

# CABINET AGENDA



**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008**

**at 9.00am**

**in Committee Room B,  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CABINET:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, Payne and Tumilty

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

To receive the Record of Decision in respect of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008  
(previously circulated)

**4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

4.1 PPG17 Open Space Assessment – *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*

4.2 Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2008-2009 – *Director of Neighbourhood Services*

**5. KEY DECISIONS**

No items

**6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

6.1 Falcon Road – Traffic Management – *Director of Neighbourhood Services*

6.2 Local Area Agreement (LAA) Quarter 4 Summary of Performance Report  
2007/08 – *Head of Community Strategy*

6.3 Departmental Structures and Efficiencies – *Chief Executive*

## **7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION**

No items

## **8. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS**

8.1 Transportation Links to Hospital Services and Neighbourhood Services Transport Provision

(a) Final Report – *Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum*

(b) Action Plan – *Director of Neighbourhood Services*

8.2 Access to Recreation Activities for Children and Young People in Hartlepool

(a) Final Report – *Children's Services Scrutiny Forum*

(b) Action Plan – *Director of Children's Services*

## **9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

### **EXEMPT ITEMS**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

## **10. EXEMPT ITEMS REQUIRING DECISIONS**

10.1 Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – Variation to Terms of Headlease to PPG Metro 500 Limited – *Head of Procurement, Property and Public Protection* (Para 3)

## **CABINET REPORT**

**23 June 2008**



**Report of:** Director of Neighbourhood Services

**Subject:** FALCON ROAD – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

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### **SUMMARY**

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek approval for the proposed traffic management measures in relation to Falcon Road.

#### **2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

The report details the background to the request to close Falcon Road, the consultation undertaken and potential solutions.

#### **3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET**

The proposed changes will affect the primary road network and also a large number of residents in Hartlepool.

#### **4. TYPE OF DECISION**

Non key decision.

#### **5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

Cabinet – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008.

#### **6. DECISION REQUIRED**

That Cabinet consider the alternatives as set out in the report.

**Report of:** Director of Neighbourhood Services

**Subject:** FALCON ROAD – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the proposed traffic management measures in relation to Falcon Road.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Falcon Road is one of 3 accesses to the Bishop Cuthbert/ Middle Warren estate. As the estate has expanded the volume of traffic using the road has increased, and residents of Falcon Road requested that it be closed to through traffic. During surveys it was found that 85% of the vehicles using Falcon Road were using it as a through road. Some residents have claimed that it was originally planned for Falcon Road to be closed, however, no evidence has been found to support this.
- 2.2 A consultation exercise was carried out in June 2007, where feedback was requested in relation to the possible closure of Falcon Road at Moorhen Road, and Lapwing Close at Merlin Way, to prevent traffic “rat running” through the estate. Results were as follows:-
- 22 responses (18.8%) in favour of the closures.
  - 89 responses (76.1%) against the closures.
  - 6 responses (5.1%) agreed there was a problem but were against the proposal to close the roads.
- 2.3 From the consultation a large number of people had suggested an alternative option of closing Falcon Road at Throston Grange Lane, rather than the 2 closures detailed in 2.2 above. A 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of consultation then took place to seek further views, with updated results as follows:-
- 36 responses (26.8%) in favour of the closure.
  - 94 responses (70.2%) against the closure.
  - 4 responses (3%) agreed there was a problem but were against the proposal to close the road.



### 3. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES

- 3.1 The reasons for the closure request can be appreciated – It is a narrow road with junction radii not ideal for the present volume of traffic. Traffic calming is already in place, and the speed of traffic does not appear to be an issue.
- 3.2 The main negative impact of closing the road would be the displacement of traffic onto adjacent roads, particularly Hart Lane, which is already congested at certain times of the day.
- 3.3 The effect on roads closer to the town centre, such as Hart Lane near to Sacred Heart School, also needs to be considered. People travelling from the town and Marina areas would be likely to use Hart Lane rather than the A179 dual carriageway, as some do at present.
- 3.4 These are the residents' main objections, along with the associated inconvenience and longer journey times from having to access the estate via an alternative route.
- 3.5 A petition has also been received from the shops and health facilities at Hart Lane/ Wiltshire Way, objecting to the closure. This is on the grounds of expected loss of trade from Bishop Cuthbert residents, who when faced with a longer journey round would be likely to choose to visit the new shopping facilities at the northern end of the estate adjacent to the A179, instead.

