

10th January 2013**Agenda Item:14****REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS
COMMITTEE****RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL ON 1ST NOVEMBER 2012****Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of responses to the issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 1st November 2012 :

- A. Petition regarding creating a cycle lane on Epperstone Bypass.
- B. Petition requesting speed limits at Costock.
- C. Petition requesting traffic calming measures for Grange Road, Newark.
- D. Petition requesting a residents parking scheme on Lime Grove, Newark.
- E. Petition regarding a pedestrian crossing for Friary Road, Newark.
- F. Petition requesting double yellow lines on Robin Down Lane, Mansfield.
- G. Petition concerning school transport in Bilsthorpe.

A. Petition regarding creating a cycle lane on Epperstone Bypass.

1. An e-petition containing 3 signatures was presented to the Chairman at the 1 November 2012 County Council meeting by Councillor Andy Stewart. The petition requested a dedicated cycle lane to alleviate safety concerns.
2. The cost of providing a new cycle lane along the whole length of the bypass would likely be very high and considering its likely costs and usage it is anticipated that it would offer low value for money.
3. This is because the numbers of cyclists using the Epperstone bypass (peaking at approximately 30 cyclists per day in summer) is relatively low. Also

examination of the casualty records shows that between Shelt Hill and Lowdham Road there has been only one cyclist slightly injured in a collision in the last three years.

4. Safety cameras are currently being installed along the length of the A6097 (including the Epperstone bypass) to address motor vehicle casualties. The safety cameras will enforce the 50mph speed limit which should in turn help improve cyclists' perception of safety.
5. Feasibility work will be undertaken to see if a low cost cycle lane utilising only the existing carriageway and new carriageway markings can be provided at no detriment to other road users. However, if this is not possible, it is not proposed that a cycle lane is considered at this time but that the length of road is monitored to determine the effects of the safety cameras and future casualty records.

B. Petition requesting speed limits at Costock.

6. A petition of 65 signatures was presented to the County Council by Councillor Reg Adair on 1st November requesting that the 30mph speed limit on Costock Road in East Leake be extended eastward to include the entrance to the sports field, youth club and pavilion.
7. There were two fatal accidents on the road length between Coctock and East Leake in 2009, but following the installation of a successful accident remedial scheme there have been no recorded injury accidents since.
8. In August, following a previous petition, the Council began consultation on a new 50mph speed limit between East Leake and Costock which included a short extension of the 30mph limit. In response to comments made as part of this process, the proposal was amended to extend the 30mph limit to cover the area requested on the petition and also to make the speed limit between East Leake and Costock 40mph.
9. This amended proposal is currently being reconsulted on and any further objections received will be considered accordingly. If no further objections are received, the proposal will be implemented in early 2013. It is recommended that the petitioners be informed accordingly.

C Petition requesting traffic calming measures for Grange Road, Newark.

10. A petition of 67 signatures was presented to the County Council meeting on 1st November by Councillor Keith Girling from the residents of Vale View sheltered Accommodation on Grange Road in Newark. The majority of tenants at Vale View are elderly, vulnerable and have mobility issues and require mobility aids, meaning that they may not be able to cross the road as quickly as an able bodied person.
11. The petitioners are concerned about vehicles exceeding the speed limit and that there has been an increase in HGVs using Grange Road since the Asda Development. They request action to make the road safer to cross and to reduce HGV traffic.
12. A traffic count was carried out in September this year which assessed volumes and speeds of HGVs and showed that HGVs are only 1% of the total traffic flow on Grange Road. Because of previous concerns about HGVs using the road a count is done every May and this year this recorded 19 HGVs between 7am and 7pm compared with an average of 36 HGVs in each of the previous 4 years. It would be difficult to justify measures to reduce such low figures, although they will continue to be closely monitored yearly and action taken as necessary.
13. Several years ago 'Elderly Persons' crossing warning signs were erected at the request of Councillor Girling to highlight pedestrian movement in the vicinity of the Vale View complex. To reinforce the impact of these signs SLOW markings in the carriageway have been installed this month.
14. The recent traffic survey has highlighted some speeding so in recognition of the vulnerability of the Vale View Residents an interactive speed sign has been included in the programme for 2013/14.
15. The response to the petition should be noted and the petition organiser informed.

D. Petition requesting a residents parking scheme on Lime Grove, Newark.

16. At the County Council meeting on 1st November documentation was presented by County Councillor Stuart Wallace from residents of Lime Grove in Newark following a consultation on the introduction of a residents parking scheme on the street. The consultation involved the completion of a questionnaire where residents could indicate their support for such a scheme

accompanied by a covering letter giving an introduction and an explanation of the workings of such a scheme from Councillor Wallace.

