consultation was publicised by a statutory notice in the local press (Norwich Evening News), on street notices on all the side roads included in the orders, reference documents were placed on deposit at Norwich City Hall main reception and online at www.norwich.gov.uk/nighttimeeconomy and local members notified by email.

Representations received

9. No written representations from the public or businesses were received.
10. Norfolk Constabulary advised that it is fully supportive of the proposals.

Moving forward

11. Based on the experience of the experimental traffic regulation order and statutory consultation responses, the view of transportation officers is that the provisions of the proposed permanent traffic regulation orders should be implemented as proposed without amendment.
12. It will be necessary to carry out the necessary statutory administration to enable the permanent order to come into effect before the experimental order expires in mid March 2016 and to install new traffic signage on street.
13. It is important to note that the new Mountergate/Rose lane car park will be opening in early 2016 which will offer 595 parking spaces at value for money tariffs. This new car park will be a very short walking distance to Prince of Wales Road and will offer sufficient parking spaces for the needs of any staff or customers for the evening economy. Therefore the removal of any pay and display or unrestricted parking spaces will be more than provided for nearby.

Conclusion

14. Transportation officers recommend that the traffic regulation orders are implemented as proposed.

a) to prohibit motor vehicle access:

11.00pm – midnight and 12.01am – 06.00am

On any such day except Christmas Day (i.e from 11pm on Christmas day through to 6am the following morning).

From the junction of Prince of Wales Road with:

- i) Cathedral Street
- ii) St Faiths Lane
- iii) Recorder Road

b) With the following exemptions:

- Emergency vehicles
- invalid carriages (mobility scooters) (Class, 1, 2 and 3 vehicles)
- pedal cycles
- motor vehicle displaying a valid disabled persons parking badge (blue badge)
- motor vehicle with a valid residents or visitor parking permit and such use meets the terms and conditions of such a permit
- motor vehicles visiting a resident whose properties entitles visitor parking permit entitlement
- motor vehicle for the access/egress of a private parking spaces

- in the service of local authority or water authority in the pursuance of statutory powers or duties
- in connection with the maintenance, improvement or reconstruction of that length of road or the laying, erection, alteration or repair in or adjacent to that length of road of any sewer, water, gas or electricity apparatus of any telecommunications apparatus as defined in the Telecommunications Act 1984
- any other vehicle that requires access as deemed by a police officer in uniform

Any vehicle leaving the affected streets may do so without restriction at any time.

d) to amend pay and display times on bays on Cathedral Street, Recorder Road and St Faiths Lane as follows:

- Cathedral Street
(west side/two bays near its junction with Prince of Wales Road)

*Mon-Sat 8am-10pm: Short Stay Parking Places for 120 Minutes, (pay and display parking) Return Prohibited Within 180 Minutes
Permit Holders Parking Places At All Other Times Mon-Sat,
No Restriction At Any Time Sunday and Christmas Day*

- Recorder Road
(bay on the south side, adjacent to the James Stuart Gardens),
(bay on the west side adjacent to Foundry Court)
- St Faiths Lane
(two bays on the north side opp. junction with Recorder Road)

*Mon-Sat 8am-6pm Short stay parking places for 120 Minutes (pay and display parking), Return prohibited within 180 Minutes
Permit holders parking places at all other times Mon-Sat and Any Time Sunday and Christmas Day*

e) to continue with the discretionary arrangement to allow private hire vehicles or taxis to wait in Castle Meadow and Bank Plain only when the access restrictions are in operation.

Appendix 1

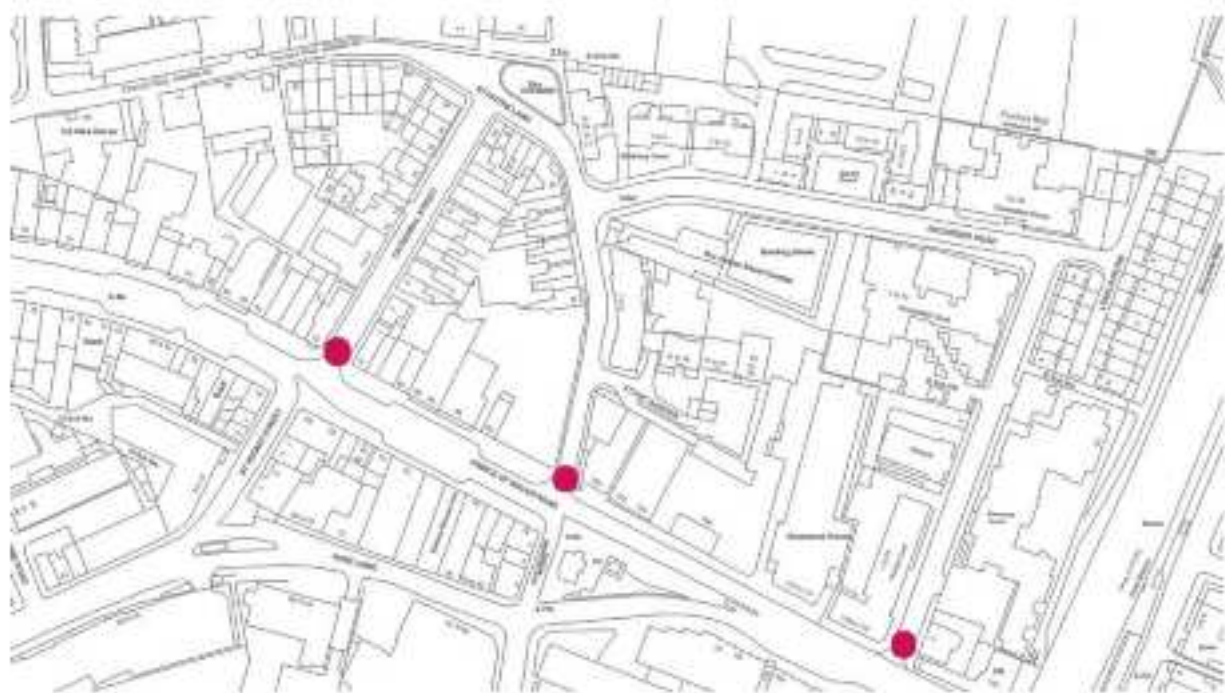


Figure 1
Map showing location of the location of the junctions where the access restrictions apply



Figure 2:
Proposed sign design

Appendix 2

Figure 3: Proposed waiting restriction amendments for Cathedral Street, Recorder Road and St Faiths Lane

