**Briefing Note for Brunstane Road Residents Group, Joppa Residents Group**

**TOPIC: Joppa traffic management proposals**

**Date:** **January 2020**

**Background**

The Council, as part of its temporary traffic management plan for the reconstruction of the setted carriageway at Brighton Place, implemented a temporary closure of Brunstane Road in February 2019 following complaints received from local residents. Brighton Place reopened to all vehicular traffic in December 2019, at which time Brunstane Road was reopened.

During the temporary closure a proposal was received from Brunstane Road residents for the closure to be made permanent. Prior to its temporary closure there had been a history of complaints concerning traffic, especially at the narrow bridge over the railway line, alongside other safety concerns and incidents of anti-social behaviour.

During the temporary closures of Brighton Place and Brunstane Road complaints were received from residents in the Coillesdene area concerning a perceived increase in traffic in that area as drivers sought alternative routes.

**Context – Current situation**

* Following the reopening of both Brighton Place and Brunstane Road, the Brunstane Road residents’ group have continued to campaign for the road to be permanently closed to through traffic, with access retained for cyclists and pedestrians. They acknowledge that if Brunstane Road was closed then this should only be on the basis that traffic concerns raised by Coillesdene residents were also addressed.
* Residents who reside in the Coillesdene area have, via their own residents’ group, raised concerns and objections to a permanent closure of Brunstane Road.
* More recently the Brighton and Rosefield Residents’ Association have also raised concerns about the potential closure of Brunstane Road and the impact that any displaced traffic might have on Brighton Place.
* Both Brunstane Road Resident’s Group and Joppa Resident’s Group have undertaken surveys of local resident’s views, with the Brunstane Road Residents Group producing a strategy document which sets out the Group’s preferred position regarding a permanent closure. The Group’s strategy sought to view the area in a holistic way taking the whole “Joppa Triangle” area into consideration addressing concerns from both communities.

**Context – Current Council Actions**

* Locality/Transport officers and local elected members have met with Brunstane Road and Joppa resident groups to hear about their concerns in respect of local traffic management issues.
* Local Elected Members, following complaints of traffic in the Coillesdene area, instructed Council officers to conduct a traffic survey in the area. The survey was completed mid-September 2019 and did evidence that traffic was using the Coillesdene area as a short cut between Milton Rd and Joppa.
* Officers were also asked to organise a community event to seek wider concerns relating to local transport issues and to determine what level of support there would be to potentially change traffic management in the area. The event took place on 29 October 2019 and was well attended with over 145 households represented.
* Initial proposals were presented by the Council at the community event with the aim of addressing concerns raised by the local community while also promoting the Council’s policy of “Quieter Streets” within the area.
* A total of 123 feedback responses were received at the event with a broad range of views and opinions expressed. It is evident that the majority of residents from Brunstane Road want the road closed on a permanent basis, albeit only if Coillesdene area concerns are addressed, whilst the majority of residents from elsewhere in the area do support the closure. Many residents in the wider area consider that Brunstane 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 especially with increased traffic volumes on local roads.

**Next Stage and Timescales**

* Following the community event and feedback from local groups the Council has reviewed what potential changes if any could be undertaken to local traffic management in the Joppa triangle area. It is evident from reviewing traffic concerns in the area that the current situation is unsustainable and that increased traffic volumes will continue especially with continued new development proposed at New Brunstane/Newcraighall and in neighbouring East Lothian.
* Wider Council transport policy aims to promote the introduction of a network of “quiet streets” where motorised vehicle dominance is reduced while active travel, such as cycling and walking, is encouraged. The policy also aims to filter main vehicular traffic volumes to primary roads while utilising local roads for local traffic and community usage such as walking, cycling and play.
* The Council’s recent Climate Change Crisis commitment and launch of the 2030 Mobility Plan reinforce the need to significantly reduce the reliance and dominance of private/commercial vehicle usage and encourage greater use of public transport and active travel modes.
* Given the broad concerns and objections raised in the local area about changes to local traffic management it would be premature to promote any permanent changes to traffic management at this point. Notwithstanding this, changes to traffic management in the area should be considered to determine if these will address current local challenges, future new build development and support wider Council transport and climate change objectives.
* Temporary traffic management changes can be introduced on a trial basis by the promotion of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). This approach would give the Council and local community time to monitor the operation of and, if necessary, amend layouts and movement restrictions to assess the impact of any proposed changes and address any issues that may arise during the trial.
* The proposed traffic management changes (see attached plan) have taken into account feedback from the public engagement event including traffic calming to Coillesdene Avenue and changes to Milton Terrace to minimise the risk of “through traffic” travelling south to Milton Road. Improvements to road safety for users accessing Joppa Quarry Park via the public footbridge will also be considered.
* As part of the traffic management proposals for the area the Council also aims to improve conditions for cyclists and to reduce congestion at Brighton Place. These proposals will be developed further and consulted with local residents and groups prior to promoting any proposals.
* A road user safety audit will be carried out in advance of promoting any traffic changes to the area and emergency services also consulted.
* It is proposed that a report recommending the promotion of traffic management changes to the Joppa area and Brighton Place is presented to the Transport and Environment Committee in May 2020.
* If these proposals are approved an ETRO will be published where objections and feedback can be recorded from the local community, key stakeholders and all other parties. Whilst objections are formally recorded these will only be reviewed and responded to at the end of the ETRO process.
* The maximum duration of an ETRO is 18 months.
* A final decision to promote permanent changes to traffic management in the area would be determined following an evaluation of the ETRO. A final decision would be presented to the Transport and Environment Committee and if permanent changes are agreed the formal TRO process would then commence.

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