

Matter 6 – Development Limits

The Inspector asked for clarification as to whether a one way system has been considered in Epworth.

This was considered and full consideration of all parties' views and a robust discussion about all aspects of the proposal was held at the time with the Cabinet Member. There were a number of formal objections received, which raised issues the highway authority took into account in its decision. The minute of the decision made around November 2010.

The relevant Minute relating to the one-way proposal is reproduced below:

The Service Director Highways and Planning submitted a report seeking a decision on the introduction of a Traffic Order for a one-way system on Church Street, Epworth and consideration of six letters of objections received with respect to the above proposals.

Epworth Town Council had requested that Church Street in Epworth be made one way in order to improve traffic flow along Church Street and to reduce perceived congestion. During initial consultation with the Town Council a number of different options for the one way system were discussed. It was the Town Council's wish that the proposal as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be implemented.

The order would run for the length of Church Street, from its junction with High Street to the junction with Market Place. Vehicles would be forced to travel in an east west direction and there would be the need to make alterations to the existing junction of Church Street and Market Place to avoid any confusion for drivers

Statutory consultation procedures had been followed during which six objections were received from local businesses and residents along with one letter of support.

Discussions suggested that there was a split in community opinion on how best to resolve this matter without compromising any parking spaces within the centre of Epworth. A number of the objectors were also concerned about the traffic impact the proposal would have on other roads and junctions in the town centre. The business case was discussed along with the financial costs that would be involved, should the decision be taken to proceed.

The Cabinet Member considered all the information presented at the briefing and felt that, in light of the objectors' concerns and the relatively minor benefits of the scheme weighed against the cost, the proposal could not be supported.

Resolved – (a) That the proposal to introduce the above traffic order be rejected