SUMMARY

Purpose: This report refers to four objections received in respect to proposals to introduce a series of traffic regulation orders on the estate roads fronting the school lowering the speed limit to 20 mph and introducing no waiting at any time regulations.

Reason for Decision: To consider the objection and to determine how to proceed.

Consultation: Local Ward Members, Legal Services.

Recommendation(s): It is recommended that the objections are noted and the proposed restrictions amended to reduce the restriction along 60 metres of the south western kerbline of Ffordd Beck to “no waiting Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm” and that the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be made and sealed subject to that amendment and that the objectors are informed of the decision.

1.0 Background:

1.1 As a consequence of the opening of the new primary school in Gowerton it was considered that a series of traffic regulation orders were required in order to promote road safety in the proximity of the new school. The proposed measures to introduce a 20 mph limit together with prohibition of waiting restrictions at any time were advertised in January 2016. In response to the advert the Council received four letters of objection all of which related to the introduction of the prohibition of waiting.

2.0 Details of the objections

2.1 The Council has received four letters of objection to the proposals. All of the objections relate to the prohibition of waiting at any time, with all respondents adjoining the affected area.

2.2 The issues raised by all objectors are broadly similar. All were concerned over the extent of the lining and in particular, the “at any time” restriction. All objectors noted that the school pick up drop off times are in the morning peak and afternoon peak, whereas the restrictions impact on
residents at all times. One objector also noted that there was no requirement for the restrictions during the school holidays.

2.3 The objectors also noted that there was no alternative provision for parking, this has resulted in drivers displacing onto Porth y Waun which, being narrower than Ffordd Beck is creating additional problems.

2.4 Two of the objectors noted that the restrictions in the vicinity of the roundabout were not required as the road is particularly wide at this location.

3.0 Comments on the objections:

3.1 The measures proposed were introduced to discourage parents from driving their children to school by limiting the availability of on street parking in the vicinity of the school. However, in particular, the proposed restrictions on the Ffordd Beck in the vicinity of the roundabout were seen as helping to improve road safety in proximity to the junction and helping to maintain the free flow of traffic.

3.2 Given the concerns raised by local residents it is considered in the less sensitive traffic areas it would be beneficial to reduce the restriction to reflect the school opening times. Consequently it is proposed to reduce the level of restriction along 60m of the south western kerbline to “no waiting Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm”.

3.3 By making this amendment it will create approximately 10 parking spaces at evenings and weekends which should remove the pressures on the narrower side streets lessening the impact on those living in immediate proximity to the restrictions. However it is not proposed to amend the restriction in the vicinity of the roundabout or at the bend as these are seen as key safety measures, which given the increased volumes of traffic generated by the school, are necessary.

3.4 A plan, drawing reference T.EXS.15.001A, showing the revised layout is appended to this report.

3.5 The costs of the amendments are estimated at £1350 and can be met from existing resources.

4.0 Legal Implication:

4.1 The Traffic Regulation Order has been proposed in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 which require that Notice of the proposals is advertised in a newspaper circulating in the area. Before a Traffic Regulation Order can be made it is necessary to consider all objections. Where objections have been made the Council must be satisfied that it is appropriate to make the order, having considered the objections.

5.0 Recommendation:

5.1 It is recommended that the objection are noted and the proposed restrictions amended to reduce the restriction along 60metres of the south
western kerbline of Ffordd Beck to “no waiting Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm” and that the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be made and sealed subject to that amendment and that the objectors are informed of the decision.

6.0 Background Papers:

6.1 Four objections were considered in the preparation of this report.

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