

P/14/0570/VC

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SARISBURY

AGENT: HAMPSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL

VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF P/13/0547/VC TO EXTEND THE TRIAL OPENING OF
THE BUS GATE FOR A FURTHER SIX MONTHS

YEW TREE DRIVE FAREHAM HAMPSHIRE

Report By

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Site Description

The site is located off Botley Road, Swanwick just south of Ashley Close. A connection was opened in 2008 between Botley Road and Yew Tree Drive (leading to the development of Whiteley) with restricted access for emergency vehicles and buses only.

Description of Proposal

The access connection was permitted under planning permission P/05/1533/FP and was subject to the following condition (No.2):

'No development shall take place until details of the bus gate, including bus control measures have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. The approved bus control measures shall be constructed before the bus link is first brought into use and shall be retained at all times. The link road shall subsequently be used by buses and emergency vehicles only unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority following the submission of a planning application made for that purpose.'

Temporary planning permission was granted under P/13/0547/VC on 23 August 2013 allowing the bus gate to be opened to all traffic for a temporary period of one year during which a three month trial period would be carried out.

Condition 2 of the planning permission stated:

'Following a 12 month period expiring on 23rd August 2014, the link road permitted under planning reference P/05/1533/FP shall be used by buses and emergency vehicles only (and controlled to prevent use by other vehicles as previously agreed pursuant to P/05/1533/FP) unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority following the submission of a planning application made for that purpose.'

This application seeks an extension of time to allow the opening of the bus gate for a further six months.

Policies

The following policies apply to this application:

Approved Fareham Borough Core Strategy

CS5 - Transport Strategy and Infrastructure

Development Sites and Policies

T9 - Access to Whiteley

Fareham Borough Local Plan Review

T8 - Improvements to the Distributor Road Network

T9 - Access to Whiteley

Relevant Planning History

The following planning history is relevant:

<u>P/13/0547/VC</u>	TO ENABLE A TRIAL OPENING OF THE BUS GATE FOR ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF DECISION SO THE EFFECTS OF THE BUS GATE OPENING TO ALL TRAFFIC (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES) CAN BE MONITORED BY HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AS HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 P/05/1533/FP)
	APPROVE 23/08/2013
<u>P/05/1533/FP</u>	Construction of Roundabout & Yew Tree Drive Link Road (Bus Only Access)
	PERMISSION 23/12/2005

Representations

Three representations have been received at the time of writing this report raising the following concerns:

- The problem of traffic in the area has arisen because of the failure to complete Whiteley Way;
- The present temporary opening has resulted in a very significant increase in vehicle flows on Botley Road and through Burr ridge;
- Object to further temporary opening and permanent opening until the completion of Whiteley Way;
- A large increase in traffic has been seen passing the primary school;
- The gate should be closed now to allow clearer analysis as to whether the opening is right for local residents;
- Since opening of the bus gate there is additional activity and noise around the roundabout;
- Hazard from speeding traffic.

Consultations

Director of Community (Environmental Health) - No objection

Director of Planning and Development (Highways) - no objection

Planning Considerations - Key Issues

The Yew Tree Drive bus link was originally opened as a bus only link onto the Botley Road in May 2008. This aimed to give priority to public transport in the Whiteley area. Since then

residents have asked whether traffic congestion around Whiteley could be reduced if the link was open to all vehicles.

The Yew Tree Drive bus gate was opened to all traffic over a three week period in July 2012 as a result of National Grid maintenance works. This provided an initial opportunity to monitor traffic flows with the bus gate open for a set period of time.

Following the three week opening of the bus gate a public consultation was undertaken in February 2013. This consultation identified that 84% of respondents wanted a trial opening of the bus gate to take place.

A planning application, P/13/0547/VC refers, was submitted last year to enable a trial opening of the bus gate to all traffic, for one year from 23 August 2013 (with the exception of heavy goods vehicles) allowing monitoring by Hampshire County Council as Highway Authority.

