

Beryl Burton Gardens – Approval to advertise traffic regulation order for Morley Town Deal project

Date: 27th November 2024

Report of: Traffic Engineering

Report to: Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Morley Town Deal is a programme of Government funded projects aiming to improve Morley. One of the identified projects is an improvement scheme at Beryl Burton Gardens, an existing public realm space dominated by car parking.

The project aims to relocate some disabled car parking elsewhere in Morley and to re-use the space for improved seating and planting areas to offer a more attractive public space.

The re-located spaces are closer to the main shopping precinct with a reduced travel distance and a reduction in gradient for the access routes.

This report seeks approval for this change and to advertise an associated Traffic Regulation Order.

Recommendations

Chief Officer (Highways & Transportation)

The Chief Officer is requested to:

- a) Note the proposed improvement scheme at Beryl Burton Gardens and that all costs will be met from Morley Town Deal; and
- b) Instruct the City Solicitor to advertise a draft Traffic Regulation Order to relocate 5no disabled parking spaces as shown on attached drawing TM/26/1818/TRO/01 and subject to no objections being received to make and seal the Order as advertised.

What is this report about?

- 1 In March 2021 Morley was allocated £24.3m from the Government's Towns Fund. This was to deliver several programmes of projects across Morley including public realm/accessibility works under the "Greener & Connected" banner.
- 2 The Greener & Connected programme includes work to local parks as well as improvements to walking and cycling routes and facilities around Morley. These projects have been selected and endorsed by Morley Town Deal Board and are overseen by specific working groups comprised of elected city and town councillors and representatives of local businesses and residents.
- 3 One of the selected projects is a scheme to improve Beryl Burton Gardens, a small park area adjacent to Queen Street - Morley's main commercial street. Beryl Burton Gardens is set above the level of Queen Street and access is via steps and ramps or via the inclined footway of the adjacent Wesley Street.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 4 Beryl Burton Gardens is a small urban park area reached from Queen Street via a pedestrian cut through. It comprises small brick planters and benches although the majority of the area is car parking including some disabled parking spaces.
- 5 There is a long held local ambition to improve Beryl Burton Gardens and to de-emphasise the car parking in favour of a higher quality public realm area. This will require relocation of five disabled parking spaces.
- 6 The new public realm incorporates seating and planting and has been endorsed by the working group and Morley Town Deal Board.
- 7 Alternative locations have been identified for the disabled parking which are closer to Queen Street and negate the need to use ramps or steps. This includes:
 - i. Two spaces on Wesley Street close to the junction with Queen Street. This reduces the distance travelled from the commercial centre as well as the need to travel uphill
 - ii. Four spaces on Hope Street opposite Morley market. These are generally at the same level with Queen Street – a dropped kerb will be provided to facilitate access
- 8 The relocation of the disabled spaces has been subject to consultation with the Access Officer and the new locations are considered to be more accessible than the existing spaces which require an uphill journey from Queen Street via steps, ramps or inclined footway.
- 9 A Traffic Regulation Order to advertise the relocation of the disabled spaces is required and is shown on the attached drawing TM/26/1818/TRO/01

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 10 The proposal offers benefits to Health and Wellbeing through the provision of improved public realm with a reduced emphasis on car parking adjacent to seating areas. The scheme supports the general improvements to Inclusive Growth around the town centre that form part of Morley Town Deal.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Morley South

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 11 Ward members have been involved in the development of the Beryl Burton Gardens scheme through membership of the working group as well as the Morley Town Deal Board. Strong support was expressed by ward members and the proposals were formally endorsed by Town Deal Board.
- 12 Discussions have been held with the access officer and other affected parties to understand the benefits of the proposal. An EDCI screening was conducted which determined:
- *The current disabled parking spaces are partly substandard in width and are sited away from the commercial centre of Morley, accessible via inclined routes or steps.*
 - *The proposed locations are sited closer to the commercial centre and offer level access over shorter distances, representing an improved provision.*
 - *In addition the number of spaces has increased from 13 (8 in the car park and 5 on street) to 14 (8/6).*
 - *The proposal now offers three locations for formal disabled parking around the commercial centre instead of one.*

What are the resource implications?

- 13 All costs are being funded through the Greener & Connected programme under Morley Town Deal.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 14 Key risks relate to objections to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order.
- 15 This will be managed by Traffic Engineering and should objections be forthcoming a further report will be presented to the Chief Officer detailing these and appropriate recommendations.

What are the legal implications?

- 16 The proposed Traffic Regulation Order would be subject to specific legislation. All remaining works fall within the powers of the Highway Authority to make changes to the adopted highway.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 17 Town Deal Board's ambition to make improvements to Beryl Burton Gardens mean that there are limited alternative options. The principle alternative would be to retain the disabled car parking spaces in their current location, but this would not achieve the scale of change anticipated in this project, and as noted the re-location offers benefits in terms of shorter and less inclined journeys to the commercial core.

How will success be measured?

- 18 Town Deal Board and Town Deal Programme Board oversee the delivery of projects in the Greener & Connected programme. In addition outputs are reported to central Government via regular returns to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 19 The order will be advertised in early 2025 and subject to no objections being received the works will be implemented later in 2025.
- 20 Traffic Engineering will deliver the TRO and the civils works will be undertaken through the Town Deal Greener & Connected programme.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Drawing TM/26/1818/TRO/01
- Appendix B: EDCI Screening