SILKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

8 The Meadows, Silkstone Common,
Barnsley, S75 4SG.
Telephone 07947 545504
silkstoneparishcouncil@gmail.com
www.silkstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer: Richard Bell

Head of Transport & Highways (Traffic Management)
Barnsley MBC
PO Box 601
Barnsley
S60 9EZ

Friday 30th July 2021.

Dear Highways,
Traffic Regulation Order – High Street, Silkstone, Barnsley.

Following an Extraordinary Meeting of Silkstone Parish Council on Monday 26th July 2021, we would like to make a formal objection to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order as stated, and also make representation on behalf of residents of the parish and local businesses affected by the proposal.

There has been a good deal of negativity, anguish and anger at your proposals and the apparent lack of any meaningful dialogue or consultation on what would undoubtedly have a major impact upon the lives and livelihoods of those living and working in Silkstone.

The Traffic Regulation Order wording used is almost entirely lifted from the Road Traffic Regulation Act (1984) and is not bespoke to the area, nor does it take into consideration local conditions or community impact in Silkstone.

We would therefore wish to put forward the views of the Council, after hearing from residents and business on the following grounds:-

1) In your *'Statement of Reasons'* document you say that parking *"makes access for larger vehicles difficult"* you then go on to describe these as *"….Fire & Rescue, Ambulances, Buses (sic), Refuse vehicles etc."* – we have not seen any evidence disclosed or provided into the public domain of representations from any agency or organisation that there is a factual basis to your statement and therefore would welcome sight of such evidence please.

2) You further go on to say that you wish to *"…prohibit vehicles waiting at any time…… to ensure the free flow of traffic"* – we have seen no evidence of any data to support your contention that traffic does not flow freely or that the amount of traffic flow at various times is such to warrant a total prohibition of parking. What evidence has been collected please? What

traffic flow is there during the period between 10.30PM and 6.30AM for example?

3) Your *"Statement of Reasons"* explains the powers available to Barnsley MBC by Act of Parliament; you further say *"…..the Council is satisfied it is expedient to make the order for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the roads and for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, and for facilitating the passage of traffic on the road."* – we would like to see what evidence has been collected to bring you to make the decision that there is an "expedient danger" ('expedient' being an action that achieves a particular purpose, but may not be morally right). Are you able to disclose evidence into the public domain showing the number of road traffic collisions and pedestrian personal injury cases at this location?

4) In your final paragraph you say *"…...secure……. the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway…"* – by permanently prohibiting all vehicle waiting on High Street for residents and business you are not providing any alternative parking and are in essence creating a negative consequence by displacing vehicles to other parts of the Highway and therefore arguably not complying with your duty under Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act Regulation Act (1984). What evidence do you have, described in your statement as *"…due regard"* that a Traffic Regulation Order is required and in plain English terms, not quoting directly from the above Act, what are your *"…objectives…."* in proposing this scheme?

5) More specifically in listening to a large number of residents in High Street; where are they expected to park their cars when they have no off-street parking facilities? Has any impact analysis been done to consider how this affects peoples lives? Is the proposal proportionate to the massive impact upon residents, including those who have recently purchased houses on High Street?

6) In relation to High Street at the point after the Red Lion Public House going past 'The Bells Bar & Kitchen' (a business not identified on your plan) the road is 28 feet wide, so therefore even when cars are parked on both sides of the street there is at least 15' space, sufficient for two vehicles to pass safely; this is not uncommon to any village or town in the Borough. What evidence is there that by prohibiting vehicle waiting at this point you are solving a problem that does not exist?

7) Additionally, at the same part of High Street as described in 6) there is a primary school and pre-school (a private business) catering for babies and children up to 12 years of age. During term time parents and carers drop off their children; a 20-minute window twice a day, 5 days a week – by making this section of High Street a permanent no waiting area there will be a massive negative impact upon surrounding smaller side roads, creating by design arguably a greater hazard to pedestrians. What evidence do you have that the proposed restriction will improve Highway safety?

8) Local businesses trade on High Street and Martin Croft including a restaurant, pharmacy, hair salon and pre-school. The proposals may have a potentially damaging effect upon their ability to trade. Most notably the 'Bells Bar & Grill' relies almost entirely upon customers having the ability to park outside their premises on High Street – this business has made representations to the Parish Council to the effect that if the proposals go ahead their business will in all probability go bankrupt. What analysis has been done to consider the impact upon local businesses along High Street?

9) What evidence has been collated to consider the impact of the proposals upon users of the children's play area and those wishing to pay their respects to the fallen at the War Memorial, both on Martin Croft? Has consideration been given to worshipers at All Saints Church, visitors to Heritage Silkstone, weddings, funerals, christenings etc.?

10) Anecdotal evidence collected by the Parish Council following residents' concerns is that there is an issue of speeding vehicles along High Street. The Parish Council has purchased 'Speed Indicator Devices' (SID) and would welcome working with Highways Traffic management in looking at initiatives to reduce speeding – we are of the strong opinion that if there were no cars parked on High Street by prohibition this would increase speed massively and create by design arguably a greater danger to road users and pedestrians.

In objecting to the proposals put forward in the Traffic Regulation Order, we are in no way suggesting that there are not traffic management issues on High Street that need to be discussed and addressed but in supporting the overwhelming public view that the proposals will have a very major impact upon family life and livelihoods we are supporting the community we serve.

We very much look forward to having a meaningful and considered consultation allowing a reasonable amount of time to collate evidence and demonstrate transparency.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Bell
Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Silkstone Parish Council