17. Councillor Wallace was approached by residents concerned about congestion and inconvenience stating that they were unable to park their vehicles on Lime Grove as it was being used by those working or shopping in the town centre wishing to avoid car park charges elsewhere. It is reported that a reply rate of 65% was achieved and of those that responded 77% were in favour of a scheme.
18. As a result of this level of support from residents a residents parking scheme has now been included in the programme for 2013/14. Consultation will take place in the new financial year with the residents on the design of the scheme.
19. The response to the petition should be noted and the petition organiser informed.

E. Petition regarding a pedestrian crossing for Friary Road, Newark.

20. A petition of 165 signatures was presented at the County Council meeting on 1st November by County Councillor Stuart Wallace from road users and residents of the Friary Road area of Newark following a tragic accident where a 10 year old boy was knocked down and killed by a car whilst crossing the road.
21. The petitioners are requesting a pedestrian crossing is installed in the vicinity of the roundabout at the junction of Friary road and Sleaford Road to prevent similar accidents in the future.
22. Extensive investigations have been carried out by both the Police and the County Council's Crash Site Investigation Unit. These are on-going and the results will be forwarded to the Coroner for deliberation.
23. Options to provide a facility to assist pedestrians would be to install either a zebra crossing or a refuge. A refuge would require substantial widening of the existing carriageway and may have a possible adverse effect on speed at the roundabout. A zebra crossing would have limitations with regard to visibility of pedestrians. The suitability and benefits of a zebra crossing on Friary Road are still being assessed and if a crossing is justified then it will be considered for funding in 2013/14.
24. The response to the petition should be noted and the petition organiser informed.

F. Petition requesting double yellow lines on Robin Down Lane, Mansfield.

25. A 21 signature petition was presented to the 1st November 2012 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Stephen Garner. The petition is from residents from the Robin Down Lane area and requests an investigation into parking issues at the junction of Robin Down Lane and A60 Nottingham Road, Mansfield.
26. After numerous visits to site, parking was not found to be problematic or dangerous. Additionally, there have been no injury accidents at this location where parked vehicles are a factor.
27. For the restrictions to be adjusted, a new Traffic Regulation Order would be required.
28. There have been 2 previous requests for Robin Down Lane to be considered for parking restriction alterations. Previous investigations have shown that the existing white lining is providing adequate protection to traffic coming off the A60 so double yellow lines would have limited justification.
29. The junction will however be monitored for safe parking and it is recommended that the petitioners be notified accordingly.

G. Petition concerning school transport in Bilsthorpe.

30. A petition of 28 signatures was presented to the County Council meeting on the 1st November by Councillor John Peck regarding the provision of transport for children attending the Joseph Whitaker School from the Bilsthorpe and Farnsfield areas. The petitioners were asking for a dedicated school bus, a seat for each child and for arrangements to be put in place for children who attend after school activities.
31. Children attending the Joseph Whitaker School from the Bilsthorpe and Farnsfield areas do so as a matter of parental preference. The County Council, in partnership with Stagecoach East Midlands (SEM), assists with the provision of transport from these local areas to school on SEM local bus service 29 which is part of a wider network serving Newark to Mansfield. In September this year the school session times were changed which resulted in an earlier finish. The school was advised that the timetable for the service 29 could not be changed due to other time commitments. The County Council has worked with the school and operator to find a solution and I am pleased to

advise that a new afternoon service will depart from the school at the earlier time of 15:15 from the Spring Term. This has been achieved at no cost to the County Council.

32. The capacity for the service will be 60 which should meet current needs, but standing capacity on local bus services can be used if the seating capacity is exceeded.
33. It is a matter for the school to make any necessary arrangements to provide transport for after school activities but the County Council will of course work with them to source the best solution.
34. The new bus service arrangements meet all of the needs for children attending the Joseph Whitaker School from the Bilsthorpe and Farnsfield areas and provides the most efficient and effective solution.

Reason for Recommendation

35. To update members on the petitions presented to the last meeting of Council

Statutory and Policy Implications

36. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is RECOMMENDED that the contents and proposed actions be noted and that the petitioners are informed accordingly.

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Peter Barker

Constitutional Comments

37. The contents and proposed actions in this report are for noting only.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s)

Farnsfield & Lowdham, Ruddington, Newark West, Newark East, Collingham, Mansfield, Rufford.