### 4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 **Do nothing** – Would appease the objectors, who are a significant majority of the people who have expressed an interest in this issue, but would fail to tackle in any way the problems encountered by Falcon Road residents.
- 4.2 **Compulsory purchase houses on one side and widen Falcon Road** – This has been suggested but would be a somewhat extreme measure. It would also have huge cost implications and be extremely unpopular with those residents affected.
- 4.3 **Road closure as detailed in 2.3 (at Throston Grange Lane) See Appendix 1** – A significant number of objections – 77 letters and 2 petitions - submitted in response to the public notice. 8 letters were also submitted from Falcon Road residents in support of the closure. (Copies available for the meeting). Would also cause additional problems as detailed in 3.2 – 3.5 above.

- 4.4 Road closures as detailed in 2.2 (at Moorhen Rd/ Falcon Road and Lapwing Close/ Merlin Way) See Appendix 2** – Again, a significant number of objections – 22 people in favour, 89 people against. 6 people also responded acknowledging there was a problem, but objecting to this proposal. Would also cause the problems detailed in 3.2 – 3.5 above.
- 4.5 Road closures at Moorhen Rd/ Merlin Way and Falcon Rd/ Lapwing Close, see Appendix 3** – A variation on the closures described in 4.4 above. Moorhen Road would close at Merlin Way, but Lapwing Close would be closed at Falcon Road, rather than Merlin Way. This option has not been consulted on, as it has only been a recent suggestion. There may be some minor change to the figures, based on previous responses, but this is unable to be quantified at this stage.
- 4.6 Keep road open and introduce HGV ban** – Would prevent larger vehicles from using the road, which has been raised as a problem by some residents. Would give some concession to Falcon Road residents, whilst removing the large number of objections submitted.
- 4.7 Convert footpath/ cycleway to carriageway (See Appendix 4)** – There is a footpath/ cycleway link from Moorhen Road through to Throston Grange Lane. This could potentially be converted into a road and form a one way system, with traffic travelling along it in one direction and along Falcon Road in the other direction. It is not wide enough to allow two way traffic. Drawbacks are the likely objections from residents whose homes are adjacent to this area, plus the significant cost implications of such a scheme. It would also be unlikely to fully appease Falcon Road residents, as they would still have the same volume of traffic in one direction.
- 4.8 New estate access from Easington Road (See Appendix 5)** – From the existing Merlin Way/ Bluebell Way roundabout, an estate road is to be constructed all the way across to within 30 – 40 metres of Easington Road as part of the agreed development. The possibility of opening this up as a new junction with Easington Road could be explored. This would mean that people accessing the northern part of the estate would find it much easier to use this new link than Falcon Road, taking a large amount of traffic away from the existing problem area. Potential obstacles could be the cost implications, and also the housing developers. If they are planning to build houses fronting onto this road, they may feel they would be devalued by it becoming an access road. They may, however, see it as an improvement. If the Council wished to pursue this option then initial discussions could be entered into with the developers.

## **5. SUMMARY**

- 5.1** This is an extremely difficult issue to resolve, with feelings running high on

both sides. Whichever option, or combination of options, the Council decides to pursue there will be some people left feeling aggrieved.

**6. RECOMMENDATION**

That Cabinet consider the alternatives as set out in the report.



## TITLE

APPENDIX 1 – Falcon Road, Proposed road closure at Throston Grange Lane

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL  
 DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES  
 HEAD OF TECHNICAL SERVICES: A. SMITH

DRAWN  
M.R.

