

St Matthews Birchills Leamore Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 6th March 2007

Environmental Issues in Caldmore

Portfolio: Safer Stronger Communities, Partnerships and Vision 2021

Service Area: Neighbourhood Services

Wards: St Matthews Ward
Birchills Leamore Ward

1. Purpose of the Report

This report seeks to address issues raised by Mr Chand in the Public Forum at the LNP meeting on 16th November 2006 on local traffic issues.

2. Recommendations

The LNP is asked to:

- (a) Note the details in this report
- (b) Support the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders for Caldmore Road.

3. Report

Caldmore District Centre comprises almost entirely of Edwardian and Victorian terraced residential and business premises served by narrow roads and footpaths with an inevitable high incidence of on-street parking. There are 3 Council car parks in White Street, Hart Street and St Michael Street and the area is subject to various Limited Waiting, Restricted Waiting and Waiting Prohibitions at strategic locations.

Unfortunately, the area has been subject to indiscriminate and illegal parking for many years with the main area of concern being Caldmore Road outside the shops between The Green and Mount Street which is subject to 1 hour Limited Waiting; Peak Time Waiting Restrictions and Waiting Prohibitions. The other side of the road is subject to a Waiting Prohibition but effectively most of the road fronting the shops is occupied by vehicles for most of the day.

Caldmore Road also carries the Blackheath to Walsall Bus Show Case Route 404 and with the width of the road being only approximately 6.2 metres wide vehicles are frequently having to be driven over the footpath in order to get by.

The Caldmore area and particularly Caldmore Road was included in the Council's recent Joint Parking Enforcement Initiative and several Notices were issued for illegal parking on yellow lines. I understand the Police Wardens did

follow up with further action but as there are now only a couple of wardens left in Walsall there is little likelihood of any further significant enforcement until Decriminalisation in April 08. (The Council is introducing Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement in April 2008. This means that the enforcement of parking will no longer be with the police but the Council)

The alternative proposal of a One way Working for this section of Caldmore Road would obviously affect the 404 Route with the only viable alternative route leading to a major reduction in Public Transport penetration.

The only realistic measure to improve the through flow of traffic in this part of Caldmore Road would be to introduce a Working Day Prohibition and Loading Ban and this was in fact advertised as part of a raft of similar proposals associated with preparatory negotiations for the 404 Bus Show Case Route. However the overall level of objections was considerable and the measures were not subsequently pursued. With the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) having now lapsed it would be necessary to re-advertise but subject to available resources and the enthusiastic support of the LNP it might be prudent to re-examine this proposal.

The scheme is a priority for the Council and we intend to advertise the TRO's and complete the scheme within the following financial year. Your help and assistance with the progress of this scheme would be invaluable in it's successful completion and the retention of Public Transport within Caldmore Road.

4. Contact Officer

Glyn Oliver
Service Manager Traffic and Transportation
01922 652503
oliverg@walsall.gov.uk