

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 11th October, 2011

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WARD(S): Chalvey

PART 1 **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

HIGHWAY CHANGES IN CHALVEY

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to outline the history of the experimental proposals for various roads in Chalvey, and to update Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest progress with the project (at the time of writing, 28th September 2011).

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Committee is requested to note the report.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

The community strategy priorities are:

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
- **Adding years to Life and Life to years**
- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**
- **A Cleaner, Greener place to live, Work and Play**
- **Prosperity for All**

The proposed experimental Highway Changes in Chalvey are part of the ongoing Chalvey Regeneration project. The contributions made to the community strategy priorities are detailed in various reports to Cabinet.

4 Other implications

(a) Financial

The financial implications are detailed in various reports to Cabinet.

(b) Risk Management

The risk management implications are detailed in various reports to Cabinet.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

No Human Rights Act implications.

Various Traffic Regulation Orders made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as detailed in various reports to Cabinet.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

To be completed during the course of formal consultation.

5 **Supporting Information**

Previous Consultation of November 2009

Slough Borough Council consulted the Chalvey community in November 2009 to identify key issues for the community. Traffic was one of the community's biggest problems, especially in Chalvey Road West. The community felt there was too much traffic, and too much congestion. A number of documents relating to this previous consultation are included as appendices to this report:

- Appendix A – the consultation leaflet;
- Appendix B – a photograph showing an open day that was held on 25th November 2009 – the photograph shows people placing their comments and suggestions on a large plan of Chalvey;
- Appendix C – a plan summarising the specific comments and suggestions from the Chalvey community during the open day;
- Appendix D – a summary of the overall results of the consultation, showing the communities priorities for the council in Chalvey.

The top three priorities identified by respondents to this consultation were:

1. Improvements to the look of streets and open spaces
2. Changes to pavements to improve access for pedestrians
3. Changes to roads to deter rat running and reduce accidents

The proposals are 'experimental proposals' and have been developed as a direct response to these three priorities, identified by the Chalvey community. Among the suggestions attached to the plan during the drop in session were:

- Closure of Chalvey Road West;
- One-way systems in Ledgers Road and Chalvey Road East;
- New parking provision.

These suggestions are mirrored in the experimental proposals.

Project development and decision making in 2011

Officers began to develop possible solutions early in 2011. These options were developed in consultation with the traffic sub-committee of the Chalvey Forum. Officers met this group in February 2011 to review the most pressing concerns and to discuss, in principal, the kind of solutions that might be appropriate and acceptable to the community. The discussion included suggestions from the consultation in 2009, including road closures and one-way systems, and these were considered by those present to be appropriate options for consideration. It was acknowledged by both officers and the Forum that all options – including doing nothing – carried advantages and disadvantages.

This initial consultation and feasibility work by officers resulted in three options being tabled to Cabinet on 31st May, seeking approval to undertake further consultation with residents' groups to identify a preferred option by consensus.

Following Cabinet's approval, on 15th June the Commissioner and officers met with approximately 40 members of the Chalvey community. The three options were

presented. All those present were able to ask questions about the options, and to make new suggestions.

The Commissioner and officers subsequently met and corresponded with a range of individuals and residents' groups. It was not possible to achieve a consensus on a preferred option, as had been anticipated by Cabinet on 31st May. Responses to the options varied considerably among different groups and individuals.

The situation was reported to Cabinet on 18th July. In response Cabinet decided to implement a range of experimental measures, giving flexibility to officers, in consultation with the Commissioner, to be able to respond to feedback from the community, and the impact on the surrounding road network. The choice of the experimental procedure will allow the community to experience the proposed measures at first hand, with their advantages and disadvantages, and provide feedback to the council before any decision is made to make a permanent change.

After Cabinet's decision on 18th July, officers commissioned the detailed design for the following experimental measures:

- Full closure and pedestrianisation of Chalvey Road West
- One-way operation of Chalvey Road East
- One-way operation of Ledgers Road
- One-way operation of Ragstone Road
- New parking provision
- Remodelled junctions at both ends of Chalvey Road West

On 11th August there was a protest by between 100-150 members of the Chalvey Community outside St Martin's Place, supporting the trials of experimental measures, but calling for the Council not to close Chalvey Road West to traffic. In response to this protest and subsequent conversation with the protest leaders and a number of the individuals involved, it was decided not to close Chalvey Road West but instead to make Chalvey Road West one-way eastbound (towards the railway bridge).

Cabinet was updated again on 19th September, and acknowledged the change in design in response to the protest in August.

The experimental measures now comprise:

- One-way operation of Chalvey Road West
- One-way operation of Chalvey Road East
- One-way operation of Ledgers Road
- One-way operation of Ragstone Road
- New parking provision
- Remodelled junctions at both ends of Chalvey Road West

The four Cabinet reports referred to above give further detail.

Progress with project delivery

At the time of writing the detailed design is complete for Chalvey Road West, Chalvey Road East, and the junctions at both ends of Chalvey Road West. The detailed design for Ledgers Road and Ragstone Road is in progress.

The implementation of the experimental measures has been planned to follow on from the Thames Water capital scheme to replace the Victorian clean water supply pipes across Chalvey and is nearing completion in Chalvey Road East, and works have commenced in Chalvey Road West. Officers are working to coordinate the

delivery of the experimental measures with the ongoing programme of Thames Water works, to ensure that there is no additional disruption to the community.

Public engagement

Now that works have started on site to deploy the experimental measures, officers will commence the first phase of public engagement. There are two phases of public engagement proposed:

- Phase 1 – between now and November – information will be publicised to inform the community, and other expected stakeholders, what the council's experimental plans are, approximate timescales and so on.
- Phase 2 – November 2011 to February 2012 – proactive engagement for example by meeting with identifiable groups within the community, drop in sessions and letter drops.

6 Conclusion

The proposed experimental measures in Chalvey have been developed in response to priorities identified by the Chalvey community. The measures are drawn from ideas provided by the Chalvey community. The development of the detailed design has been done in consultation with the Chalvey community, and significant elements have been changed in response to concerns raised by the community.

The proposed public engagement will identify whether the proposed measures are welcomed by the Chalvey community.

7 Background Papers

'Highway Changes in Chalvey'- reports to Cabinet on:-

11th April 2011

31st May 2011

18th July 2011

19th September 2011.