

Adran yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth
Department for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mr D G Evans
2 Y Bryn
Greenfield Road
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Denbighshire
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Our Ref: qA1163538
Your Ref:

Date: 19 November 2015

Dear Mr Evans,

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 1.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S TRAFFIC ORDERS (PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND & WALES) REGULATIONS 1990

THE A494 TRUNK ROAD (WERNFECHAN, RUTHIN, DENBIGHSHIRE)(PROHIBITION OF WAITING)ORDER 201-

DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. The functions relating to Road Traffic Orders have been transferred to the Welsh Ministers by virtue of section 162 of, and paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006. The decision falls under the authority of Edwina Hart MBE, CStJ, AM, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, one of the Welsh Ministers ("the Minister"). This letter conveys the Minister's decision.

BACKGROUND

2. These proposals are in response to concerns raised by Ruthin Town Council and will extend the existing prohibition of parking on the trunk road to improve road safety and facilitate the free flow of traffic by relieving congestion caused by extensive queuing problems caused by vehicles parking along the carriageway and footway. This new Order will include the provisions of the existing 1986 Order which will be duly revoked.

3. The draft Order was published on 29 January 2015 and in accordance with the Secretary of State's Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations allowed 21 days for objections to be lodged.

OBJECTION AND RESPONSE



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4. One letter of objection was received from a member of the public. The main points of the objection and the Welsh Government's response are summarised in the table below.

Issue	Welsh Government's Response
<p>Removing the waiting areas on Wernfechan will lead to an increase in vehicle speeds along the road for vulnerable road users and will add to residential parking problems in adjacent areas again reducing safety in this area.</p>	<p>On street parking has been an issue at this location since Denbighshire County Council introduced parking restrictions on a number of adjacent county roads. There has been a significant increase in the number of vehicles parking along the trunk road resulting in regular queuing of traffic which is exacerbated by the close proximity to the junction and the school.</p> <p>As a consequence some drivers take short cuts through Haulfryn housing estate which is not suitable for trunk road traffic.</p> <p>Collision data, collected prior to the introduction of the parking restrictions along the county network, indicates that there is no history of Vulnerable Road User collisions at this location.</p>
<p>Wernfechan is a busy pedestrian route to Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras and connects to residential areas.</p>	<p>Highway safety is compromised as some vehicles park straddling the footways causing pedestrians, with pushchairs, to walk in the carriageway. Complaints have also been received from persons whose private accesses have been obstructed by parked vehicles.</p>
<p>The current parking arrangements helps reduce traffic speeds and everyday I witness different traffic speeds when no vehicles are parked.</p> <p>Requested general information on the stated queuing and speed surveys.</p>	<p>While no speed limit data has been recorded a November 2011 'drive through' (prior to the introduction of parking restrictions on the county road network), undertaken as part of a recent speed limit review, indicated a 30-32mph mean speed. No complaints have been received about excessive speeds when vehicles were not parked at this location in such numbers.</p> <p>During peak flows, vehicles have been witnessed queuing around the bend and beyond Rhos Street School, which can affect the safe operation of the school crossing patrol.</p> <p>If introduced the restrictions can be monitored including the speed of vehicles to ascertain whether there is a problem with traffic speed at this location.</p>
<p>There is a need for on street parking provision</p>	<p>Reducing the length of the proposed parking restrictions to the west of Wernfechan could result in vehicles parking over a longer distance and possibly hinder access to private driveways.</p> <p>Alternative parking is available in a long stay car park immediately adjacent to this length of the A494 with discounted parking permits available from the Council.</p>

<p>Welsh Government could work with the local authority and block up the through route, similar to the restrictions put in place in Parc y Dre.</p>	<p>The problem of rat running through the Haulfryn Estate should be reduced by the implementation of the proposed Order.</p>
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5. Officials responded to the points of objection as detailed above and the objector was invited to withdraw his objection, but did not respond.

MINISTER’S CONSIDERATION AND DECISION

6. The Minister gives high priority to schemes aimed at improving road safety. She has considered the objection and her officials’ responses to it and taking account of all the issues raised and Ruthin Town Council’s full support, she is of the opinion that the proposed Order would improve road and pedestrian safety and facilitate the free flow of traffic.

7. The Minister also notes that the Order has the full support of Ruthin Town Council. Consequently, the Minister has decided to make the Order as advertised.

8. In doing so the Minister has noted the concerns about potential increase in traffic speeds and post implementation the speed of vehicles will be monitored.

MAKING THE ORDER

9. The Order, as made, will become operative on a date to be agreed by the Welsh Ministers and the Trunk Road Agent.

RIGHT OF CHALLENGE

10. Within 6 weeks from the made date, anyone aggrieved by the Order may apply to the High Court and question the validity of the Order, or of any provision therein, on the grounds:

a. that it is not within the relevant powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984,

or b. that any of the relevant requirements has not been complied with in relation to the Order.

Yours sincerely

R Morgan

RICHARD MORGAN

Head of Asset Management and Standards
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