

report



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 30th June 2011

agenda item number **5b**

RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON 19 MAY 2011

Purpose of Report

1. 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 19 May 2011.
 - A. Petition requesting that Winthorpe Street, Mansfield no longer forms part of the bus route used by Stagecoach number 6 service.
 - B. Petition to safeguard the bus stops on Winthorpe Street, Mansfield.
 - C. Petition requesting the removal of the Residents' Parking Scheme on Marriott Avenue, Mansfield.
 - D. Petition requesting the removal of the Residents' Parking Scheme on Botany Avenue, Mansfield.
 - E. Petition to keep the school buses running from Huthwaite to Ashfield Comprehensive.
 - F. Petition requesting a pedestrian crossing for Spion Kop, near Warsop.
 - G. Petition regarding improvement of road safety when exiting Dale Road and Rose Hill in Keyworth.
 - H. Petition regarding improvement of road safety on Curzon Street, Netherfield.
 - I. Petition against the withdrawal of the school bus number 408 that services Croft Primary School and Ashfield School.

A. Petition requesting that Winthorpe Street, Mansfield no longer forms part of the bus route used by Stagecoach number 6 service.

and;

B. Petition to safeguard the bus stops on Winthorpe Street, Mansfield.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

2. Two petitions were presented to the Chairman on 19 May, one opposing the continued use of Winthorpe Street by buses and one in favour. The “opposing” petition carries 40 names (29 addresses) and the “supporting” petition six names from six addresses. About 65 properties directly front the street.
3. Winthorpe Street has been a bus route for a number of years, being part of a one way circuit of the Ladybrook Estate used by commercial service 6, operated by Stagecoach East Midlands. Ladybrook is an area with relatively high bus use, and the daytime frequency of four buses per hour (hourly evenings and Sundays) is reasonable. As with many roads in the area however, the street is relatively narrow with a particular pinch point towards the southern end.
4. Stagecoach have supplied a detailed explanation of their choice of the route, referring to surveys they have undertaken which they consider justify the choice. They also point out that any alternative to using the southern end of Winthorpe Street would involve a “double run” if older people’s bungalows at the end of the street are to be served.
5. At Councillor Stendall’s request, the operator has examined alternative routes. Remaining on Brick Kiln Lane and Ladybrook Lane would enable buses to pass the ends of Winthorpe Street, but Stagecoach say this has caused complaints from some passengers when used as a diversion in the past. Other options which use adjacent streets such as Andover Road/ Brockenhurst Road and Linby Avenue to reduce the use of Winthorpe Street have also been evaluated, but these are no wider and introduce more turns, which could be difficult for the size of bus needed. Further complaints may be generated from residents of those streets.
6. The County Council has no powers to prohibit the use of Winthorpe Street by buses without going through legal processes to restrict its use. If buses were prohibited from the street, there is no obligation on the operator to serve the southern part of Ladybrook Lane in any alternative way, and this could result in a call for the County Council to fund a replacement service for these stops.
7. There is also concern regarding the presence of three bus stops in a fairly short street. Again, Stagecoach say that they initially served

Winthorpe Street on a “hail and ride” basis, but that marked stops were established at agreed locations to meet local requests. In part, these reflect the fact that suitable stopping locations are limited, but they can be reviewed.

8. Ultimately, the County Council has no immediate powers to restrict the use of the street, and any legal options are lengthy, costly and likely to generate objections from bus users. Enforcing the removal of buses from any street sets a precedent for other roads where not all residents support the operation of buses. If buses are rerouted away from Winthorpe Street, there is no certainty that an alternative will give as good coverage of the area, which could lead to calls for the County Council to fund a replacement for the affected passengers.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

C. **Petition requesting the removal of the Residents’ Parking Scheme on Marriott Avenue, Mansfield**

and;

D. **Petition requesting the removal of the Residents’ Parking Scheme on Botany Avenue, Mansfield**

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

9. Two petitions comprising a total of 79 names from residents of Botany Avenue and Marriott Avenue were presented to the 19 May 2011 meeting of the County Council by Councillor June Stendall. The residents request that the Botany Avenue Area Residents’ Parking Scheme in Mansfield be removed as they state it is now unnecessarily restrictive on themselves and their visitors since the closure of the nearby Hosiery Mill. They also object to having to pay £25 for permits. The scheme covers Botany Avenue, Marriott Avenue, Bancroft Lane and Daniel Crescent.
10. Residents’ Parking Schemes exclude the majority of motorists from parking in the area of the scheme thereby improving the opportunity for local residents to park nearer to their homes. Charging for permits ensures that those who obtain the benefit from such schemes contribute to their operation and management, which is a fair and equitable arrangement. The charge relates to the provision of the permit and administration of the scheme and is not a charge for parking on the public highway.
11. It is recognised that some Residents’ Parking Schemes may no longer be required as the original conditions which attracted high levels of

non-local parking may have changed. A number of requests have been received for the removal of various schemes as a result. Since the Hosiery Mill closed in 1988, the site has remained largely unused except for regular car boot sales. However, Mansfield District Council's Local Plan states that the Council would wish to see the site reused for industrial/commercial purposes, although there is currently pressure for retail development at this site.

