

# **SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull (Marsh Lane, Hampton in Arden) (Total Prohibition of Driving) Order 2020**

### **Statement of Reasons**

Marsh Lane, is a single carriageway un-lit rural lane which forms part of the highway maintainable at public expense. The lane is well used by local people to access the connecting public rights of way network and remains popular with ramblers and dog walkers. It also provides access to the adjacent agricultural land and statutory undertakers' equipment.

Unfortunately, the secluded nature of this lane has also attracted frequent problems of anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and other forms of environmental crime. In order to help address these issues, prevent its use by unsuitable vehicles and to preserve the character of the road and amenities in the area, it is proposed to implement a prohibition of driving Order on Marsh Lane.

The proposed prohibition of driving would be applicable daily with the times of the prohibition adjusted for seasonal variations; 1st April - 30th September 9pm - 7am & 1st October - 31st March 6pm - 8am. This proposed intervention is considered to be the appropriate compromise to manage this section of the public highway to ensure people can still access the area and enjoy the local amenity, whilst minimising the risk and costs associated with responding to future incidents of environmental crime.

The prohibition will be introduced by gating the lane; the design of the gate would be such that it affords access for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders at all times. Council operatives will lock and unlock the gate on a daily basis. Exemptions will be applicable to facilitate access for adjacent land owners; any land owner requiring access will be furnished with a key/code as applicable.

This matter was considered by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways at the March 2020 Cabinet Member Decision Session where authority was subsequently granted to progress and fund the Order and associated works through the Environment Services revenue budgets for 2020/21.

The proposed Order is shown on plan 8676/1

Following discussions with the police, affected land owners and other stakeholders, it is recommended that this proposal be formally advertised.

The local Ward Members and Cabinet Member are aware of the intention of Officers to take this proposal forward to the formal statutory consultation stage.

#### **PAUL TOVEY**

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15 October 2020