



Beresford Road Lowestoft



One Way Restriction Proposal - Informal Consultation



Document Control

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Brief

Councillor Keith Patience contacted Suffolk Highways to consider the suitability of making Beresford Road, Lowestoft a one-way restriction with a direction of travel to be determined.

Currently cars park on both sides of the road along Beresford Road with very few places in which to pull in to upon meeting with a car approaching in the opposite direction. Therefore, motorists sometimes have a significant distance to reverse before finding a suitable place to pass. Parking restrictions have been suggested but given that parking is of a premium in this area the residents do not support this as there is limited parking on other streets and a lack of off-street parking available.

It has therefore been suggested by some residents that a one-way restriction may resolve the conflicts that currently occur on Beresford Road, prompting Cllr Patience to request that an informal consultation of all residents is undertaken to establish their opinions.

Background

Lowestoft is a large coastal port town within the Waveney district of Suffolk and has a population of approximately 62,000. The town is largely residential with a host of large and small businesses including holiday parks, 2 piers and several tourist attractions.

Beresford Road is an unclassified residential road and is a link between St Peters Street and Love Road. It is comprised of mainly terrace housing, a church and a few small businesses running in parallel with the road. The existing speed limit is 30 mph and in the past five-years there has been no recorded vehicle incidents involving injuries. (CrashMap.co.uk, July 2019).

Speed and volume surveys were conducted between the 13th and 19th July 2019 which showed 85 percentile speeds are at the speed limit and the mean speeds are between 20-24mph and volumes on average of 355 vehicles in 24hrs within a 7-day period.

Methodology

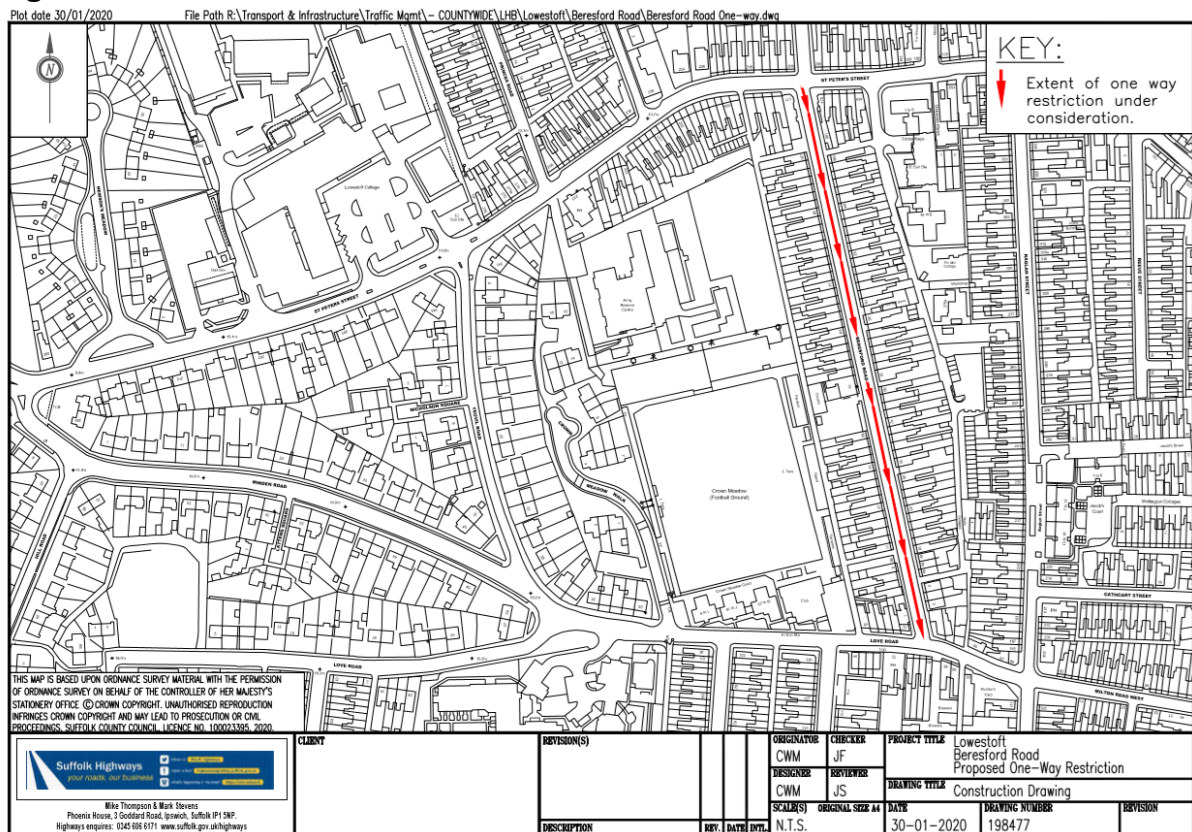
Following Cllr Patience's brief, Suffolk Highways Local Highways Budget and Minor Works Team (part of the wider Infrastructure Management Team) conducted a site visit and liaised with the Road Safety Speed and Traffic Management Team. A decision was made to undertake an informal consultation for a 3-week period between 31st January 2020 and 24th February 2020 to propose a one-way restriction from north to south for the full length of Beresford Road.

