

**ORIGINATING DIVISION:** HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION  
CAPITA

**REPORT TO:** BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**TITLE:** PETITION – VICARAGE DRIVE, RECTORY CLOSE and  
PRIORY DRIVE, DARWEN

**WARD: MARSH HOUSE**      **COUNCILLORS:** Tom Evans  
John Roberts  
Kevin Connor

---

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the receipt of a petition from the residents of Vicarage Drive, Rectory Close and Priory Drive, Darwen, requesting that an alternative is found to the 'designated' reverse around a corner used by learner drivers

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

Vicarage Drive, Rectory Close and Priory Drive are residential streets. Priory Drive serves as a local distributor / link road and as such is a bus route.

Vicarage Drive has a junction onto Priory Drive opposite a small local supermarket. There is a bus stop on Priory Drive opposite this junction and the supermarket has installed a footpath from their exit to this bus stop.

The Vicarage Drive junction is used by driving instructors to teach their learner drivers how to reverse around a corner.

The petitioners point out that since the path was installed from the supermarket directly onto Priory Drive, customers now park on Priory Drive at the path as it is convenient. They also point out that Vicarage Drive and Rectory Close are used by pedestrians as a route from Chancel Way, and the estate beyond, to access St. Peters Primary School. As such there is a large pedestrian movement around this junction.

The petition was signed by 52 residents in total, 10 residents from 7 properties on Vicarage Drive, 32 residents from 25 properties on Rectory Close and 6 residents from 5 properties on Priory Drive with 3 signatories being from other streets.

### **3.0 DETAIL**

This issue is not something within the control or influence of the council. Local driving instructors, many of whom tend to be 'one man bands' rather than a central entity. Obviously feel that this corner provides good experience for their learner drivers.

Also this 'corner' may well be on a bona fide test route and as such both driving instructors & examiners will be using it.

It is recommended that the petition be forwarded to the local Drivers Vehicle Standards Agency' at the test centre. If it is on one of their test routes then they may reconsider this and also they may be able to influence the driving instructors using it.

#### **4.0 IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Customer</b>	None
<b>Financial</b>	None
<b>Anti-poverty</b>	None
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	None

#### **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that

- the Committee notes the petition
- the Committee notes that this issue is not within the jurisdiction of the Local Authority
- the petition be forwarded to the Drivers' Vehicle Standards Agency
- the Lead Petitioner be informed of the above.

**6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Petition

**7.0 CONTACT OFFICERS:** George Bell

**8.0 DATE PREPARED:** 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016