

Bolton Council

Report to: Executive Cabinet Member
Environmental Services

Date: 15 June 2015

Report of: Director of Environmental Services

Report No: ECMES/03/15a

Contact Officer: Joe Fox

Tel No: 01204 336429

Report Title: **Petition Requesting Weight Restriction and Traffic Calming on Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road.**

Non Confidential: This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose: To advise the Executive Cabinet Member on a request for a Weight Restriction and Traffic Calming on Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road.

Recommendations: The Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services is asked to approve the following:

The introduction of a weight restriction on Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road is not supported.

The introduction of Traffic Calming on Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road is not supported however more suitable Traffic Management measures with a reduction in speed limit are supported subject to funding being made available.

Decision:

Signed:

Leader / Executive
Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Summary:

A petition has been received from residents, walkers, horse riders and cyclists to introduce a weight restriction and traffic calming measures on Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road to improve road safety on this route. The Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services is requested to approve the recommendations contained in this report.

Background Information

1. A petition, containing 400 signatures, has been received from a resident of Colliers Row Road which includes residents, walkers, cyclists and horse riders who are concerned about the volume, size and speed of vehicles using the route along Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road
2. Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road are part of the route which runs between Chorley Old Road to the south and Belmont Road to the North and extends for 4.6km part of which is Scout Road.
3. The petition author has requested the following:
 - Introduce weight limit on Walker Fold Road over the bridge known local as “cigarette tunnel”.
 - Traffic calming measures on the whole route of Walker Fold Road and Colliers Row Road.

Officer Comments

4. The introduction of a weight restriction on the bridge known as cigarette tunnel would be impractical and any such restriction would need to be along the route from the nearest main road junctions. In this case that would be between Smithills Dean Road and Chorley Old Road.
5. The implications of introducing a weight restrictions on HGV traffic would require a minimum of an additional journey of 2.4km on a route which includes 2 signal controlled junctions and a major roundabout at the A58/B6226 junction. This is based on the weight restriction being between Smithills Dean Road and Chorley Old Road.
6. The enforcement of a weight restriction would require full support from the Police as at this time they are the only organisation which can carry out enforcement. A weight restriction is subject to an access only condition to still allow for local deliveries, refuse collections etc . This in turn leads to its own issues in that enforcement requires a vehicle to be followed along the whole route to ensure that it is there for legitimate reasons. The resource required to undertake this type of enforcement, particularly on a route of considerable length, causes difficulties for the Police.
7. The introduction of traffic calming is introduced as an injury accident reduction intervention and not to reduce vehicle speeds or deter types and/or numbers of vehicles. It is not practical to introduce traffic calming in its normal format such as road humps or chicanes as these require street lighting to be installed along the length which would be prohibitive due to the cost.
8. The alternative to consider is a traffic management scheme which is more appropriate in this case given the nature of the road. This includes features such as hazard warning signs, additional road markings and coloured surfacing in an effort to improve road safety. There has also been a request to reduce the speed limit from National Speed Limit to 50mph on this route and it would be prudent to introduce the two proposals together.
9. A draft scheme has been developed for this route and is subject to consultation with Members and residents and the necessary funding being made available.

Recommendations

10. The Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services is asked to approve the following:

The introduction of a weight restriction on Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road is not supported.

The introduction of Traffic Calming on Colliers Row Road and Walker Fold Road is not supported however more suitable Traffic Management measures together with a reduction in speed limit are supported subject to funding being made available.