

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

**AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS
BRITANNIA CORNER, SCUNTHORPE.**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to consult and consider amending the traffic regulation orders (TRO's) relating to the closure of the Britannia Corner area of Scunthorpe during certain evenings.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are as follows:
- Humberside Police have formally requested that the times of the road closure and other traffic orders be amended to meet current circumstances.
 - Consideration to be given to appropriateness of amendments.
 - To amend the TRO's will require statutory consultation to be carried out.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A night time road closure in the area around Britannia Corner in Scunthorpe was introduced on a permanent basis in 2010. The key objectives of the night time closure are:
- To improve the management of public order
 - To improve the management of taxi operations
 - To improve road safety, and
 - To improve the experience of the night-time economy for people visiting the area
- 2.1 The current traffic movement order (Appendix 1) allows closure of the road between the hours of 10pm and 4.30am on Friday and Saturday Evenings as well as on the day prior to Bank and Public Holidays, and on the 24th, 26th and 31st December. The barriers are operated by Humberside Police and Nitesafe, following procedures agreed with Safer Neighbourhoods.
- 2.2 Humberside police have formally requested amendments to the times of the road closure and other traffic order to better reflect current circumstances (Appendix 2).

- 2.3 Humberside Police feel amending the traffic order will assist the night time economy in the town centre. It will also help them in better controlling public order.
- 2.4 Humberside Police have confirmed that if the duty Police Inspector responsible for policing the NTE (and the rest of the Southbank) is of the opinion that the town is still busy, then the road closure would be retained until the area is deemed to have quietened down sufficiently for the road to be opened.
- 2.5 Consultation and then publicity is required with the assistance of Humberside Police and Safer Neighbourhoods to highlight the time changes especially if the changes go ahead.
- 2.6 There are also parking restrictions relating to taxi ranks around the area and this order will require amending if the amendment is approved. A review and trial of new taxi ranks have been arranged and these findings will be considered in due course.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 – To approve the request for the amendments and ask officers to commence the legal process to consult about the new times.
- 3.2 Option 2 – To leave the restrictions as they are currently and the closure can be managed appropriately.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 – This will allow the council to undertake the necessary consultations relating to the new TRO and to consider any objections that are submitted.
- 4.2 Option 2 – This will continue to allow the night time closure to operate as it does currently and thereby diminish the ability of Humberside Police to effectively deal with public order in Scunthorpe town centre during peak periods of night time activity.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 The cost of readvertising the proposed TRO is around £2,000. Signs will need amending relating to the order and is anticipated to cost £1,000.
- 5.2 There are no staffing, property or IT issues associated with this report.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IAA) IF APPLICABLE

6.1 Officers have completed an IAA. The assessment did not identify any major issues.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 Consultation was informally been carried out with various partners involved with the road closure, suggesting support for the proposal. Further formal consultation will follow as part of the normal process for amending a TRO.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the request made by Humberside Police to amend the traffic regulation orders (TRO's) relating to the closure of the Britannia Corner area of Scunthorpe during certain evenings.

8.2 That the Cabinet Member authorises the Director of Places to progress action required to amend the TRO.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB
Author: Rob Beales
Date: 25th February 2015

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
(BRITANNIA CORNER, SCUNTHORPE)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2010

North Lincolnshire Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1(1), 2 (1) to (3) and 4(2) and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act of 1984") and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order.

1 This Order shall come into operation on the 22nd day of August 2010 and may be cited as The North Lincolnshire Borough Council (Britannia Corner, Scunthorpe) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2010.

2 In this Order all expressions, except as otherwise herein provided shall have the meaning assigned to them by the Act 1984:

"cycle" has the same meaning as defined by Section 192 of the Road Traffic Act 1988

"motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined by Section 185 of the Road Traffic Act 1988

"telecommunications apparatus" has the same meaning as defined by paragraph 1(1) of the Telecommunications Code contained in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984

3 Save as provided in Article 4 of this Order, no person shall cause or permit any motor vehicle to enter, proceed or wait between the hours of 10pm and 4.30am on Friday and Saturday Evenings as well as on the day prior to Bank and Public Holidays, and on the 24th, 26th and 31st December in the lengths of road specified in the Schedule hereto.

