

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Regeneration and Environment
2.	Date:	01 November 2010
3.	Title:	Middle Lane Local Safety Scheme
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To inform Cabinet Member of a proposal to introduce a local safety scheme on Middle Lane, Clifton.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked to resolve that:

- i) the scheme, as shown on drawing number 126/RS/ML/F/01A be implemented during the 2010-2011 financial year**
- ii) the scheme be funded from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2010/2011**
- iii) a Traffic Regulation Order be promoted to introduce a series of waiting restrictions in junctions of side roads with Middle Lane**

7. Proposals and Details

An accident problem was initially identified on Middle Lane following a Road Safety Audit 12 month accident monitoring report undertaken in July 2008. Two clusters of accidents were identified one consisting of one serious and three slight injury accidents between Cambridge Street and Lister Street and one cluster of three slight accidents at the Park Hotel mini roundabout. One additional accident occurred at the Middle Lane/Doncaster Road mini roundabout. In the two and a half years following this study there have been another thirteen injury accidents on Middle Lane. These consist of two slight accidents at the Middle Lane/Doncaster Road mini roundabout, one serious and two slight accidents outside Clifton Comprehensive, one serious and one slight between Cambridge Street and Lister Street and six slight accidents at the Park Hotel mini roundabout.

In order to address these accident problems and also to address resident's concerns about safety on Middle Lane, which were being raised at the Rotherham South Area Assembly, it was decided to develop a local safety scheme for Middle Lane through a series of workshops with the community. Officers from the Rotherham South Area Assembly arranged and assisted at these workshops.

In March 2009 an initial workshop was held to identify what residents thought were road safety problems on Middle Lane and to develop a possible road safety scheme to treat these problems. Two groups at this workshop developed two different schemes to solve the identified road safety problems. These schemes were assessed by Officers from the Transportation Unit after the workshop and were combined into one proposed scheme which consisted of

- putting both of the existing zebra crossings on Middle Lane onto bus friendly flat top road humps
- permitting cycling on the footway to the east side of Middle Lane between Badsley Moor Lane and Doncaster Road
- changing the position of give way lines at the mini roundabout at Park Hotel and putting one set of speed cushions on the Middle Lane South
- adding two bus friendly flat top road humps to create two informal crossing points close to Clifton Comprehensive School and the Church
- replacing/installing bollards along the whole of Middle Lane to give the same type of bollard along its whole length
- removing the centre line on the section of Middle Lane between Cambridge Street and Lister Street

A second workshop was held in June 2009 at which Officers from the Transportation Unit presented details of the combined scheme. Following extensive discussion it was agreed that this combined scheme would be presented to residents in the streets surrounding Middle Lane who may be affected by the proposals for them to make comment on. This proposal is shown on drawing number 126/RS/ML/F/01 a copy of which is attached as Appendix A.

In October 2009, a consultation letter and plan was delivered to approximately 850 households in the surrounding area, with an invitation to attend an exhibition meeting to discuss the scheme.

Of the 850 letters delivered 98 were returned giving an 11% response rate. The main comments made in these responses were

- Do not want cycling on the footpath (44 mentions)
- Do not want speed humps (22 mentions)
- Do not want alterations to the roundabout (9 mentions)
- Do not want the centre line removing (4 mentions)
- Like the scheme and didn't want any changes (11 mentions)
- Want Clifton Lane re-opening (32 mentions)
- Want more waiting restrictions in and around Middle Lane (25 mentions)
- Want more pedestrian crossings (22 mentions)
- Want additional speed humps on side roads (8 mentions)

Taking into account comments made by people responding to the consultation letter the following items were removed from the scheme

- shared use footway/cycleway (due to the number of comments made in respect of this)
- road hump closest to Doncaster Road (to reduce number of road humps)
- road hump on zebra crossing outside Clifton Comprehensive School (this has been replaced by speed cushions either side of the zebra crossing due to practicalities on site)
- build-out at the junction of Newton Drive (due to concerns about turning out onto Middle Lane from Newton Drive and Gilberthorpe Street. This has been replaced with waiting restrictions.)

and the following have been added

- waiting restrictions in the junctions of side roads with Middle Lane
- changes to improve loading/short term parking close to shops
- install "Zebra-Bright" on belisha beacons to increase prominence of crossings

A final meeting was held in March 2010 with attendees from the original workshops to present the finding of the consultation and to finally agree on the scheme. This final proposal is shown on the drawing number 126/RS/ML/F/01A a copy of which is attached as Appendix B.

An update letter was sent to the 850 households consulted in October 2009 giving details of the changes made to the proposed scheme in response to consultation.

A road hump notice was advertised on 3 September 2010 and no objections were received in response to this notice.

8. Finance

The cost for the scheme has been estimated at £127,800 (including both fees and works cost). Funding is currently available from the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2010-2011.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

None

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposals are in line with objectives set out in the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Appendix A Plan number 126/RS/ML/F/01 showing the layout of the scheme developed by the community workshops

Appendix B Plan number 126/RS/ML/F/01A showing the layout of the proposed scheme

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