
MAGNOLIA ROAD, HAWKWELL – REPORT ON CURRENT SITUATION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report refers Members to sources of information and discussions that have taken place regarding the above location and puts forward a recommendation following the matters discussed at the Committee meeting of 17 April 2003.

2 RECENT HISTORY

- 2.1 A detailed appraisal on the status of Magnolia Road, interested groups, environmental issues, and other incidents causing concern, in addition to the results of an informal consultation on restricting vehicular movements is contained in a previous report submitted to the Committee for the 26 February 2003 meeting. A copy of the report and minute of that meeting are shown at Appendix 1 of this report. The resource and legal implications of implementing a scheme at Magnolia Road are also considered in that report.
- 2.2 At that meeting of the Committee the following four options were offered to members of the public and interested groups for discussion:
1. Proceed with a road closure at the northern end, notwithstanding almost equal opposition and support for the scheme.
 2. Introduce a closure on an experimental basis for nine months and monitor the effects.
 3. Introduce a width restriction to remove only large vehicles using the road rather than a road closure.
 4. Do nothing and maintain the status quo.
- 2.3 Following that original meeting, on 18 March 2003, there was an alternative proposal from the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the Highway's Area Manager to consider erecting "No Through Road" signs on the approaches to Magnolia Road, but without implementing the road closure. A copy of the minute of that meeting is shown at Appendix 2 of this report.

3 CURRENT DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Magnolia Road is a public footpath and a private street, but not an adopted public highway. As such, the Highway Authority has no clear right

to implement schemes which are directed at easing or restricting vehicular movements.

- 3.2 Having taken legal advice, Essex County Council's District Manager has confirmed that it would not be permissible to put up signs such as "No Through Road" which could be considered misleading, and if such misleading signs were put up, they would have to be removed immediately should the Highway Authority receive an objection to them being there. This was reported to the Committee of 17 April 2003. A copy of the minute of that meeting is shown at Appendix 3 of this report.

4 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To recommend that no action be taken by the Highway Authority to restrict vehicular movements in Magnolia Road as it is a private street.

N McCullagh
Area Manager, Highways and Transportation
Essex County Council

Background Papers:

All correspondence and the results of traffic surveys are held by the Area Manager at the South Area Office, Rayleigh on File No T/2/11/HAWKWELL

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