

5 March 2020**Agenda Item:13****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee the responses to the issues raised in petitions presented to the County Council at its 19 December 2019 meeting.

Information**A. Speeding traffic through Elston: Lodge Lane, Top Street, Mill Lane, Brecks Lane
(Ref:2019/0372)**

2. A 15-signature petition was submitted to the County Council by Councillor Sue Saddington, requesting measures to address problems of speeding traffic and lorries rat running through the village.
3. There is an interactive speed sign on Lodge Lane west of Pinfold Lane and part of Top Street is subject to an advisory 20mph limit associated with the school; and there have been no reported injury accidents in Elston in the last three years.
4. A traffic survey was carried out in 2018 to determine the speed and classification of vehicles travelling on Top Street. The survey confirmed that the 85th percentile speed (that is, the speed at or below which 85% of the traffic is travelling) is below the 30mph speed limit in both directions. As a result, no further speed limiting measures are currently considered necessary or appropriate.
5. The traffic survey recorded 1,950 vehicles during an average weekday of which very few, only nine, were lorries that might be removed by a ban. The low numbers of recorded HGVs is considered commensurate with the presence of local farms and other businesses that would have legitimate need to travel through Elston and would be exempt from any restriction. This would seem to be confirmed by the presence of lorry bans to the east of the village that sever any route to the A1. Consequently, based on the survey results, a lorry ban is not currently considered necessary or appropriate.
6. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

B. Lack of regular bus service in Eastwood (Ref:2019/0373)

7. A 117-signature petition regarding the lack of a regular bus service in Eastwood, was submitted to the County Council by Councillor Tony Harper.
8. Following the recent collapse of the Yourbus bus company the County Council has been able to revise its local services to cover the loss of the Eastwood Town Service. The former Y10 service was lost when the operator went into liquidation but following requests from local members and residents, the Transport and Travel Services Team have made changes to the 528 and 532 services to include this area. The service will provide a reduced level of service and will be reviewed later in the year as part of our wider transport review. Following feedback from users the service is being amended to include the Eastwood Library stop very shortly.
9. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

C. Request for a pedestrian crossing outside Jesse Gray School (Ref:2019/0374)

10. A petition was submitted by Councillor Jonathan Wheeler requesting a pedestrian crossing outside Jesse Gray Primary School on Musters Road, West Bridgford to help pupils cross the road because the school crossing patrol site outside the school is currently vacant.
11. A school crossing patrol, operating at the start and end of the school day, is still considered to be the most appropriate form of crossing to help the Jesse Gray school pupils cross Musters Road at this location. Since the school crossing patrol site became vacant 12 months ago Via EM Ltd has therefore made repeated attempts to recruit to the site, working with Jesse Gray Primary School and advertising locally around the site, but have so far been unsuccessful in finding a replacement patrol. Via EM Ltd has advertised the post through the use of banners on the school's frontage and posters on lamp columns, but also in local areas such as the park. It has also advertised on the Council's website, West Bridgford Wire website, and through the school itself. In future Via EM Ltd are looking to develop a technique using social media adverts targeted at local areas, key demographics and times of day. In the meantime, to attempt to recruit to the post the advert posters (around the vicinity and park) and advert boards (directly outside the school) will be maintained; and the school will be asked to renew adverts in their newsletters periodically. If recruitment to the school crossing patrol remains unsuccessful a formal zebra crossing will be considered.
12. The County Council receives far more requests for pedestrian crossings (such as puffin or zebra crossings) than it is able to fund and therefore requests for crossings are prioritised based on the number of people crossing, the volume of traffic and other relevant factors such as accident history at a proposed location so that the available funding helps the greatest number of people. For road safety reasons formal crossings are also currently only installed where they are used by pedestrians throughout the day.
13. A pedestrian survey is therefore scheduled to be undertaken in March 2020 to determine whether a formal crossing should be prioritised at this location. Delivery of a formal crossing at the location is also subject to feasibility, including the necessary consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from detailed scheme investigation, and design. Therefore to accelerate its potential delivery (should the results of the survey confirm that a zebra crossing be prioritised), design work is already underway to determine if a formal crossing is feasible at this location.