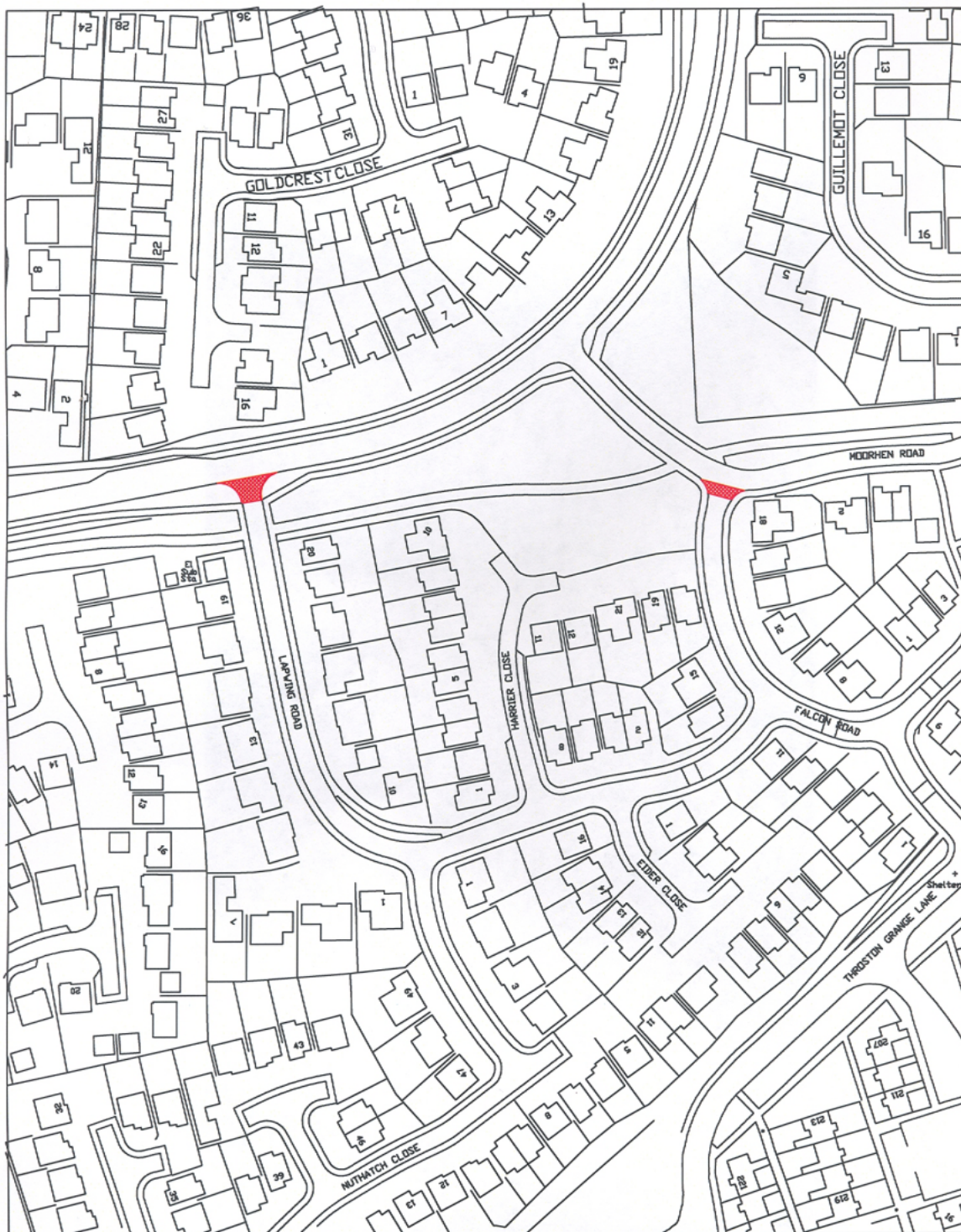
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DRG. NO.

REV.





## TITLE

APPENDIX 2 – Falcon Road/Lapwing Road, Proposed Road Closures

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL  
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES  
HEAD OF TECHNICAL SERVICES: A. SMITH

DRAWN  
M.R.

