

STATEMENT OF REASONS

for

City of Coventry (Watery Lane, Parish of Allesley) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2024

Coventry City Council proposes to introduce Prohibition of Driving restrictions on a section of Watery Lane in the Parish of Allesley. The intention of these restrictions is to prevent the Watery Lane / Clay Lane corridor from being used as a through route between Corley Moor and Harvest Hill to improve safety for non-motorised road users along the route. The restriction will also address issues raised by local residents relating to antisocial activities such as fly-tipping and late night congregations, by reducing access through this area.

The Watery Lane / Clay Lane corridor forms a narrow rural route connecting Wall Hill Road and Oak Lane. Whilst rural in nature, the northern section of Watery Lane is partly residential, however the central and southern sections of the route is generally narrow and mostly bounded by fields and woodland.

Concerns have been raised over the use of the Watery Lane / Clay Lane corridor by through traffic. The carriageway narrows to 3 metres in places which presents issues to oncoming drivers, particularly where forward visibility is reduced. Furthermore, the route is popular with non-motorised road users (NMUs) such as cyclists and horse riders; the narrow width of much of this route can present a significant hazard to NMUs when encountering oncoming motor vehicles.

It is also reported that the central section of the route – which is relatively remote from properties - is often vulnerable to instances of antisocial behaviour such as fly-tipping and late-night congregations.

A higher-quality parallel alternative route avoiding the proposed restriction is available via Wall Hill Road and Bridle Brook Lane.

For these reasons, it is proposed to introduce a Prohibition of Driving along a section of Watery Lane in order to address these ongoing issues. There will be exceptions to enable legitimate access to properties and areas of land along the route.

The Director, Transportation & Highways has delegated powers to approve the publishing of Traffic Regulation Orders

EFFECT

1. This Statement of Reasons relates to the making of the following Road Traffic Regulation Order:-

City of Coventry (Watery Lane, Parish of Allesley) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2024

- i. The general effect of these proposals will be to prevent (with exceptions) motor vehicles from travelling along a section of Watery Lane, Parish of Allesley, from a point 304 metres south of its junction with Wall Hill Road to a point 9 metres north-east of its junction with Clay Lane.

2. The Director, Transportation & Highways, has delegated powers to approve the publishing of all proposed Road Traffic Regulation Orders

REASONS

3. When considering whether to make a traffic order the Council is under a duty pursuant to S.122 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway having regard to the matters specified in S.122 (2). It is considered that the proposals will assist to prevent motor vehicles from travelling along the narrow Watery Lane / Clay Lane corridor including a section of road that is popular with non-motorised road users and which is vulnerable to antisocial activities. An easily accessible alternative route is available.

Furthermore, it is considered that the proposals will affect the matters specified in S.122 (2) as follows:

(a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;

Reasonable access will be maintained. Exemptions will permit direct access to residential or agricultural premises in the section of Watery Lane between Green Lane and Oak Tree House, as well as to any driver requiring legitimate direct access to fields or woodland in the section of Watery Lane from Oak Tree House to Clay Lane.

(b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and..the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run;

The order will assist to aid traffic management and reduce the number of motor vehicles that are currently using the Watery Lane / Clay Lane corridor which is narrow, frequently used by non-motorised users and vulnerable to antisocial behaviour.

4. The proposed traffic order is to be implemented in accordance with Section 1(1), Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) as it appears to the Authority that it is expedient to make them –

- (a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, or
- (b) for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road, or
- (c) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians), or
- (d) for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property, or
- (e) (without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (d) above) for preserving the character of the road in a case where it is specially suitable for use by persons on horseback or on foot, or

5. The proposed changes and the authority's reasons are as follows:-

Watery Lane – Prohibition of Driving

The order will introduce a Prohibition of Driving restriction on a section of Watery Lane in the Parish of Allesley. The intention of these restrictions is to prevent the Watery Lane / Clay Lane corridor from being used as a through route between Corley Moor and Harvest Hill to improve safety for non-motorised road users along the route. The restriction will also address issues raised by local residents relating to antisocial activities such as fly-tipping and late night congregations, by reducing access through this area.

Roads and extents to which a prohibition of driving is proposed

Road and proposed restriction	Extents
Watery Lane, Parish of Allesley Prohibition of Driving except for access to nominated frontagers and organisations	From a point 726 metres south of its junction with Wall Hill Road to a point 9 metres north-east of its junction with Clay Lane
Watery Lane, Parish of Allesley Prohibition of driving except for access to off-street premises and to nominated frontagers and organisations as above.	From a point 304 metres south of its junction with Wall Hill Road to a point 726 metres south of that junction