14. The speed of traffic on Musters Road was also cited as a cause for concern in the petition and therefore a speed survey has been undertaken at this location. The speed survey determined that the average vehicle speed at school start/finish times is only 20mph (compared to the average speed over the course of the day of 24mph) confirming that the advisory 20mph speed limit introduced on Musters Road has been effective at encouraging slower speeds when required outside the school.

15. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

D. Request for improved bus services in Stanton Hill (Ref:2019/0375)

16. A 387-signature petition was submitted to the County Council by Councillor Helen-Ann Smith, requesting improvements to the bus service in Stanton Hill.

17. The County Council is currently reviewing its supported bus network to determine if local services are being delivered effectively and meet the needs of local communities. Services around Stanton Hill are provided by the commercial sector and the Council supports the 417 route operated by our Fleet Transport Service which serves Teversal and a number of areas in Sutton in Ashfield which do not have a commercially provided alternative. As part of the transport review, officers will be liaising with the commercial providers across the county to encourage wider network coverage and to maximise any potential partnership working.

18. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

E. Road safety / speed calming measures on the lower part of Spring Lane into the School Safety Zone, Lambley Village (Ref:2019/0377)

19. An 82-signature petition was presented to the County Council by Councillor Elliot Boyd. The petitioners expressed concern about the volume and speed of traffic on Spring Lane, Lambley and requests the installation of traffic calming measures.

20. Traffic calming is only introduced as part of a road safety remedial scheme where it can be justified to address reported road traffic collisions resulting in injuries to vulnerable road users. Analysis of reported road traffic collisions indicates that during the last 3½ years there have been only three reported collisions resulting in slight injuries along Spring Lane (one collision involved an adult cyclist; and none involved pedestrians or school children). Based on this level of collisions, the Casualty Reduction Team would not currently be able to justify the introduction of traffic calming on Spring Lane. The Casualty Reduction Team will, however, continue to monitor reported road traffic collisions resulting in injuries at this location (as they do on all roads in the county) and will consider appropriate education, enforcement or engineering measures should a pattern of treatable collisions occur in the future.

21. The Casualty Reduction Team also offers a range of road safety education for school pupils; and the team has contacted Lambley School and are scheduled to deliver a programme of road safety education to pupils on 13 March 2020.

22. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

F. Request for speed restrictions on the A616 in the vicinity of Little Carlton Village (Ref:2019/0378)

23. A 79-signature petition was submitted to the County Council by Councillor Bruce Laughton requesting the introduction of a 40mph speed limit and associated infrastructure on the A616 in Little Carlton.
24. The speed limit on the A616 was reduced from national speed limit to 50mph on 1 March 2019. At the time of implementation, it was considered that the reduction from 60mph to 50mph would achieve an average speed reduction of approximately 2mph. This is consistent with national guidance on setting local speed limits, which also states that existing mean speeds should be used as the basis for determining local speed limits.
25. A speed survey carried out on the A616 in December 2019 recorded an average speed of 45.7mph with 85th percentile speeds (that is, the speed at or below which 85% of the traffic is travelling) of 51.8mph. Taking the above into account, it is unlikely that the proposed limit would achieve speeds of around 40mph; and the request also fails a number of other tests set out in DfT guidance on setting local speed limits which confirms that the present speed limit is appropriate for the road conditions.
26. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

