

**The County of Powys
(U4256 Bryn and Union Streets, Newtown)
(One-Way Traffic) (U2822, U2823, U2825 Hollies and Penlan Lanes,
Newtown) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2019**

STATEMENT OF REASONS

- 1.1 During the construction of the Newtown Bypass, concerns have been raised by the Newtown Agricultural College and local residents that Hollies Lane and Penlan Lane are being used as rat runs by drivers seeking out ways to avoid queuing within Newtown.
- 1.2 Whilst it is likely that the degree of rat running along these roads will be significantly reduced once the bypass has been completed, the matter has been discussed with the Welsh Government who have agreed to fund the cost of a traffic regulation order and associated signage as part of the bypass costs. An initial proposal to permanently stop up the lower end of Hollies Lane to all vehicular traffic was not supported by the local residents along these lanes, as it is difficult during snow and ice conditions to access or leave their properties via the upper sections of these lanes from to the A483 trunk road.
- 1.3 With the above in mind, the proposal is to introduce a Permanent Traffic Regulation Order which would revoke the existing 7.5 tonne amenity weight limit (except for access) Traffic Regulation Order along Hollies Lane, and replace it with a prohibition of all motorised vehicles (except for access) Traffic Regulation Order along the entire lengths of Hollies Lane and Penlan Lane.
- 1.4 Initial enquiries with the police, the affected community councils and the local county councillors have shown that there is support in principle for the proposed Access Only Traffic Regulation Order to be proposed by Powys County Council. The only negative comments to the proposal have been received from Kerry Community Council, who have suggested that no prohibitions should be imposed along Penlan Lane. It should however be noted that Penlan Lane is not located within the Kerry Community Council ward.
- 1.5 A request has also been received from the local county councillor for the Newtown Llanllwchaiarn West ward, County Councillor Mark Barnes, that the Hollies and Penlan Lanes prohibition of driving except for access Order is expanded to include a one-way traffic prohibition Order along parts of Bryn Street and Union Street within his ward.
- 1.6 Councillor Barnes undertook a public consultation exercise during the last quarter of 2017 to consider options to improve traffic flows and address on street parking concerns on a number of town centre residential roads within his ward. One of the options considered during the consultation exercise was to make parts of Bryn Street and Union Street one-way, thereby maximising the available on street parking along those roads, and eliminating the reversing manoeuvres which regularly occur as two-

way traffic attempts to negotiate these narrow streets where parked vehicles reduce the carriageway width to a single lane.

- 1.7 The consultation exercise showed that the majority of residents who responded to the consultation exercise were in favour of the one-way traffic order proposal.
- 1.8 The Welsh Government have indicated that they have no objection to the access only Traffic Regulation Order for Hollies and Penlan Lanes being expanded to incorporate the proposed one-way Traffic Regulation Order for Bryn Street and Union Street, on the condition that all signage for this order is funded by Powys County Council, and on the additional proviso that any objections received with respect to the proposed one-way Order during the public consultation phase will not unduly delay the introduction of the proposed access only Order.
- 1.9 The extents, prohibition and exemptions relating to the access only and one-way Order are identified on the accompanying draft Traffic Regulation Order and plans.