As a result of the trial opening of the bus gate, the following mitigation measures were introduced in the Whiteley area as a requirement of the planning permission, prior to the formal opening of the bus gate:

- Speed cushions on the length of Yew Tree Drive from its junction with Botley Road to its junction with Rookery Avenue;
- Toucan crossing - a new signal controlled pedestrian and cycle crossing at an existing crossing place to the south of Gull Coppice, where the School Crossing Patrol currently operates;
- Experimental Heavy Goods Vehicle ban - creation of a vehicle weight restriction, for all vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes on Yew Tree Drive between its junctions with Botley Road and Clydesdale Road (the Yew Tree Drive Bus Gate). The traffic regulation order bans all HGV movements through the bus gate even for access;
- Experimental Heavy Goods Vehicle ban - creation of a vehicle weight restriction, accept for access, for all vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes on Yew Tree Drive between its junctions with Rookery Avenue and Clydesdale Road. The traffic regulation order will allow for HGV's in excess of 7.5 tonnes to access Yew Tree Drive to serve residential areas etc., but will not allow Yew Tree Drive to be used as a through route. Access to Yew Tree Drive will only be allowed however via Rookery Avenue;
- Additional white lining on Swanwick Lane - the introduction of carriageway edge lines and the removal of centreline markings along Swanwick Lane;
- Pedestrian refuge island on the western end of Swanwick Lane at the eastern end of the lay-by near to the playground;
- Uncontrolled crossing on Botley Road to the north of Station Road - measures include new dropped kerbs, tactile paving, reflective bollards and a coloured road surfacing strip;
- Uncontrolled crossing on Botley Road near Beacon Bottom - measures include new dropped kerbs, tactile paving, reflective bollards and a coloured road surfacing strip;
- Pedestrian refuge island on Botley Road midway between Rookery Avenue and

Calabrese;

- Relocation of bus stop on Yew Tree Drive near Gull Coppice to allow waiting buses to be clear of the informal crossing point;
- Relocation of the bus stop to the east of Sweethills Crescent to improve visibility of on coming vehicles for pedestrians wishing to cross Yew Tree Drive;
- Speed cushions on the currently un-calmed arm of Sweethills Crescent;
- 20 mph speed limit on Yew Tree Drive in the vicinity of Gull Coppice to include the proposed Toucan crossing.

The implementation of the above mitigation works was programmed to commence following completion by the Highways Agency of bridge pier replacement works on the M27 in the vicinity of junction 9. Construction works therefore started on 25 November 2013. Due to the unusually wet weather conditions over the winter period, the implementation of these works took longer than anticipated and did not complete until the end of February 2014. As such a three month formal monitoring period commenced on Monday 24 February 2014.

Subsequent to the completion of the monitoring period, analysis of the data obtained during the monitoring period, such as traffic counts, speed data, vehicle classification information, air and noise quality data, is being undertaken. In addition a public consultation has been carried out, which ended on 4 July 2014, to determine public perception of the opening and the mitigation measures that were implemented. The responses from the consultation will need to be analysed.

The results from both the monitoring data and the public consultation analysis will feed into a report, which is to go to the Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, in September. This report will contain a recommendation on whether an application should be made for the permanent opening of the bus gate or not and if any additional mitigation measures are required.

Due to the timescales involved, this application is seeking an extension in the trial opening of the bus gate for a further six months in order to allow for the monitoring and analysis of the data and responses to be carried out, together with the potential time required to apply for a permanent opening should this be required.

Conclusion

Officers are aware of the importance of extending the trial opening of the bus gate for a further period of six months in order for the Highway Authority to fully assess the monitoring, data and public responses as a result of the formal trial period and the recent public consultation.