G. Request for a pedestrian crossing on Thackeray's Lane / Arno Vale Road, Woodthorpe (Ref:2019/0379)

27. An online petition was submitted to the County Council by Councillor Muriel Weisz, requesting a formal pedestrian crossing on the A6211 Thackeray's Lane and Arno Vale Road.
28. The A6211 is a key strategic route and carries a large volume of traffic every day (19,550 vehicles on A6211 Thackeray's Lane and 11,050 vehicles on Arno Vale Road in 2016). Despite the high volume of traffic, there have been no accidents involving pedestrians at this location in the last three years. However, following requests from the local community and County Council member, the construction of a formal pedestrian crossing to replace the existing pedestrian refuge on Thackeray's Lane near Calstock Road was approved by Communities & Place Committee at its 7 November 2019 meeting; and is due to be constructed during 2020.
29. The County Council receives far more requests for pedestrian crossings (such as puffin or zebra crossings) than it is able to fund and therefore requests for crossings are prioritised based on the number of people crossing, the volume of traffic and other relevant factors such as accident history at a proposed location so that the available funding helps the greatest number of people. Surveys will, therefore, be undertaken to determine if an additional crossing to the east of the roundabout on Arno Vale Road should also be prioritised for future delivery.
30. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

H. Request for a residents parking scheme, Currie Road, Newark (Ref:2019/0380)

31. A nine-signature petition was submitted to the County Council by Councillor Maureen Dobson requesting the introduction of a residents' parking scheme on Currie Road in Newark. The scheme is requested due to the adverse impact of parking associated with the nearby railway station and local businesses.

32. Requests for permit schemes in the area have been received previously, and a proposal to introduce a permit scheme covering Lovers Lane, Meyrick Road, Newnham Road and Currie Road was included in the 2018/19 integrated transport programme (the proposal included a number of other nearby roads because introduction of a permit scheme on Currie Road only would have the impact of transferring non-resident parking to other nearby roads). However, it was decided that this project should be put on hold until the Severn Trent works in the town were completed.
33. As these works are now substantially complete this proposal will therefore be considered for inclusion in the 2020/21 integrated transport programme.
34. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

I. Request for an assessment of parking and speed issues on Harcourt Street, Newark (2019/0381)

35. A 101-signature petition was presented to the County Council by Councillor Stuart Wallace, requesting that officers meet with residents of Harcourt Street, Newark to discuss a number of issues relating to rat-running, vehicle speeds and parking (including its impacts on gully cleaning).
36. Residents were contacted by mail on 22 November 2019 (after the date that residents signed the petition) to advise them that gully cleaning would be attempted on 25 November 2019 and requesting that vehicles be moved away from gullies to enable cleaning. Signs were also placed on lamp columns at either end of the street. Two officers attended site to attempt to move vehicles causing an obstruction. This approach was only partially successful as 13 of the 19 gullies were accessed and cleaned. The road is next scheduled for gully cleaning in 2021/22.
37. Parking and vehicle speed and flow surveys have been undertaken to help determine whether any potential traffic management measures are appropriate and can be prioritised. A meeting between officers, Councillor Wallace and a representative of the residents has also been held to discuss the issues raised and consider potential improvements. Officers have agreed to consider potential measures and the outcomes from this work will be passed to Cllr Wallace when completed. Should any measures be identified, they will be considered for inclusion in a future year's programme of works.
38. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

Statutory and Policy Implications

39. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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

It is recommended that:

- 1) the proposed actions be approved, and the lead petitioners be informed accordingly;

- 2) the outcome of Committee's consideration be reported to Full Council.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Sean Parks, Local Transport Plan Manager, Tel: 0115 977 4251

Constitutional Comments (SS 19/02/2020)

40. This decision falls within the terms of reference of the Communities & Place Committee to whom responsibility for the consideration of petitions concerning matters falling under the remit of that committee and the reporting back to Full Council in relation to the same has been delegated in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

Financial Comments (SES 28/01/2020)

41. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Arnold South – Councillor Muriel Weisz and Councillor John Clarke
- Calverton – Councillor Boyd Elliott
- Collingham – Councillor Maureen Dobson
- Eastwood – Councillor Tony Harper
- Farndon and Trent – Councillor Sue Saddington
- Muskham and Farnsfield – Councillor Bruce Laughton
- Newark East – Councillor Stuart Wallace
- Sutton North – Councillor Helen-Ann Smith
- West Bridgford South – Councillor Jonathan Wheeler