

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2012****Agenda Item:16****RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNTY COUNCIL ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012 AND 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012****Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide responses to the issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meetings on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012 :

- A. Petition regarding cutback of bus routes in Mansfield.
- B. Petition regarding the reinstatement of Red Lodge bus service, Screveton.
- C. Petition regarding bollards on grass verge opposite the Maythorne Lane / Lower Kirklington Road junction, Maythorne.
- D. Petition regarding Sunday parking in Newark.
- E. Petition regarding removal of safety barriers from footpaths in Kimberley.
- F. Petition regarding speeding and traffic volume on Little Gringley Lane, Welham.
- G. Petition requesting reconsideration of the part-night switch off of street lights in Blyth.
- H. Petition requesting reconsideration of the part-night switch off of street lights in Langold.
- I. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme – William Street, Newark
- J. Petition regarding speed limit on Gorsethorpe Lane, Kings Clipstone
- K. Petition regarding parking in Maun View, Mansfield.
- L. Petition regarding the switching off of street lights from residents of Lady Bay.
- M. Petition requesting the reduction of the 40mph speed limit operating on Old Mill Lane to 30mph in Forest Town, Mansfield.
- N. Petition opposing part-time street lighting in Beckingham.
- O. Petition requesting yellow lines along Bourne Avenue, Selston.

P. Petition regarding the improvement of highway/pathway lighting on Cauldwell Drive, Mansfield.

Q. Petition requesting a new bus station in Worksop.

**A. Petition regarding cutback of bus routes in Mansfield.**

1. An 692 signature petition was presented to the 17th May meeting of the County Council by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak regarding the withdrawal of some services in Mansfield.
2. In April this year Stagecoach East Midlands (SEM) made a number of changes to the bus service they operate in the Mansfield area, mainly evening services. The decisions made by SEM were made to achieve cost reductions in light of a 20% reduction in the government funded Bus Service Operators Grant on 1 April 2012, which provides a rebate against fuel duty. SEM advised us that the journeys being withdrawn had very little patronage and were not commercially sustainable. Passengers in the area affected have services available at other times enabling people to access local key services. No further action is proposed to replace the withdrawn services.

**B. Petition regarding reinstatement of Red Lodge bus service, Screveton**

3. A petition of 34 signatures was presented to the 17th May 2012 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts requesting the reinstatement of the Red Lodge bus service.
4. With the dualling of the A46, service 90 which is commercially operated by Marshalls cannot now directly serve the stop at Red Lodge. Whilst we appreciate the request for Red Lodge to be served, this stop was not well used when it was part of the original route. Marshalls would not be able to serve Red Lodge directly from the A46 owing to the new configuration of the road junction. Any route change would add a considerable amount of time to the service and inconvenience the other passengers who now enjoy a quick, direct, efficient and well supported journey from Newark to Nottingham.
5. As part of our wider considerations of transport provision in the county, we are currently considering our options with operating local bus services in this area and we shall consider Red Lodge within these proposals. It may be possible to serve Red Lodge as part of an on-demand led service or as part of the community volunteer car service. We shall advise the local councillors and parish councils of our proposals and also invite comments from interested parties.

**C. Petition regarding bollards on grass verge opposite Maythorne Lane / Lower Kirklington Road junction, Maythorne**

6. A petition of 61 signatures was presented by Councillor Bruce Laughton to the meeting of the County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May. The petitioners state that the junction of Maythorne Lane and Lower Kirklington Road, Southwell is difficult to manoeuvre. The corner radii appear insufficient for the type of vehicles using Maythorne Lane. They express a wish for the corner radii to be lengthened thereby improving access.
7. A meeting took place on April 23rd at the Maythorne junction between County Councillor Laughton, District Manager for Newark and Sherwood Highways and some of the petitioners. At this time we looked at the difficulties being experienced by vehicles entering and exiting the village. There were some physical limitations to a

junction improvement on site and these were discussed. As a result of this meeting, a project to improve visibility and overall safety when turning in and out of Maythorne Lane has been initiated.

