

REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Type of Application:

APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 1984

Community: Llangywer

Ward: Llanuwchllyn and Llangywer

Intended: GWYNEDD COUNCIL (CLEARWAY 24 HOURS) ORDER (LLANGYWER) 2023

Location: Class II Road - B4403 Llangywer

Recommendation:

Approve the submission of a clearway order on the B4403 between Llanuwchllyn and Bala in its entirety.

Background and description

During periods of fine weather in the summer, it has become clear that Llyn Tegid is an attraction for many visitors. Recently, this has led to parking problems along the narrow road in the Llangywer area on the B4403.

The Traffic unit has received complaints from Officers of the National Park and members of Llangywer Parish Council, all expressing their concerns about the detrimental effects of inconsiderate parking. The reckless parking has not only caused traffic congestion, much to the annoyance of local residents, but has also hampered the response time of emergency services.

In response to these issues, we propose to implement a clearway restriction on the road, which we believe will alleviate the current parking problems and improve emergency response.

The Consultation

Gwynedd Council consulted on a proposal to introduce a traffic control order on this part of the road in March and April 2023. The reason for the Order is based on safety and the flow of traffic on the road.

During the consultation period, an objection to the proposal was received from a member of the public.

The Objection

(See a copy of the opponent's correspondence in Appendix A)

Reason for the objection	The Council's response
<p>This order appears to be taking extreme action for what is a reasonably precise problem around the area of Llangower during peak holiday season.</p> <p>There are 2 or 3 areas along the route where designated short stay parking should be provided.</p> <p>Increase in pedestrians on the road</p> <p>The effect of the order on parking at other locations in the area. The Order may lead to more people parking in Llanuwchllyn Village Centre.</p>	<p>The road is very narrow between Bala and Llanuwchllyn. We believe that introducing restrictions in just one place would lead to vehicles parking at other locations on the road.</p> <p>The clearway order applies to a carriageway only. Therefore, some of the locations that have been identified are not affected by the order as they are known as laybys. As part of the work, consideration will be given to marking the following areas to avoid any confusion.</p> <p>We do not believe that an order would have any effect on the number of pedestrians on the road.</p> <p>There is quite a distance between Llanuwchllyn and the nearest place to access Llŷn Tegid so we do not anticipate that a problem would arise.</p>

Local Councillor's Opinion – Alan Evans

“During periods of fine weather in the summer, Llyn Tegid is an attraction for many visitors. Recently, that has led to parking problems along the road in the Llangywer area. As the road is very narrow, the indiscriminate parking can lead to serious traffic problems for local residents. But often during these busy times, the road is completely blocked by traffic that cannot move backwards or forwards. This creates difficulties for emergency services to respond to an emergency in the local neighbourhood. Also, the road closes at the exact times when water activity is at its busiest. It is very

scary to think that it would not be possible for the emergency services to reach a person in trouble in Llyn Tegid, a Lake which has proven to be very dangerous over the years.

We have consulted widely with the neighbourhood and the Parish Council, and they welcome the following measurements. "

Assessment of the intention

Equality Act 2010

The Council is subject to public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including Welsh public sector duties). In accordance with these legal duties when making decisions, Councils must pay due regard to the need (1) to eliminate unlawful discrimination (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) encourage good relations based on the protected characteristics. And pay due regard to the social economic duty under Section 1 of the Act. The committee is asked to pay attention to its findings when making a decision.

The assessment does not identify any specific impact resulting from the decision.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 involves improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. The act places a well-being duty on public bodies aimed at delivering the seven well-being goals which is a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier,

more equal with cohesive communities and vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language which is globally responsible. The recommendation has been prepared by paying attention to the Act's requirements and addressing the five ways of working.

Recommendation:

Approve the introduction of the Order in its entirety

Appendices

A - Copy of Letter objecting.

B - Map of the proposed plan.

Appendix A

I am writing to you to place an objection to this order.

This order appears to be taking extreme action for what is a reasonably precise problem around the area of Llangower during peak holiday season. I feel I could support this order if some amendments and considerations were made.

1. There are 2 or 3 areas along the route where designated short stay parking should be provided. Please see attached pictures for consideration:

1. Lake View

1. This is the most scenic spot on the route and as such a stopping point should be created for those who want to enjoy the lake and its spectacular views, but may not be able to walk the designated routes. i.e. The elderly and the disabled.

2. This spot is also an amazing spot to view the Bala Lake Railway Trains. The BLR is not only a huge draw for those wanting to ride the trains, but for those who wish to photograph the trains in full operation. Without designated stopping points this may deter people from visiting both the area and the BLR.

2. Pentrepiod

1. See point 1.1.2 above

3. TrainSpot

1. See point 1.1.2 above

2. Increase in pedestrians / walkers.

1. If you are not able to park anywhere on these routes then the only option to access certain points of the route (not exclusively, but see point 1 above), is to walk along the road. Whilst footpaths are available they start a considerable distance from the points where the proposed urban clearway begins. These also do not provide access to the areas highlighted in point 1, nor do they provide access to the key area of congestion on this route at Llangower.

3. Llangower

1. How does this order propose to tackle the key issue at Llangower. Whilst it will hope to prevent parking outside of the designated parking area at this key point, how does it propose to allow people to access this area at key times such as bank holidays?

1. Will additional trains be provided at Llanuwchllyn or Bala running just to Llangower? If so, where would the parking be at Llanuwchllyn/Bala? how would this benefit water users with large and cumbersome equipment?

2. Will a park and ride service be offered, this could then support lake users and their equipment?

3. Will additional overflow parking be provided at or near Llangower?
2. Without consideration to the above, does this force more vehicles into Llanuwchllyn and force lake users who wish to access Llangower to walk along the B4403? possibly carrying cumbersome items to allow them to spend a length of time at the lake.
 1. If so, where will the additional parking be provided in Llanuwchllyn?
 2. If so, how is the additional number of people walking along the B4403 considered safer than the existing arrangements?
 1. If parked vehicles make navigating the road more difficult then naturally this slows road users down making it safer for pedestrians/walkers?
4. Enforcement
 1. How will the clearway be enforced?
 1. Via penalty ticket?
 1. If so, how does this remove the blockage of the road?
 1. Will this deter everyone?
 2. Does this just make it a scheme focussed on making additional revenue for the council rather than safety ground as advertised?
 2. Clamping
 1. If so, how does this remove the blockage of the road?
 3. Removal of vehicle
 1. If so, how do the vehicles required to perform such an operation access the road to remove the vehicle?
 2. Whose responsibility will it be to enforce the clearway? The council, the police, a private contractor?

Having driven this road several times, the blockages that are occasionally caused, usually around the peak holiday days, are more of an inconvenience than unsafe, especially for those who live on this stretch of road. Therefore I do think something needs to be done, but it needs to be targeted to resolve the problems for everyone. You could safely stop on this road in the middle of February for several hours and barely see another vehicle.

I hope you consider the points I have raised

Appendix B - Map of the proposed scheme

Cynnig Arfaethedig 'Clearway' - Llanuwchllyn i Rhos Fawr

