

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee

Date of Committee 21st March 2007

Report Title Hams Lane, Lea Marston - Outcome of Public Consultation

Summary Lea Marston Parish Council has approached the County Council to seek a closure of Hams Lane. This report details the results of a public consultation regarding this proposal and recommends against closure.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers Report of Residents' survey.

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Councillor Mrs J Lea
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Councillor M Heatley – for information
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive
- Legal I Marriott - agreed
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers

- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Lea Marston Parish Council.

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

North Warwickshire Area Committee - 21st March 2007

Hams Lane, Lea Marston - Outcome of Public Consultation

Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

Recommendation

That the Area Committee does not support the proposal of Lea Marston Parish Council to close Hams Lane.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Lea Marston Parish Council has held concerns regarding the speed and volume of traffic in their village. Over the years various methods of reducing the volume of traffic in the village have been examined and found to be impractical.
- 1.2 The Parish Council in response to these concerns asked the County Council to examine the possibility of closing Hams Lane to through traffic. A map of the suggested closure is attached as **Appendix A** to this report. From the County's perspective an understanding of the level of support for such a proposal was essential before further consideration could be agreed. A consultation exercise was therefore carried out during December 2006.

2. The Consultation

- 2.1 The exercise involved surveying by post the population of Lea Marston village and surrounding Parish Councils. Officers also held discussions with other stakeholders including the emergency services and the Highways Agency.
- 2.2 Of the 81 households in Lea Marston village surveyed 58 responded. This represents 72% of the total. From these households 126 individual responses were made.
- 2.3 Other responses outside of the residents survey were received by letter, e-mail and telephone and are detailed in **Appendix B** to this report.
- 2.4 From the survey 62% (78 people) of respondents from Lea Marston were against closure of Hams Lane. All responses made outside of the resident survey were against the proposal with the exception of a letter from Lea Marston Parish Council. A majority of Lea Marston residents (62%) considered that the size of vehicles, including illegal use of HGVs in weight restricted areas,

constituted the greatest traffic problem in the village. Other issues noted included the use of the village as a “rat-run” and the speed/volume of traffic.

- 2.5 The Highways Agency made no specific response to the proposal other than to note the limited capacity at Junction 9 of the M42 to where traffic would be displaced by a closure of Hams Lane. Should a closure be proceeded with the Highways Agency would wish to see a traffic modelling exercise that analysed in detail the effect of a closure on Junction 9 of the M42.
- 2.6 Warwickshire Police responded to the consultation and noted their concerns about the effect a closure of Hams Lane would have on their (and other emergency services) response times to incidents in Lea Marston and adjoining areas.