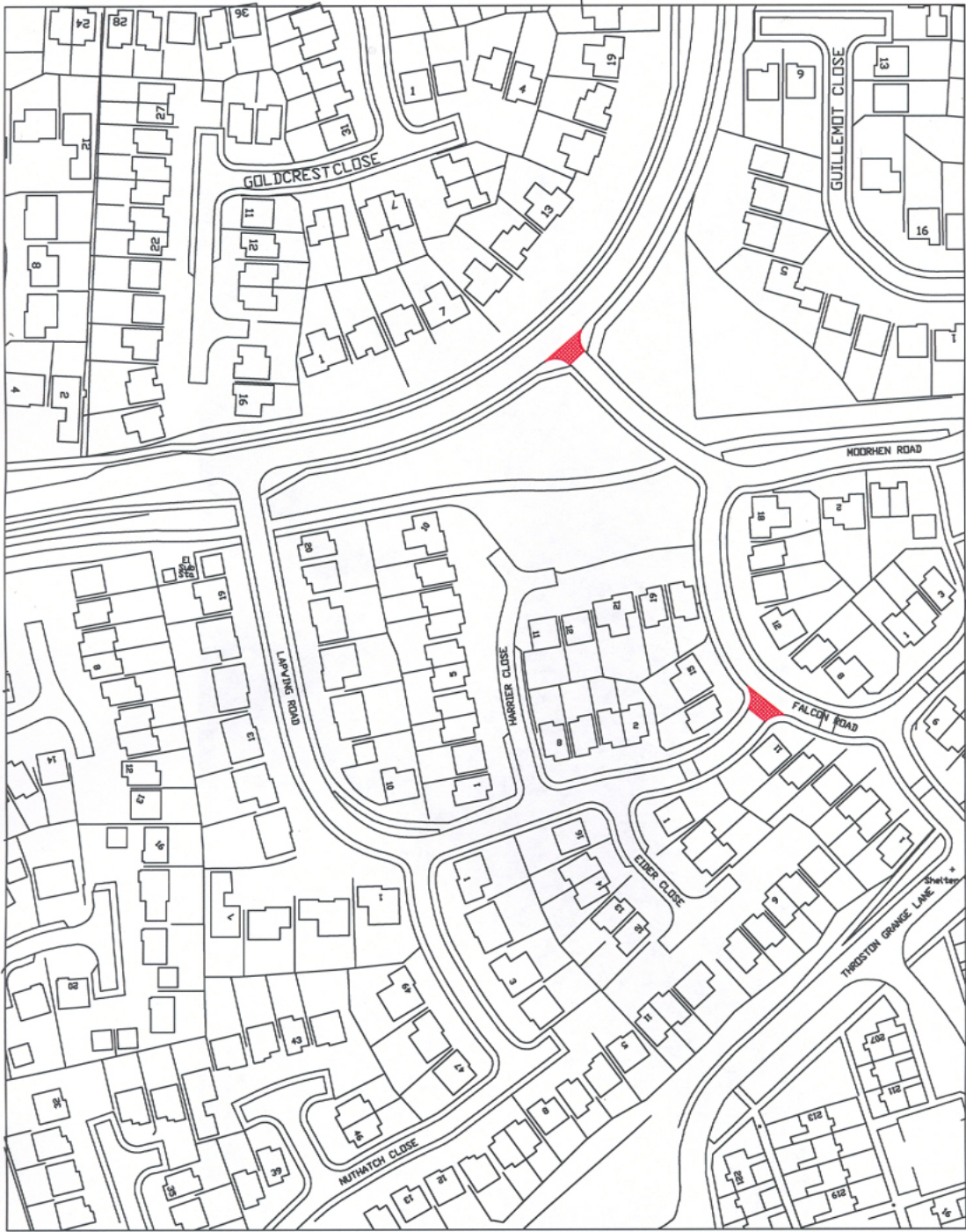
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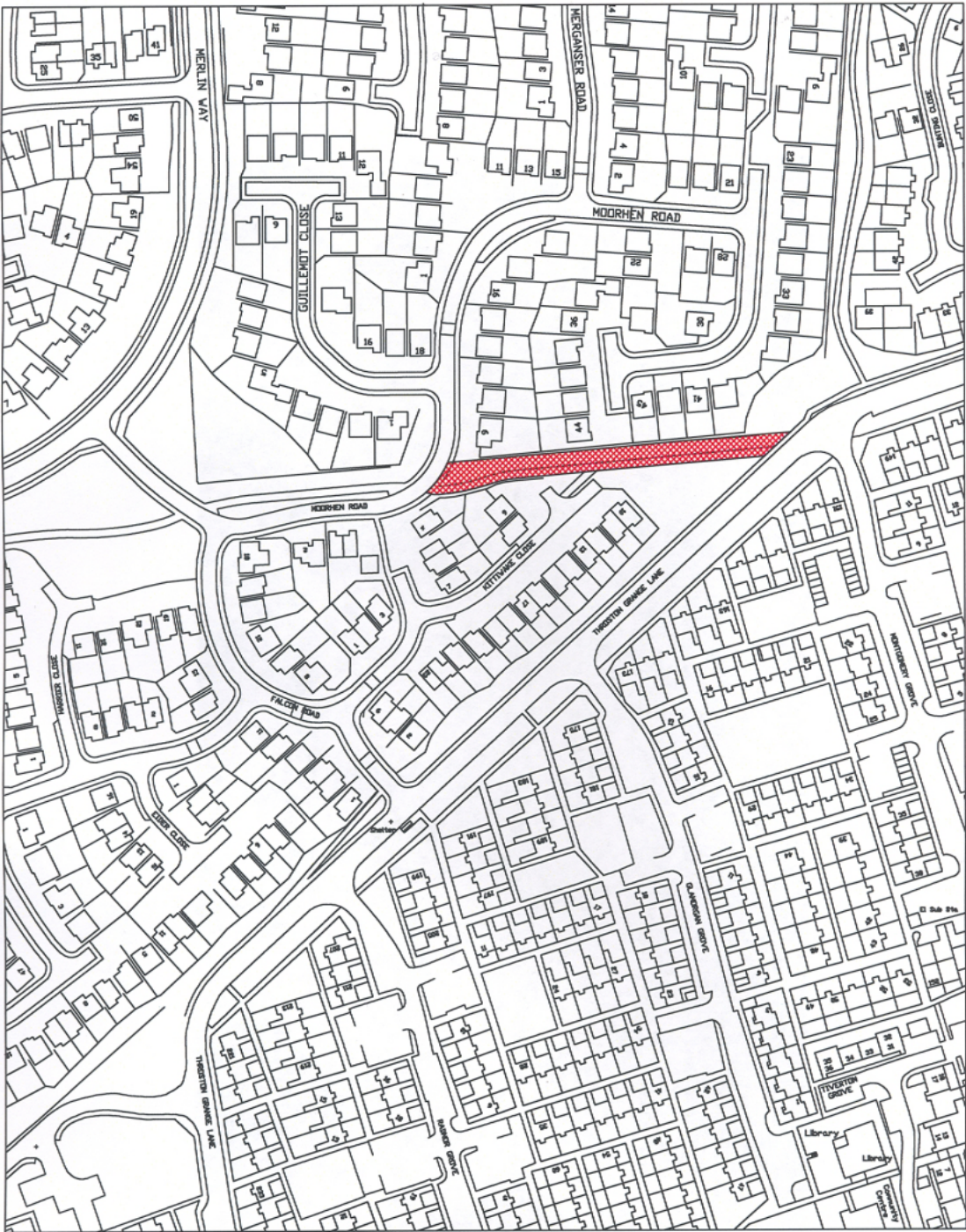
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| TITLE                                                          |  |          |         |
| APPENDIX 3 – Moorhen Road/Lapwing Road, Proposed Road Closures |  |          |         |
| HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL                                     |  | DRAWN    | CHECKED |
| DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES                           |  | M.R.     |         |
| HEAD OF TECHNICAL SERVICES: A. SMITH                           |  | SCALE    | DATE    |
|                                                                |  | 1:1500   | Aug '07 |
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| TITLE                                                                        |  |           |
| Appendix 4 – Proposed new road between Moorhen Road and Throston Grange Lane |  |           |
| HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL                                                   |  | DRAWN     |
| DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES                                         |  | M.R.      |
| HEAD OF TECHNICAL SERVICES: A. SMITH                                         |  | CHECKED   |
|                                                                              |  | DATE      |
|                                                                              |  | April '08 |
|                                                                              |  | REV.      |
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