



## **ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

### **SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL (BARLEY CLOSE, MANGOTSFIELD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING RESTRICTED HOURS) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2020**

## **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

### **Background**

The lockdown response to the Covid-19 pandemic has led to people using vehicles less and taking daily exercise more and we have a unique opportunity to 'lock in' the benefits of active travel, reduced air pollution and reduced carbon emissions. Traffic was at the same level as it was in the 1950's but is increasing daily and cycling in some locations is double pre-Covid-19 levels.

On the 9 May the Department for Transport issued statutory guidance of the reallocation of road space to encourage cycling and walking and enable social distancing. Measures needed to be taken quickly given the urgent need to change travel habits before the 'restart' following lockdown takes full effect. We are still required to practise 'social-distancing' and the expectation is that this will continue for the foreseeable future.

A priority area to meet these statutory requirements is to provide safe access for pupils and families attending schools.

To further maintain social distancing and to continue to encourage safe access to and from schools, it is the council's intention to introduce an experimental part time 'school street' road closure with a view to permanently implement such measures in future.

School streets is part of a national campaign which also addresses other concerns affecting schools such as reducing traffic congestion, improve air quality, general road safety outside schools, as well as encouraging active travel to school and healthier lifestyles for families.

### **Purpose of Scheme**

The purpose of this scheme is to prohibit motorised traffic entering Barley Close between 8:30 – 9:20am and 2:30 – 3:30pm, Monday to Friday during term time. Access for emergency vehicles will be maintained by a member of staff from the school. Residents within this section of road will need to avoid entering and leaving during the am and pm closure each day.

### **Proposed Scheme**

The proposed scheme is to create a part-time 'pedestrian and cycle' zone under an Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) and before the end of the ETO period a decision will be made on whether to make the scheme permanent. Relevant signing including flip style signs which the school will close during half terms and school holidays to



allow vehicles to use the road will be installed as well as retractable (telescopic) permanent bollards specifically at the closure point to the zone, to ensure that the scheme is achieved as intended. These will be raised and lowered each day by a member of school staff.

### **Drawing Reference**

Drawing number T303-1487-06 shows the extents of the proposed pedestrian and cycle zone.

It is considered appropriate that this proposal should be introduced using the approved procedure for experimental Traffic Regulation Orders in order to facilitate the modification of the scheme in the light of experience of its operation, should the need arise.

The Council will consider in due course whether a permanent Order in like terms to this Experimental Traffic Regulation Order should be made.