

Agenda item 5

For decision – Formal support for a single yellow line to be implemented along a section of The Butts.

Author: Cllr Scott Ward

Summary

Safe walking and cycling are amongst the top priorities for the Frome community. Additionally, traffic congestion and dangerous driving practices in certain areas of the town are prominent in the minds of many residents. Somerset Highways have been engaged by myself, County and District Cllr John Clarke and a representative of The Butts Neighbourhood Group and are happy to introduce a single yellow line along the highlighted section of The Butts to help improve traffic flow at this pinch point which will open up the full width of the road removing the temptation for motorists to mount the pavement.

The Context

In May 2019, I was contacted by residents of the town who regularly use The Butts as pedestrians. The main concerns held by these residents and then mirrored by residents of The Butts were those of safety for pedestrians and damage being caused to vehicles and property by motorists mounting the pavement when travelling through certain pinch points. There was also concern about perceived speeding through these tight areas by motorists to get through the congested areas before vehicles coming in the opposite direction.

To garner a better picture of the issues and their causes, the Frome Safety Traffic Group was created on social media to document evidence of these unsafe behaviours with photographic and anecdotal evidence.

Some examples caught on camera are at the end of this report.

There is also an issue with lorries over 7.5 tonnes using The Butts to move through the town. While there is a legitimate need for some lorries to use the road for delivery purposes (which is permitted), there are some lorries using the road unnecessarily. The image of the Sainsbury's lorry is an example; it should have entered and exited the town via the A361, also known as the Ski Slope. Somerset Highways are open to the idea of additional signage along Marston Road to remind HGV drivers of the restrictions in place.

The Proposal

After consulting with Somerset Highways, the proposal was made to introduce a single yellow line on one side of The Butts running from the roundabout at the junction with Rossiter's Road up to the section of road outside of number 43, The Butts. To clarify, this is the side of the road opposite Cranmore Court.

There is the option to only restrict parking within a certain time frame, for example, 8am to 5pm but this is yet to be decided.



John Clarke, Scott Ward and Nicola Malcolm-Jones undertook an informal consultation of residents of The Butts. Leaflets were posted through doors and residents asked to send feedback via email for collation. We also met with as many of the residents directly affected by the implementation of a single yellow line

to ascertain if they had parking to the rear of their houses and what their thoughts were regarding the proposal.

149 leaflets were distributed of which 48 households responded:

34 were in favour

6 were not in favour

8 were undecided

There was a 32% response rate.

The residents living at numbers 43 to 97 and would be directly affected indicated the following:

13 were in favour

2 were not in favour

8 were undecided

5 did not respond

Somerset Highways have indicated that they will move ahead if the proposal is supported by FTC.

Recommendations

1. Support the implementation of a single yellow line in the designated area.
2. Support the ongoing campaign for monitoring traffic issues and further improvements along The Butts in the future, should the single yellow line not resolve all of the issues.
3. While Somerset Highways are planning a wide ranging review of traffic and parking in the future, we will continue to engage with residents and help enable them to establish community led campaigns with the aim of creating safer streets for all. The recommendation is to support ongoing engagement.



