

## ITEM

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>16 January 2017</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>The Gwynedd Council (Prohibition And Restriction of Loading and Unloading of Goods) (The Maes in the Town of Caernarfon) Order</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	Following consideration of the observations and objections received, to proceed to complete the statutory process to introduce the Prohibition and Restriction of Loading and Unloading of Goods at The Maes in the town of Caernarfon.
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Dafydd Wyn Williams Head of the Regulatory Department
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>The Committee support the introduction of a Prohibition and Restriction of Loading and Unloading of Goods at The Maes in the town of Caernarfon.</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO LEADER</b>	<b>Councillor Dafydd Meurig</b>

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Maes in Caernarfon was revamped in 2009 as part of a £2.5m regeneration scheme. An integral part of the design was to remove barriers between traffic and pedestrians to create a 'shared space' area; a concept where motorists are encouraged to be more considerate of pedestrians and other road users. This is the first use of this kind of arrangement in Wales. Since its conception, safety concerns have been raised regarding this concept especially so indiscriminate parking in the area.
- 1.2 At present, the existing restriction on the Maes, Caernarfon is a 24 hour Clearway which means that no vehicles are permitted to park or stop at any time. However, there are designated parking bays for the disabled and taxis as well as an area for coach/bus pick up and drop off.
- 1.3 Recently concerns have been raised of the public's perception of the current restriction. Comments received by the Transportation Service indicate that some people believe that the current restriction is unclear with some people not understanding the meaning of the current signage.
- 1.4 In 2016 the existing restriction on the Maes was reviewed in order to investigate whether an alternative option was available to improve the situation. This coincided with the publication of the new 'Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016' which replaced the 2002 Regulations. The conclusion of that review was to implement a parking restriction known as "Restricted Zone" which would be enforced between the hours of 8.30am and 6pm.
- 1.5 In May 2016 a letter was sent out to various bodies i.e. the Emergency Services, Road Haulage Association, Freight Transport Association, Postal Service, Town Council and Local Members asking for their views on the proposal. The consultation was also extended to include businesses and residents within the Maes.
- 1.6 Following the first consultation stage, only one observation was received, which was from the Town Council requesting that the timing of the Restriction to be extended to 7pm and that an adequate number of signage be erected specifying the Restriction on the Maes. No other correspondences were received at this stage.
- 1.7 In August 2016 a second consultation stage began where a Draft Order was prepared and a notice appeared in the local press informing the public of the Council's intention for the Maes, with an amendment of the timings of the Restricted Zone which now read, between the hours of 8.30am and **7pm.**

- 1.8 Within the consultation period a total of 7 objections was received – copies of which are included in Appendix B.
- 1.9 The main concerns raised by the objectors were the timings of the restriction which were deemed inadequate for deliveries to businesses on the Maes.
- 1.10 To alleviate some of these concerns the Transportation Service reviewed the restriction and amended as follows:-
1. Prohibit vehicles to wait, load/unload between the hours of **10am** and 7pm.
  2. An additional disabled parking bay outside the Chemist.
  3. The waiting limit for all disabled bays to increase from 90 minutes to a maximum of 3 hours.
- 1.11 Following the revised proposals all but one have stated verbally and two have written to confirm the amendment and thus withdrawing their objection. See Appendix C. - One objection still remains.
- 2. Summary/Timetable.**

<b>23 May 2016</b>	1st consultation stage - letter sent to statutory consultees, businesses and residents within the Maes.
<b>08 June 2016</b>	One response received. – see Appendix A
<b>05 August 2016</b>	A draft ‘Traffic Regulation Order’ was prepared under ‘The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984’ – and a notice appeared the local press informing the public of the Council’s intention to change the restriction for the Maes, Caernarfon and invite the public to make a comment if they so wished.
<b>August and September 2016</b>	7 objections were received - see Appendix B
<b>September 2016</b>	An officer from the Transportation Service met and/or corresponded with each individual objector.
<b>November 2016</b>	Correspondence sent to the objectors informing them that the Council had amended the proposal.
<b>December 2016</b>	6 of the 7 objectors have corresponded or indicated verbally their support for the new proposal. However, as one objection still remains the Transportation Service took the decision to refer the matter to the Planning Committee.

### **3. Recommendation**

The Transportation Service recommends that the Committee support the introduction of the amended waiting restrictions on The Maes, Caernarfon which are:

1. Prohibit vehicles to wait, load/unload between the hours of 10am and 7pm
2. An additional disabled parking bay outside the Chemist.
3. The waiting limit for all disabled parking bays on the Maes to be increased from 90 minutes to a maximum of 3 hours.