8. Work to design and cost a project to widen or otherwise improve the junction to alleviate the problems outlined in the petition will be completed by September 2012. If funding is available the scheme will be available for construction towards the end of the financial year. If funding is an issue the scheme will be considered for inclusion in the 2013/14 programme. The response to the petition will be noted and the petition organiser be informed.

**D. Petition regarding Sunday parking in Newark**

9. A petition of 266 signatures was presented by County Councillor Keith Girling to the 17<sup>th</sup> May meeting of the County Council. The petition calls for a change to the current parking restrictions in Newark Town Centre, particularly for all the loading bays to be used as free, short stay parking on Saturdays and Sundays.
10. In 2008 Newark Town Centre underwent physical alterations in order to improve the environment for pedestrians. This involved reducing the circulation of traffic seeking parking by limiting the on street capacity to Loading and Disabled Bays. However, In light of the petition an existing proposal to change the length of time at various parking places in the Town Centre will now be expanded to include consultation on the requested changes for the loading bays and the petitioners informed accordingly.

**E. Petition regarding the removal of safety barriers from footpaths in Kimberley**

11. A 102 signature petition was presented to the County Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May by Councillor Rigby objecting to the removal of cycle barriers.
12. The barriers were removed by Broxtowe Borough Council on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the request of a local resident as he wished to claim his right of access to the footpath and footbridge on his mobility scooter under the Equality Act.
13. There has since been a site meeting with the petition organisers, the resident with access difficulties and Councillor Rigby to discuss alternative options to the cycle barrier on the footpath and footbridge. A chicane system of barriers has now been placed on the footpath that both slows down cycles and allows access to mobility scooter users. This has proven acceptable to all parties concerned and was the chosen solution by the petition organisers.
14. With regard to the footbridge, Councillor Rigby requested that 'K' shaped barriers be installed on the footbridge but subsequent trial holes revealed that this was not possible due to the bridge deck and existing utility cables under the surface. A chicane system of barriers is therefore to be installed at one end of the footbridge but cannot be achieved on the other end.
15. The re-introduction of barriers at three of the four previous locations is felt to be the best compromise in these circumstances and the petitioners should be informed accordingly.

**F. Petition regarding speeding and traffic volume on Little Gringley Lane, Welham.**

16. A 25 signature petition was presented to the 17<sup>th</sup> May meeting of the County Council by Councillor Liz Yates. It is signed by residents of Gringley Lane, Welham and requests the extension and enforcement of the existing 30mph speed limit, the introduction of Traffic Calming measures and the introduction of one way traffic flow on their road. The main concerns residents have are for road safety, particularly at the two junctions of Gringley Lane with the A620 (Welham Corner) to the north and Leverton road to the south.
17. In the three years 2008 to 2011 there have been no reported injury accidents at the A620 junction and three at Leverton Road. On this basis alone it would be difficult to justify the introduction of Traffic Calming.
18. The Bassetlaw District Manager has met with Councillor Yates and Julie Rushworth, the petition organiser, to discuss conditions on Little Gringley Lane. Options were discussed though it was agreed to first seek traffic flow and speed information before proceeding further. A week long automatic survey is therefore to be carried out after which discussions will continue. Other residents may be involved in this process.
19. Both Councillor Yates and Julie Rushworth were happy with moving forward in this way and Ms. Rushworth will be informing the petitioners of this outcome.

**G / H. Petitions requesting reconsideration of the part-night switch off of street lights in Blyth and Langold**

20. Two petitions were presented to the County Council meeting on 17th May by Councillor Place. Both petitions were substantial with residents opposed to the reduced street lighting which has been implemented in Blyth and Langold in December 2011 as part of the Street Lighting Energy Saving Project. Local concern identified in the Petitions relates to an increase in crime in the area. The Transport and Highways Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012 resolved that a review of crime levels takes place to consider whether to continue with part-night lighting in Blyth and Langold and that the scheme will be reviewed to consider these concerns and the petitioners advised accordingly.
21. Early indications are that crime is showing an increasing trend in Blyth and Langold although it is unclear if this is related to the street lighting project. However in response to these indications and residents' concerns, and based on the approach recently developed in Bingham and Keyworth, all night lighting will be restored to a minimum standard of one light within 300m. In order to implement these changes quickly the local County Councillor and Parish Council will be consulted. This approach is proposed for communities in similar circumstances.

