



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

STATEMENT OF REASONS

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL (CHURCH LANE, ARBORFIELD) (PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES) ORDER 202*

The decision to prohibit motor traffic along a designated section of Church Lane has been developed to prevent inappropriate through traffic and encourage the use of more suitable alternative routes, such as Reading Road. Church Lane is not designed to accommodate high volumes of motor vehicles, and its narrow and residential nature makes it unsuitable for use as a cut-through route.

The prohibition is intended to regulate traffic flow more effectively, preventing rat running and reducing the impact of excessive vehicle use on the local road network. By diverting traffic onto Reading Road, a more appropriate route for through traffic, the scheme aims to enhance road safety, protect the integrity of Church Lane, and improve conditions for residents and other road users.

Reducing traffic levels on Church Lane will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as create a quieter and more pleasant environment. By discouraging unnecessary motor vehicle use, the scheme also promotes active travel, supports healthier lifestyles, and helps to reduce congestion and vehicle emissions.

To ensure that essential access is maintained, emergency service vehicles will be able to pass through via a removable bollard system. This measure ensures that the prohibition does not hinder emergency response times while still effectively restricting general motor traffic.

Overall, the prohibition of motor vehicles on this section of Church Lane is a necessary step in creating a safer, more sustainable, and appropriately managed local road network.

This Order is being proposed for the following reasons:

- (a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, or
- (b) for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road, or
- (c) for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians), or

(d)for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property, or

(e)(without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (d) above) for preserving the character of the road in a case where it is especially suitable for use by persons on horseback or on foot, or

(f)for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

In authorising the advertisement of these proposals, the Council has given consideration to its duty under s.122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway (while having regard to the matters specified in s.122 subsection (2) of that Act).

Date 24th April 2025

Chris Easton, Assistant Director Highways and Transport, Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WL