

Petitions Panel

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	Wednesday 29 November 2017
Officer	Andrew Martin – Head of Highways.
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions – Petition requesting that Dogdean, Wimborne be made “access only”.
Executive Summary	A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council's published petitions scheme) in relation to requesting that a Traffic Regulation Order be introduced in Dogdean, Wimborne to make it “access only”.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: Not applicable
	Use of Evidence: Site investigations and latest available five years worth of road traffic collision data (June 2012 to May 2017)
	Budget: The cost of introducing a Traffic Regulation Order covering the “access only” in Dogdean would likely to be between £2500 and £3500 – costs are for context only and do not represent actual costs, they include officer time and costs of the necessary signing and lining as well as costs associated with the legal process.
	Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW
	Other Implications: None

Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled Dogdean Access Only

Recommendation	The Panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.
Reason for Recommendation	In order to comply with the County Council's published scheme for responding to petitions and so as to enable local people to connect with local elected decision makers.
Appendices	Appendix A - Copy of petition Appendix B - Plan of Dogdean Appendix C & D – Photos of current signage
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme
Officer Contact	Name: Michael Potter Collision Reduction Team Manager, Dorset Highways Tel: 01305 221767 Email: m.potter@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1. Background to the Petition Scheme

- 1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010. The Scheme was subsequently updated by the County Council on 21 July 2016.
- 1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be dealt with by a small customer focussed panel. If a petition is supported by 1,000 or more signatories it will be scheduled for a debate at the next meeting of the full County Council.

2. Petition – Request to make Dogdean access only.

- 2.1 The County Council received a petition organised by Mr Peter Harvey on 19 July 2017. This reads as follows:

We, the undersigned residents of, and visitors to, Dogdean, Wimborne, respectfully request Dorset County Council urgently to put in place a Traffic Order restricting access to Dogdean for only those living in the lane or who have business there.

Increasingly local traffic is using Dogdean as a rat-run to avoid using Furzehill or other roads in the area. Parents of pupils attending Dumpton School use Dogdean regularly as do people trying to avoid Burts Hill. Six hundred and fifty houses are to be built just below Dogdean and already we are experiencing construction traffic trying to get to the site. As Wimborne becomes increasingly congested it is inevitable that even more drivers will be using Dogdean to avoid the town to get to the bypass.

Dogdean is only wide enough for one vehicle at a time, with no passing bays, so inevitably cars have to back up to let others pass or they drive into residents' drives or, as has happened on a number of occasions, they try to pass on the verge and have then got stuck in the concealed ditch at the side.

- 2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Panel are invited to note and discuss. A copy of the petition can be found at Appendix A and the petition contains 51 signatures.
- 2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include one or more of the following:
 - taking the action requested in the petition
 - considering the petition at a council meeting
 - holding an inquiry into the matter
 - undertaking research into the matter
 - holding a public meeting
 - holding a consultation
 - referring the petition for consideration by the council's Audit and Governance Committee
 - calling a referendum
 - writing to the petition organiser setting out the Panel's views about the request in the petition.
- 2.4 Alternatively, the Panel may determine a combination of the options above, or decide on another course of action as appropriate.

3. Context

- 3.1 Dogdean is a small country road that links Smugglers Lane and Cranborne Road between Furzehill and Colehill. It is approximately 0.6 of a mile long and has approximately 17 residential properties along it. A map showing the location of the road can be found at Appendix B.

At each end of Dogdean there are warning signs that the road is unsuitable for HGV's (see appendices C & D).

There are two other roads close by that run roughly parallel to Dogdean, namely Burts Hill and Furzehill which are wider and would normally be used to travel to Cranborne Road or Smugglers Lane. Unfortunately there are no traffic flow surveys that have been carried out at Dogdean so there is no evidence of traffic volumes.

It is important to consider that this “access only” request is one of close to 120 other requests for a new Traffic Regulation Order across the Dorset County area and is unlikely to rank highly against other requests.

- 3.2 Collision data available to the County Council is provided and validated by Dorset Police. It includes collisions that occurred on public highway reported to the police that resulted in personal injury to any person(s) involved.

It is accepted that this data is not the complete picture of collisions that have occurred however, it is the most robust and reliable data available to the County Council.

It is standard practice to assess the most recent five year period of collisions when considering/identifying safety schemes.

Between July 2012 and June 2017 there has been one injury collision recorded in Dogdean, Wimborne. The collision was between a car and a pedal cyclist on the sharp bend in August 2015 where the car driver was impaired by drugs.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The Panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it, possible options are available in paragraph 2.3.
- 4.2 Based on the available data and information outlined in the report it is recommended not to proceed with the “access only” order for Dogdean, Wimborne.

Officer Contact

Name: Michael Potter

Tel: 01305 221767

Email: m.potter@dorsetcc.gov.uk

**Andrew Martin
Head of Highways
November 2017**