**I. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme – William Street, Newark**

22. Documentation was presented by County Councillor Stuart Wallace from residents of William Street 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.
23. Councillor Wallace was approached by residents concerned about congestion and inconvenience stating that they were unable to park their vehicles on William Street 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 69% was achieved and of those that responded 75% were in favour of a scheme.

24. As a result of this level of support from residents a residents parking scheme has now been included in the programme for 2012/13 and consultation will begin shortly with the residents on the design of the scheme.
25. The response to the petition should be noted and the petition organiser informed.

**J. Petition regarding speed limit on Gorsethorpe Lane, Kings Clipstone**

26. A petition of 275 signatures was presented to the County Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May by County Councillor Les Ward from road users and residents of Gorsethorpe Lane in Kings Clipstone. Petitioners express their concerns with regard to road safety and request a speed limit of 40mph.
27. Following a fatality earlier this year Ice warning signs were erected and Gorsethorpe Lane was investigated by the Accident Investigation Team. Some surface and drainage improvements were necessary and will be completed on site in July, no other measures were recommended.
28. A 40mph speed limit cannot be justified due to the limited frontage development with nearly all the length of Gorsethorpe Lane between Warsop Windmill junction and Kings Clipstone being a rural road. However, new road markings will be introduced as a measure to slow drivers down and to highlight such features as where the road narrows.
29. The response to the petition should be noted and the petition organiser informed.

**K. Petition regarding parking in Maun View, Mansfield**

30. A petition of 16 signatures requesting parking restrictions was presented to the County Council by Councillor Garner on 17th May 2012.
31. There have been persistent complaints in recent years regarding parking on Maun View. Reports state that parking on both sides of the road obstructs the passage of vehicles causing delivery vehicles to become trapped on the road and refuse vehicles have been unable to access the street. Fears are expressed that emergency vehicles would be similarly obstructed and mobility impaired residents are having difficulty as vehicles are parking half on the footways. Councillor Chris Winterton has also previously requested measures to overcome these problems.
32. It is now proposed that a single yellow line parking restriction (no parking during the working day) be installed on the north side of Maun View and around the turning head to prevent parking on both sides of the road and protect access to a private residents' car park. Public consultation on this proposal will proceed in the next few weeks.
33. Double yellow lines (no parking at any time) were considered, but were felt to be overly restrictive on residents and the obstruction issues mainly occur during the working day. Restricting the opposite side of the road was considered, but the north side was considered the best option as it will protect the only footway along the road from being obstructed by parking. These initial decisions can be reconsidered during the design stage if comments made during consultation suggest that the residents wish these alternatives to be explored further.
34. It is felt that the introduction of parking restrictions will resolve the current issues of obstruction as well as protecting access to the private car park.

35. Residents and non-local drivers will be prevented from parking on the road lengths to be restricted and may receive a penalty charge notice if they attempt to do so.
36. This scheme requires a Traffic Regulation Order to be processed with signs and road markings installed on site. It is being funded from the Traffic Management Revenue Budget (Mansfield) and the cost is estimated at £2,000.
37. That the response to the petition be noted and the petition organiser be informed. Also that, subject to any objections received, the scheme continues as planned to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

**L. Petition regarding the switching off of street lights from residents of Lady Bay**

38. A petition of 105 signatures was presented to the County Council meeting on 17th May by Councillor Cooper opposing the Street Lighting Energy Saving Scheme in the Lady bay area of West Bridgford. The petition was presented on behalf of the Pricewise shop at 104 Trent Boulevard and raised concern over security and accidents and injuries by free standing street signs, cycle stands and bollards on the shop forecourt. The Transport and Highways Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012 resolved that the scheme will be reviewed to consider these concerns and the petitioners advised accordingly.
39. The street lighting energy saving scheme for West Bridgford is currently being developed and consultation responses being considered. In response to the specific concerns raised in the petition all night street lighting will be retained to illuminate the frontage of the Pricewise shop frontage and at similar locations within this scheme.