Reasons For Granting Permission

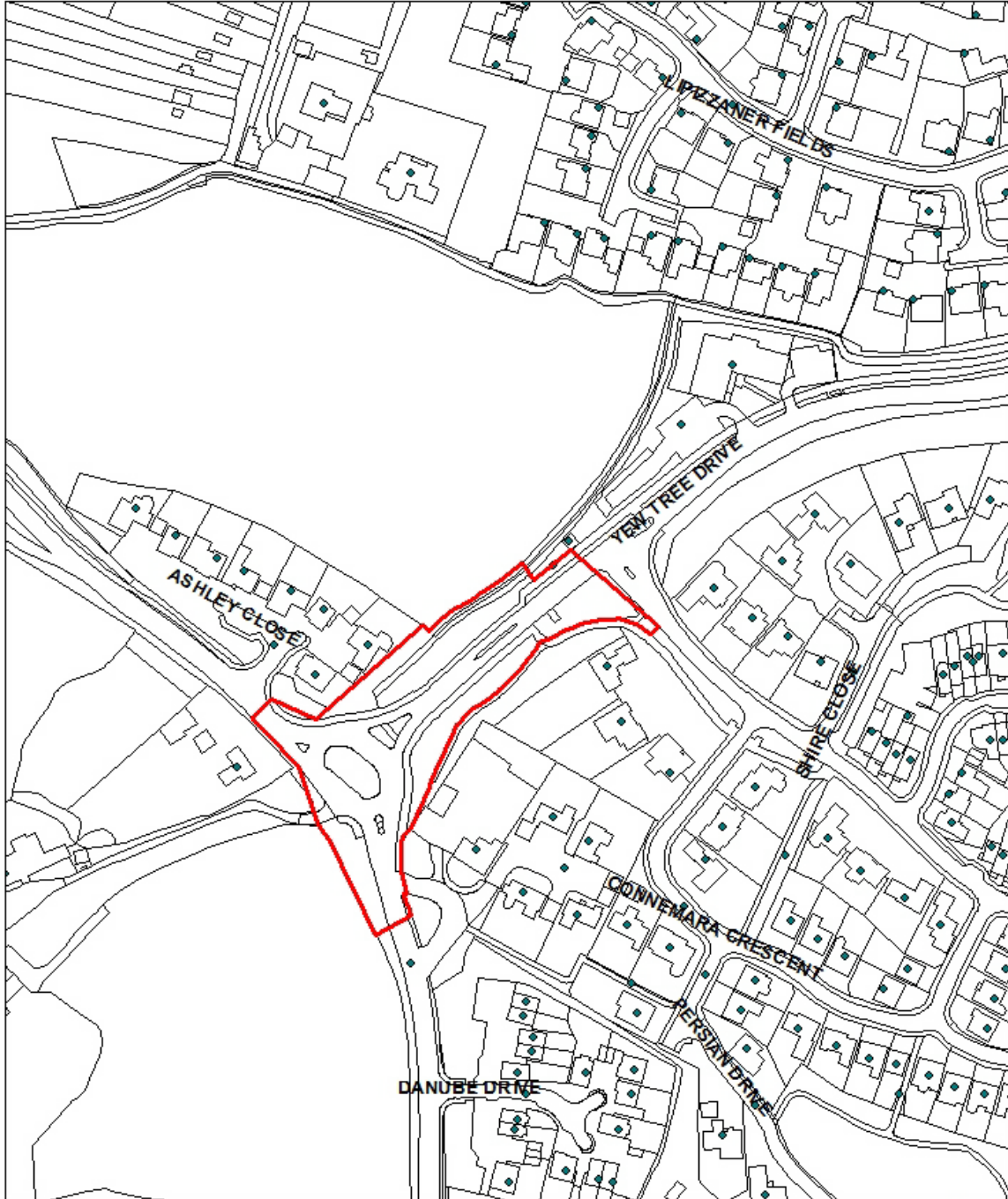
TEMPORARY PERMISSION: Limited period of six months; conditions on P/14/0570/VC continue to apply.

Background Papers

P/05/1533/FP, P/13/0547/VC

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL



YEW TREE DRIVE

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