

Request for One Way System in Westward Ho!

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (a) **The proposal for a one way system on Fosceth Hill and Stanwell Hill not be pursued;**
- (b) **Other ways of improving traffic flow on Stanwell Hill be investigated.**

1. Background/Introduction

Report HCW/16/41, Request for a One Way System – Westward Ho!, was considered by Torridge HATOC at its meeting on 3 October 2016, in order to reduce congestion on Stanwell Hill. It was resolved that further work be undertaken by officers in connection with the viability of a trial study for a one way system subject to a breakdown of costs for consideration at the next meeting and the identification of a source of funding.

2. Main Text/Proposal

A proposal for a one way system on Stanwell Hill and Fosceth Hill was considered and rejected by a working party during 2013/14, mainly because of serious concerns over increased vehicle speeds and accidents, especially at junctions and on corners where drivers currently have to proceed with caution due to the presence of on-coming vehicles. Since then Fosceth Hill has continued to be developed into a more pedestrian focused route and footway works have been undertaken which have significantly reduced the carriageway width and which, in combination with the steep gradient, make the safe passage of HGV's impractical.

Officers have been asked to estimate the costs of works that would have to be done in order to enable a trial study to be undertaken. The works that would need to be undertaken are:

Works	Estimated Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core samples on Fosceth Hill to determine the suitability of the road construction to take additional traffic, including cost of road closure. 	£2,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swept path analysis on Fosceth Hill, at the junctions with Bay View Road (Buckleigh Cross) and Kingsley Cross, and at the bend at Fosceth Terrace, in order to determine if it would be suitable for larger vehicles to negotiate. 	£2,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A topographic survey of key sections would need to be undertaken to allow the swept path analysis. 	£4,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A utilities check to determine what, if any, services are underneath the road surface on Fosceth Hill, for example it is suspected that a sewage pipe runs down the west side. 	£500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investigation into subsidence on the east side of Fosceth Hill, and whether this would be affected by increased traffic. 	£2,000

The total cost of the study is therefore estimated to be approximately £11,000.

3. Options/Alternatives

Further investigations can be undertaken to determine whether any improvement can be made to the traffic flow on Stanwell Hill.

4. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

At a meeting of the Northam Town Council Projects Meeting on 6 February 2017 a unanimous vote was not in favour of proceeding with the one way system. It was also felt that there would be objections from the Residents Association and substantial local objections.

5. Financial Considerations

To enable a Traffic Regulation Order for a one way system to be implemented it is estimated that an additional £70,000 in design and construction fees would be needed for footway, drainage and signing works, although this would increase if any issues were to be identified during the study outlined above. This estimate is indicative as no design work has been undertaken.

Currently no budget has been identified for this proposal or the trial study detailed in section 2.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

If the scheme were to be implemented it may lead to less local congestion, but it would also be likely to lead to higher vehicle speeds. Some local traffic would have to take a longer route if a one way system was in place.

7. Equality Considerations

There are not considered to be any equality issues in regards to this scheme.

8. Legal Considerations

The County Council has a duty of care to all road users and any change in the layout or use of a road has to be carefully considered.

9. Risk Management Considerations

The risks that have been identified, associated to the recommendations above, are in relation to the location and robustness of the drainage systems and public utilities that currently exist within the extent of the carriageway in Fosceth Hill.

Further design works would determine whether it is safe to put additional traffic onto Fosceth Hill and the junctions at either end.

10. Public Health Impact

Fosceth Hill is being promoted as a pedestrian route, which would be less desirable to use if traffic flows and traffic speeds increased.

11. Recommendations

It is recommended that the trial study not be undertaken but that Stanwell Hill be examined in order to determine whether it is possible to improve traffic flow for two way traffic.

David Whitton
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Electoral Division: Northam

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: John Fewings

Room No: Ryefields, Avery Hill, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, TQ12 3QG

Tel No: 01392 380193

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
Northam Traffic Management Plan	July 2015	-

jf090217torh
sc/cr/one-way system Westward Ho!
02 160217



Scale 1:5000

0 200m.

Based upon OS StreetView (1:10k) © Crown copyright. All rights reserved.