**M. Petition requesting the reduction of the 40mph speed limit operating on Old Mill Lane to 30mph in Forest Town, Mansfield.**

40. A petition of 61 signatures was presented to the Chairman at the 5 July 2012 County Council meeting by Councillor Martin Wright. The petition requested the extension of the existing 30mph zone on Old Mill Lane from Clipstone Road West to Sandlands Way.
41. Whilst a review of speed limits on A roads did not identify the need to reduce the speed limit, given the potential numbers of pedestrians using this stretch of road to access the supermarket, it is proposed to reduce the speed limit as requested. Consequently an instruction to proceed with the required traffic regulation order will be issued and a funding allocation will be made in the 2013/14 financial year for the associated works (subject to Transport & Highways Committee and County Council approval.)

**N. Petition opposing part-time street lighting in Beckingham.**

42. A petition has been received from Bassetlaw District Council via Beckingham in opposition to the reduced street lighting which was implemented in November 2011.
43. Residents are very distressed about the reduction in street lighting and are therefore requesting that some lights be switched back on.
44. In response to these concerns, an approach similar to that taken in Bingham & Keyworth could be considered. In order to implement these changes the local County Councillor and Parish Council will be consulted.

**O. Petition requesting yellow lines along Bourne Avenue, Selston.**

- 45. A petition of 9 names was presented to Full Council by Councillor Gail Turner on 23/7/12 requesting that parking restrictions be implemented on Bourne Avenue to prevent parking obstructing residential accesses.
- 46. Bourne Avenue is a minor residential cul-de-sac serving approximately 7 properties and which has existing single yellow lines protecting its junction with Portland Rd.
- 47. Normal parking restrictions (ie. yellow lines) are considered to be inappropriate at this site as they will prevent parking by residents/visitors to the area and reduce on-street amenity unnecessarily.
- 48. Officers will liaise with Councillor Turner to investigate possible alternative measures to protect accesses such as advisory H-Bars or Keep Clear Markings.

**P. Petition regarding the improvement of highway/pathway lighting on Cauldwell Drive, Mansfield.**

- 49. A petition of 27 signatures was presented to the Chairman at the 5 July 2012 County Council meeting by Councillor Stephen Garner. The petition was submitted on behalf of the residents of Caudwell Drive, Mansfield who have raised health and safety concerns due to the lack of lighting on the road.
- 50. It is proposed that two additional street lights are provided on Caudwell Drive and a funding allocation has been made from the 2012/13 integrated transport block (subject to Transport & Highways Committee approval).

**Q. Petition requesting a new bus station in Worksop.**

- 51. A 2470 signature petition was presented to the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Kevin Greaves calling for Nottinghamshire County Council to commit funding for the provision of a new bus station in Worksop.
- 52. The provision of a new bus station has been a priority for the County Council as identified through the authority's Local Transport Plan. It has however proved difficult to develop the proposal given land ownership patterns in the town centre at potential locations for the new bus station.
- 53. Recent discussion with Bassetlaw District Council has revealed that authority to be supportive of a scheme to construct a new bus station using a part of the Queen Street car park which is in its ownership. This preferred option also requires additional adjacent land to be acquired and to this end NCC has recently concluded the purchase of one land parcel and has opened negotiations on a second parcel.
- 54. Funding has been allocated from the 2013/14 integrated transport capital programme to fund feasibility and design work. The scheme is therefore detailed in paragraph 7 and appendix 1 of the 'Integrated Transport and Highway Capital Maintenance Programmes 2013/14' report submitted to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012 Transport & Highways Committee for approval. A report on the scheme seeking a capital funding allocation for its development and implementation will be reported to the appropriate Committee during Autumn 2012 .
- 55. It is hoped that a planning application in respect of the project can be submitted later in 2012.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

56. To provide responses to the issues raised in the petitions presented to the meetings of Council on 17th May 2012 and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

57. 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 responses as set out above be agreed and petition organisers be informed

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

North Mansfield, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Southwell and Caunton, Newark West, Kimberley and Trowell, Misterton, Blyth and Harworth, Newark East, Rufford, Mansfield South, West Bridgford Central and South, Mansfield East, Selston, and Worksop West.