

ANGUS COUNCIL**ROADS COMMITTEE - 24 APRIL 1997****ANGUS COUNCIL (VARIATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS ORDER) 1996****REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION****ABSTRACT**

This Report relates to the introduction of a Traffic Order varying the provisions of traffic management Orders relating to the towns of Carnoustie, Brechin, Montrose, Forfar and Arbroath in order to take account of changing circumstances.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to consider the comments and observations set out in the Appendices to this Report and, if so minded, agree:-

- (1) to approve the amendment to the proposed draft Order, namely that the proposed length of no daytime waiting restrictions in Seagate, Arbroath be reduced to that of approximately 30 metres from its junction with High Street, a reduction of approximately 65 metres, and
- (2) accordingly, to recommend to the Council that the Order be made as drafted, subject to the amendment in respect of the Seagate, Arbroath referred to in (1) above.

2. INTRODUCTION

Reference is made to Article 19 of the Minute of Meeting of the Tayside Regional Council Roads and Transport Committee held on 22 November 1994 instructing and authorising the preparation of an Order introducing amendments to waiting restrictions in various towns in Angus.

3. CONSULTATION AND PUBLICATION

Following the preparation of a draft Order and during the statutory consultation undertaken by Tayside Regional Council, no adverse comments were received. After local government reorganisation, the Roads Committee of Angus Council held on 6 June 1996 authorised the formal publication of the draft Order without alteration (Article 12(d) refers).

This was subsequently done with the result that 28 letters of objection were received. In addition, 4 letters of objection where the address of the sender(s) had been omitted, and 1 letter in which the sender's name was illegible, were also received. These letters were received within the statutory 21 day period for objections to be submitted following publication and related to the proposed waiting restrictions in South Street and Seagate, Arbroath. One objection was received in respect of the proposed waiting restrictions in Baltic Street and St Marys Road, Montrose.

Following consideration of these objections, the Director of Roads recommended amendments to the proposals in South Street and Seagate reducing the length of the waiting restrictions. Explanatory letters were then sent to the correspondents asking if they were able to withdraw their objection in view of the Director of Roads' amended proposals. Replies were received from 13 of the correspondents and none of these objectors felt able to withdraw.

A summary of these objections and the observations of the Director of Roads and the Chief Constable are attached hereto. A file containing copies of the letters of objection has been placed in the Members' Lounge for information.

In November 1996, several months after the end of the statutory period allowed for objections to the proposed Order, the Director of Roads received a petition from the Fit O' The Toon Residents' Association containing in the region of two hundred signatures objecting to the proposed Order. These objections are outlined in the attached summary.

4. CONCLUSION

There is clearly considerable concern among residents in the Seagate area of Arbroath over the Council's proposed traffic management measures in that area of the town. The Director of Roads has suggested a compromise solution, although this has not led to the objections being withdrawn. Accordingly, the Committee must now decide how to proceed, and it may be that, in the absence of any local consensus, members would wish to adopt the Director's suggestions.

CATHERINE A COULL
Director of Law and Administration

NOTE: The background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report are contained in file TA/1/103.

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SEAGATE AND SOUTH STREET, ARBROATH

COMMENTS

The main areas of concern of the objectors related to pedestrian safety due to in their opinion increased volumes of traffic and parking congestion. Their view was that the introduction of the proposed waiting restrictions would only create a new "open route" giving an opportunity for HGV traffic to use this as a by-pass. They objected to lorries loading and unloading outside two factories in this area. In their opinion pedestrians were being forced to walk on the roadway due to traffic congestion given the narrowness of the road and the steepness of footpaths in places. Concerns were expressed regarding conservation issues in this area of historical interest and they believed that the proposals would have an adverse effect on tourism. Following the Director of Roads amended proposals the objectors replied stating that they were unable to withdraw in the main due to their concerns regarding the continued presence of HGV traffic loading and unloading and many were also opposed to the proposed plans to reverse the one-way traffic flow in South Street, which is in the early stage of planning but has not reached the informal consultation stage.

OBSERVATIONS

The Director of Roads did not believe that it would be feasible to remove HGV traffic from the Seagate completely as this would adversely affect goods deliveries to all local premises, private and commercial. The introduction of further waiting restrictions will reduce the overall congestion, however the Director of Roads appreciated the resulting consequences for local residents parking availability and therefore proposes to reduce the length of no daytime waiting from that first proposed to that of approximately 30 metres, only corresponding with the narrowest part of the Seagate where congestion would be at its worst to accommodate local motorists. He is willing, in conjunction with the foregoing, to monitor and if appropriate, consider the introduction of "weight limit" restrictions on the south side of West Newgate Street for "access only" which would ease the HGV by-passing problem. The Director of Roads also intends to proceed to consult over a new Traffic Order to reverse the one-way traffic flow in South Street in the near future which will reduce the length of road available to traffic tempted to build up speed in the Seagate. The priorities of adjacent junctions will also be reviewed in an effort to reduce speeds generally. The Director of Roads considers that these measures will be the best compromise to retain suitable access to the area and reduce traffic congestion in the interests of vehicular and pedestrian safety whilst balancing the needs of commercial and residential occupiers. The Chief Constable is in agreement with the views of the Director of Roads.

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BALTIC STREET AND ST MARY'S ROAD, MONTROSE

COMMENTS

Mrs Elizabeth Hogg of 68 Baltic Street, Montrose objects to the proposed waiting restrictions outside her home depriving her of on-street parking.

OBSERVATIONS

The Director of Roads considers that the waiting restrictions are essential to improve traffic safety at this hazardous location and does not recommend any amendment to this proposal. The Chief Constable fully supports the Director of Roads in this view. The Director of Roads is currently assisting Mrs Hogg in resolving an access problem to her garage which will allow her the use of this off-street parking facility.