3. Conclusion

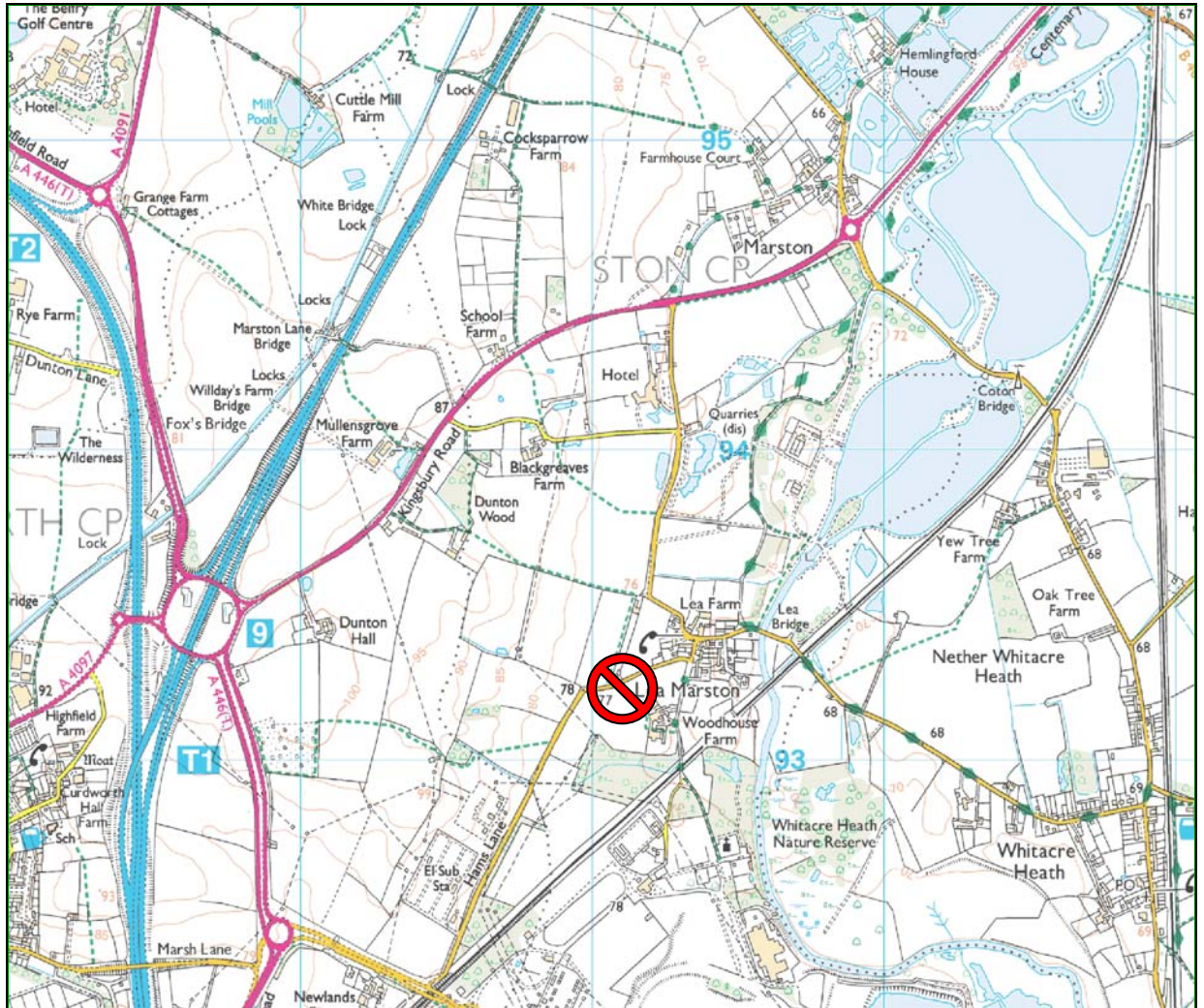
- 3.1 The County Council undertook the residents survey to identify if the proposal of the Parish Council to close Hams Lane had public support. Opinion was split on this with a slight preference for keeping Hams Lane open. Outside of Lea Marston village the proposal met with unanimous opposition and concern from the Police and Highways Agency.
- 3.2 In the light of the survey results and the concerns raised it is recommended that Hams Lane should not be closed.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

7th March 2007

North Warwickshire Area Committee - 21st March 2007

Hams Lane, Lea Marston - Outcome of Public Consultation



**North Warwickshire Area Committee - 21st March 2007
Hams Lane, Lea Marston - Outcome of Public Consultation
Further Responses+**

	Summary of Comments	Source	For/Against closure
1	This has to be the last attempt to resolve the traffic problems.	Lea Marston Parish Council	For
2	It will turn Whitacre Heath into a rat run.	Private	Against
3	Concern about alternative routes.	Private	Against
4	Problems with congestion and access to local services.	Private	Against
5	Congestion on alternative routes and closure is against Government policy re. access to new Coleshill station.	Private	Against
6	Additional traffic in Whitacre Heath.	Via Mike O'Brien MP	Against
7	Closure is against Government policy re. access to new Coleshill station. Minority of selfish villagers in Lea Marston.	Via Mike O'Brien MP	Against
8	Will object to the closure. Access to local services a key issue.	Nether Whitacre Parish Council	Against
9.	Will object to the closure. Lea Marston Parish Council asked to consider other methods of traffic calming.	Water Orton Parish Council	Against
10.	Will object to the closure.	Curdworth Parish Council	Against
11.	Against Closure - Nether Whitacre resident who needs access to Hams Hall.	Private	Against
12.	Lea Marston resident - against closure - want to access new station and avoid using roads leading to Junction 9 of M42.	Private	Against
13.	Object to closure - only those who live on the village green want this - need access to local schools etc without using junction 9 M42.7.	Private	Against