

Briefing Note for Cllr Macinnes (Transport Convener), Cllr Doran (Vice Convener), Cllr K Campbell, Cllr Laidlaw, Cllr Child, Cllr M Campbell

TOPIC: Brunstane Road closure and Coillesdene Traffic management issues

Date: 26 November 2019

Background: The Council, as part of its temporary traffic management plan for the renewal of Brighton Place, closed Brunstane Road in February 2019 following complaints in respect of traffic volume and speeding. The temporary traffic regulation order (TTRO) for Brunstane Rd was secured until November 2019 to align with the planned reopening of Brighton Place. A proposal has now been received from the “Brunstane Road Residents Group” for Brunstane road to remain permanently closed. Prior to its temporary closure historical complaints have been raised relating to the narrowness of the carriageway and volume of traffic using the road. Complaints have also been received from Coillesdene residents about increased traffic volumes and speeds since Brunstane Road was temporarily closed.

Context – Current situation

- Residents of Brunstane Road have experienced the temporary closure of the road since February 2019. A resident’s group has been established who are now actively campaigning for the road to be permanently closed to “through vehicular” traffic but open to cycling and pedestrians. The Group has acknowledged that any future decision made in respect of Brunstane Road must account for concerns raised by Coillesdene residents with regards to the potential impact of secondary traffic.
- Residents who reside in the Coillesdene area, have via their own residents’ group, expressed concerns about the volume and speed of traffic in the area since Brunstane Rd was closed. The resident’s group has voiced their concerns about any future plans for a permanent closure of Brunstane Road and the potential traffic impact on the wider area.

Context – Current Council Actions

- Locality/Transport officers and local elected members have met with both resident groups to hear about their concerns in respect of local traffic management issues.
- The Brunstane Rd residents group presented a strategy document which sets out the Group’s preferred position regarding a permanent closure. The Strategy also contained survey results gathered from speaking to local residents. The proposals set out in the document sought to view the area in a holistic way which took the whole “Joppa Triangle” area into consideration addressing concerns from both communities.
- Officers were asked by elected members to conduct a traffic survey of the Coillesdene area due to complaints about volume and speeding traffic. This survey was completed mid-September 2019 and did evidence that traffic is using the Coillesdene area as a short cut between Milton Rd and Joppa.
- Officers were also asked to organise a community event as a first step to hear about wider residents current traffic management issues and to determine what level of support there would be for traffic management changes. The event took place on 29 October 2019.
- Initial proposals were presented by the Council at the Community event with the aim of promoting “quieter streets” to help address some of the complaints raised by residents.

Community Event – 29 October 2019

- A drop-in session was held for the community with local residents receiving information about the event via letter delivered to those living within the identified “Joppa triangle” area. The

event was well supported with 145 households in attendance (figure may have been higher as not all attendees may have signed in).

- As part of the event the Council presented a draft proposal to improve traffic management in the area. The main purpose of the proposal was to stimulate debate about what potential changes the Council can make to promote “quieter streets” in the local area.
- Attendees were invited to complete a feedback form with regards to recording their thoughts and opinions following the event. Strong opinions and views were expressed for and against the closure of Brunstane Road and any changes to the Coillesdenes.
- A total of 123 feedback responses were received with a broad range of views and opinions expressed. It is evident that the majority of residents from Brunstane Rd want the road closed on a permanent basis while the majority of residents from elsewhere in the area do not. Many residents out with Brunstane Road acknowledge that the current road is not fit for purpose and other options other than a closure should be considered, for example a one-way system or parking restrictions. Many residents also highlighted concerns about the future impact of the local planning site at New Brunstane.
- Resident feedback will be taken cognisance of if final design options are progressed.

Next Stage and Timescales

- Brighton place is due to reopen end November 2019/early December 2019. The TTRO for Brunstane Rd expired 17 November 2019 and has been extended to align with the Brighton place reopening.
- Under the current TTRO for the area Brunstane Road will reopen once Brighton Place is completed.
- Following the community event and feedback from local Resident Groups the Council will need to determine what future options, if any, should be considered for ongoing traffic management issues in the local area. Following the opening of Brighton Place a decision is required as to whether the Council:-
 - 1) Choose to continue with current road and transportation network in the area.
 - 2) Promote a “quieter streets” traffic management scheme for the area incorporating a proposed closure of Brunstane Road to vehicular traffic and traffic management measures for the Coillesdene area.
- Should option 2 be the preferred choice resources will need to be allocated to undertake further design, community engagement and potential implementation of the scheme. Given feedback gained to date it is recommended that any proposals are introduced on an “experimental basis” and promoted via an Experimental TRO.
- Final proposals could be presented to the local community to gauge public opinion before any formal report is presented to the Transport and Environment Committee.
- A final decision would be determined by the Transport and Environment Committee and if a decision to proceed is reached then the Council would initiate the statutory ETRO process.
- Any decision to promote a permanent TRO would only be considered following an evaluation of the ETRO traffic management system.

Financial Impact

- Other than current staff allocations no financial resources have been allocated to promote a new traffic management system for the area.
- Future design work and implementation of any traffic management proposals could be partially funded via Sustrans “places for everyone” initiative.