In total 117 residents were consulted, by letter (Appendix A) and supporting plan (Fig. 1 below).

This informal consultation would provide an opportunity for residents to voice their opinions and comment on whether they support the proposal, object to it or suggest other methods that could be looked at in the future.

Proposed One-Way Restriction

Fig. 1



Comments from Suffolk Highways Road Safety Speed and Traffic Management Team

Making Beresford Road one-way, regardless of the direction of the one way, will impact on Yeovil Road. Beresford Road is used as a short cut from the town centre onto Church Road (B1074) and vice versa.

If you make Beresford Road one-way south bound only then Yeovil Road will be used by vehicles travelling north and if you make Beresford Road one-way north bound, then Yeovil Road will be used by vehicles travelling south.

I think the only way to discourage the rat-run would be to include Yeovil Road in any proposals and make that also one-way in the same direction as you make Beresford Road. Yeovil Road is not suitable to take a high volume of two-way traffic due to the on-street parking on the east side and the curvature of the road alignment, meaning vehicles could meet at the junction of Nicholson Square with no-where to go.

Conclusion

Although the majority of responses to the consultation were in support of the proposals there was a distinct lack of response to this proposal. It is therefore difficult to determine whether making Beresford Road a one-way restriction would be well received by residents of Beresford Road and would actually be the appropriate measure to resolve the reported issues at this location. The amount of rat running and vehicles using this road no doubt causes conflicts to occur but creating a one way restriction can prove unpopular with many residents and as 83.76% of the households consulted have not responded, apathy cannot be assumed as support for a proposal such as this.

A one-way restriction can have wider effects on access and speed of response for emergency services and may transfer similar traffic conflicts to nearby streets that will be accessed instead of Beresford Road.

There are also some other suggested measures received during the consultation that could be considered for further investigation, for instance:

20mph Speed Restriction (would need to be checked against the criteria to assess whether this could be a viable option)

Speed Bumps (Increased noise and vibration can cause a nuisance in residential area, would need streetlighting improvements and possible associated drainage improvements). May prove unpopular with many residents and emergency services.

Residents Parking Permits (Believe this has been consulted on in the past and did not get many responses)

While one-way restrictions would deal with drivers coming into conflict because of the lack of passing places, it could potentially increase traffic speeds as drivers will not be expecting vehicles travelling towards them from the opposite direction and not having to give way or reduce speed whilst using Beresford Road. This could potentially result in a more serious road safety issue involving injury accidents.

Summary of Design Options and Indicative Costs

Options	Estimated Design Cost	Estimated Works Cost	Safety Audit	Total
20mph Speed Limit	£6,000	£3,000-£5,000	£1,500	£10,500 - £12,500
Speed humps	£4,000	£4,000-£8,000	£1,500	£9,500 - £13,500
Residents Parking Restrictions	£7,000	£3,000-£5,000		£10,000 - £12,000

Recommendation

If there was a desire to consider this proposal in more detail it is recommended to consult more widely with residents of neighbouring streets who would be affected by restricting Beresford Road to a one-way road. All statutory consultees such as the Road Haulage Association and all emergency service providers etc. A more informed decision could then be taken before investigating alternative ways of seeking the views of residents of Beresford Road, to attempt to ascertain a clear picture of how popular this proposal would be with residents.

Further consideration should be given to making Yeovil Road a one-way road. It will inevitably be used for rat running if the Beresford Road one-way restriction was implemented, therefore similar problems would be expected to be transferred to Yeovil Road.

Consideration should be given to not proceeding with this proposal at all, given the low response rate, which may indicate a lack of interest or lack of recognition of the reported problems.

It is not recommended to proceed with the one-way proposal on the basis of this informal consultation alone.



Appendix A

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 what's happening in my area? <https://roadworks.org>



The Occupier

Our Ref: SH/CWM/198477
Date: February 2020
Enquiries to: Charlie Mitson
Email: communications@suffolkhighways.org

Dear Sir or Madam.

Lowestoft, Beresford Road One-way restriction.

Suffolk Highways have been requested to consider implementing a one-way restriction heading from the north to the south of Beresford Road, Lowestoft. This is situated from the junction with St Peter's Street to the junction with Love Road.

A drawing is attached numbered LA198477 showing the proposal for your consideration. We welcome any comments either in favour or against the proposals in writing by Thursday 20th February 2020.

Comments can be via e-mail using the e-mail address above or by letter to The LHB Team Suffolk Highways, Phoenix House, 3 Goddard Road, Ipswich IP1 5NP.

Yours faithfully

C W Mitson

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