12. The current policy is to collate requests for the removal of schemes whilst a means of priority is established. This Scheme has been added to this list. Information is currently being gathered to help identify those schemes with the highest justification for being removed and petitions, complaints and Councillor support are some of the factors taken into account.

E. Petition to keep the school buses running from Huthwaite to Ashfield Comprehensive.

and;

I. Petition against the withdrawal of the school bus number 408 that services Croft Primary School and Ashfield School.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

13. Two petitions with a total of 1,234 signatures were presented to the Chairman at the County Council meeting on 19th May 2011. The petitioners requested that the buses serving the Croft Primary and Ashfield Comprehensive schools be retained.
14. The decision to withdraw this service has been taken as part of Nottinghamshire County Council's requirement to reduce the budget by over £130m in the next three years. For the 2011/2012 financial year the local bus and non-statutory school bus service budget has been reduced by over £1m to contribute to the savings. Unfortunately around 15 school services in total throughout the County have had to be withdrawn by the end of July as part of this process.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

F. Petition requesting a pedestrian crossing for Spion Kop, near Warsop

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

15. A petition of 48 names from residents of Spion Kop near Warsop was presented to the 19 May 2011 meeting of the County Council by

Councillor John Allin requesting that a pedestrian crossing facility be installed in the village. The petitioners contend that crossing the A60 which runs through the middle of Spion Kop is dangerous and makes it difficult for residents to access the bus stops on either side of the main road.

16. The Council has recently reviewed the process by which it assesses pedestrian crossing requests so that pedestrian accidents and the presence of elderly, young and mobility impaired pedestrians is taken into account. Strategic routes linking pedestrians with other forms of sustainable transport such as cycling and buses are also taken into account as this principle is an important aim of the Local Transport Plan. In the last three years, there have been three reported accidents resulting in slight injury in the main built up area of the village, but none involved any pedestrians.
17. A survey of vehicles and pedestrians will be done as soon as possible to determine whether a pedestrian crossing can be justified in Spion Kop.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

G. Petition regarding improvement of road safety when exiting Dale Road and Rose Hill in Keyworth

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

18. A petition of 36 signatures was presented to the Chairman at the meeting of the 19th May 2011 of the County Council by Councillor John Cottee. The petitioners wished to draw the Council's attention to parking concerns at the junction of Rose Hill/Nottingham Road junction and Dale Lane/Debdale Lane junction in Keyworth.
19. Residents are concerned that parking too close to the junction results in visibility problems when accessing Dale Road on to Debdale Lane because of parking on the right hand side near to the shops. Reference is made to an accident on the 14th April. There have been no other reported injury accidents since 01/01/08.
20. A similar situation exists on Nottingham Road when pulling out from Rose Hill.
21. There are existing single yellow lines at the junction of Dale Road/Debdale Lane which prohibit parking during the working day. It is thought that this is well respected but there is some illegal parking for short time periods. Enforcement is being considered at this location together with strengthening of the restrictions to double yellow lines at

the junctions of Dale Road/Debdale Lane and Rose Hill/Nottingham Road.

22. These restrictions will need to be prioritised based on available funding and in the meantime the situation will be monitored.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

H. Petition regarding improvement of road safety on Curzon Street, Netherfield

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

23. A petition of 150 signatures was presented to the Chairman at the 19th May meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Clarke. The petitioners request that the County Council improve road safety by providing proper parking bays adjacent to Ley Street football pitch and placing double yellow lines outside the houses opposite. Also to properly maintain the trees alongside the proposed parking bays and promote and improve usage of the football pitch for young teams.
24. A meeting with Councillor Clarke has been held on site where it was agreed that :-
- An LIS bid would be put forward for improvements to the grassed area to potentially turn it into a formal parking area.
 - The proposed parking bays would not create enough space for all the residents on the street to park their vehicles. A proposal for double yellow lines would prevent all residents and visitors from parking outside their house so would more than likely receive a majority of objections. Councillor Clarke agreed to undertake further discussion with the petitioners to ascertain that this is actually what they want given there is very little off street parking
 - The trees have recently been pollarded and look very tidy.
25. Councillor Clarke advised that promotion of the football pitch for young teams is being dealt with by Gedling Borough Council.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

RECOMMENDATION

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

Legal Services' Comments (SG 16/06/2011)

The contents and proposed actions in this report are for noting and the Recommendation is within the remit of Council.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

None