

26th November 2012

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PART OF WICKFIELD DRIVE AND ASSOCIATED
FOOTPATHS IN THE FRECHEVILLE AREA OF SHEFFIELD

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek authority to process the Stopping-Up Order required for closing part of Wickfield Drive and associated footpaths in the Frecheville area of Sheffield, as shown hatched and thick black-edged on the plan attached as Appendix A.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's Highway Maintenance Division has received an application from the Home Group housing association for permanent closure of part of Wickfield Drive and several associated footpaths in the Frecheville area of Sheffield, as shown hatched and thick black-edged on the plan attached as Appendix A. (A wider location plan is included at Appendix B).
- 2.2 This site, known as 'Scowerdons Phase B1', is part of the Scowerdons, Weaklands and Newstead Housing Regeneration project ('SWaN'), which is a partnership between the Council, Home Group, and the Homes & Communities Agency.
- 2.3 The Council housing previously on this site was all demolished some time ago. The applicant therefore asserts that the subject highways are no longer necessary for public use, and has applied to the Council for them to be permanently closed using the powers in Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980.
- 2.4 The site is currently owned by Sheffield City Council, but Home Group Developments Limited (HGDL) have entered into a Development Agreement with the Council to develop the site, and once all the pre-conditions have been satisfied HGDL will enter a lease agreement for the development of the site. (The land to the north west of Wickfield Drive, although not included in the particular current Home Group proposal, is nevertheless still owned by Sheffield City Council. The closure of the subject part of Wickfield Drive will leave the footpath within that land as a redundant cul-de-sac (i.e. not necessary for public use), so it is proposed to include it in the Closure Order. The Council's Housing Regeneration team, who control the site, are in agreement with this approach).

3.0 CONSULTATIONS

3.1 Consultations have been carried out with the Statutory Undertakers, the Emergency Services and other relevant bodies.

3.2 Not all consultees had responded at the time of writing this report but of those who have replied, only Northern Powergrid (formerly Yorkshire Electric) have apparatus which is affected. However, Home Group have accepted their quotation for its disconnection and diversion.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Legal Services have been consulted and have advised that, assuming the subject areas of highway are unnecessary, it would be appropriate to process the closure using the powers contained within Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980.

5.0 HIGHWAY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Wickfield Drive is a general purpose adopted public highway, and the subject footpaths are all also adopted public highways. They were originally built to serve the Council housing that occupied the site, but which has all now been demolished.

5.2 Consequently, closure of the subject sections of highway should not adversely affect the public's enjoyment of the area and will have no detrimental effect on the surrounding highway network and its users.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no particular equal opportunities implications arising from the proposals in this report.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no particular environmental implications arising from the proposals in this report.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this proposed closure.

8.2 All costs associated with, and arising from, the application for the permanent highway closure and the consequent works on site, will be met by the applicants.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 Based on the above information, I have no objections to the proposed closure as shown by hatching and thick black-edging on the plan included as Appendix A.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Raise no objections to the proposed permanent closure of part of Wickfield Drive and several associated footpaths in the Frecheville area of Sheffield, as shown hatched and thick black-edged on the plan attached as Appendix A, subject to satisfactory arrangements being made with Statutory Undertakers in connection with any of their mains and services that may be affected.

10.2 Authorise Legal Services to take all necessary action on the matter under the powers contained within Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 and to apply to the Magistrates' Court for an Order to stop-up the said areas of highway.

Richard Day
Senior Engineer
Highway Records
Highway Maintenance Division

26th November 2012

REPORT APPROVED BY HEAD OF TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & PARKING SERVICES

Signed

Date