4. Nothing in Article 3 of this Order shall make it unlawful for any of the following to proceed therein:

(a) cycles;

(b) horses;

(c) vehicles used for ambulance, fire brigade, police or public service purposes;

(d) vehicles being used in connection with building, industrial or demolition operations in or near the specified lengths of road or for the laying, erection, alteration or repair in, on or near those lengths of road of any sewer, main pipe or apparatus for the supply of gas, water or electricity or any telecommunications apparatus;



Protecting Communities, Targeting Criminals, Making a Difference

Humberside Police
Southbank Division – North Lincolnshire
Scunthorpe Police Station
Corporation Road
Scunthorpe, DN15 6QB
Non-Emergency: 101

DD Tel: 01724 241748

enquiries@humberside.pnn.police.uk
www.humberside.police.uk

Your ref:
Our ref:

Date 3rd February 2015

Pete Williams
Director of Places
Civic Centre
Ashby Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB

Dear Pete

As you are no doubt aware, the barriers at Britannia Corner were fitted some time ago, as part of the road closure process implemented to address road safety concerns and to help us police the Night Time Economy in Scunthorpe town centre, under the umbrella of the Nite Safe project. The existing road closure times are from 10pm to 4am. We acknowledge the fact that the road closure is a good thing and that it has achieved its objectives from a safety viewpoint.

As I understand it, the Nite Safe project is reviewed from time to time, to take into account changes in the dynamics of the NTE. As such, none of the interventions are set in stone and the reviews have helped the partnership to adjust their resources according to the changes identified.

During the course of the latest Nite Safe review, I raised the question of whether it would be possible to amend the road closure times slightly to allow the police a little flexibility in policing the NTE of Scunthorpe town centre.

This is because the current practice of closing the road at 10pm does not reflect the fact that the area around Britannia Corner does not get busy until midnight. A more reasonable time for closing the road would be 11pm, which would be more in line with the start of the NTE and would also meet the needs of local restaurants who believe that the earlier closure is having a negative impact on their trade.

Similarly, we have become aware of a tendency for revellers to loiter in the closed off area towards the end of the night rather than disperse. On occasions, this has led to increased incidents of disorder or the potential for such, due to the number of people hanging around who would otherwise have gone on their way, had the area not been closed to traffic.

The problem for the police is that this can lead to the retention of police resources in the area at a time when demand across the rest of the county is at a peak. We believe that amending the road opening time from 4am to 3am would greatly assist the police in the dispersal of those people who are simply hanging around.

However, if the duty Police Inspector responsible for policing the NTE (and the rest of the Southbank) is of the opinion that the town is still busy and a risk to the public is still apparent, then the road closure would be retained until such times until the area is deemed to have quietened down sufficiently for the road to be opened.

The above proposals were discussed at a subsequent Nite Safe meeting, attended by representatives from Humberside Police, NLC Highways, the Road Safety Partnership/Team

and Safer Neighbourhoods. Whilst the proposed amendment to the Road Traffic Order was agreed to in principle, I have been advised that the next step is for me, on behalf of Humberside Police, to make a formal request to you in writing, to get the process started.

I am aware that Nick Richards, Safer Neighbourhoods Officer for the area, has been heavily involved in the latest NiteSafe review, including the proposed amendment to the Road Traffic Order. As such, he has consulted with partners from the NTE, who are in favour of the proposal. He has also outlined the following supporting points, should they be of assistance to you:

Amending the road closure times would:

- Satisfy other members of the NTE – restaurants as the roads would be open later to Accommodate their customers' needs re access
- Give the police the ability to disperse revellers from the area earlier
- Give the police the flexibility to retain the road closure when busy
- Negate the risk of the RTO not being adhered to by the police operating outside of the RTO times
- Reinforce that the need for flexibility has already been recognised and achieved in respect of the road closure process, through a Memorandum of Understanding, which successfully addressed the concerns of partner agencies, such as the emergency services and the local authority's Corporate Safety Officer
- Evidence the fact that the effectiveness of the road closure has been reviewed and has achieved what it set out to do
- Also evidence the fact that the process is reviewed and can be 'tweaked' to allow for changes to the demographics of the NTE
- Be a good example of collaborative working between partnership agencies and members of the NTE aimed at making Scunthorpe Town Centre a safe place to work and visit

Yours sincerely



Deb Johnstone
Chief Inspector Operations - Scunthorpe