

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the decisions made by the Transport and Environment Committee and the Children and Young People's Committee concerning issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council on 25 March, 27 May and 22 July 2021.

Information

Petitions considered by Transport and Environment Committee

A. Request for a 20mph speed limit in Cropwell Butler (Ref:2020/0416)

2. A 215-signature petition was presented to the 27 May 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Neil Clarke. The petition was submitted to the Councillor by residents of Cropwell Butler with the main focus of the petition being for the County Council to implement a mandatory 20mph speed limit through the village.
3. The County Council assesses speed limits using national guidance, in order to maintain consistency both locally and nationally. The Authority will therefore undertake a review of the road network in Cropwell Butler, in line with the guidance to determine whether 20mph speed limits are considered appropriate.
4. The petition also requested the introduction of a number of other traffic management features within the village. These included the extension of the 30mph speed limit on Hardigate Road and Radcliffe Road, interactive speed signs and rumble strips on both of these roads, a one way system on a section of Radcliffe Road, a traffic mirror at the junction of Main Street and Tithby Road, additional one way signage for Back Lane; and finally amendments to the existing weight restrictions.
5. As with the request for a 20mph speed limit throughout the village, these requests will need to be investigated in line with the County Council's policies and criteria.
6. The County Councillor and lead petitioner will be informed of the outcome of the above investigations into the speed limit and traffic management requests once they are complete. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

B. Request for Double Yellow Lines, The Green, Radcliffe on Trent (Ref:2020/0417)

7. A 96-signature petition was presented to the 27 May 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Roger Upton. The petition was submitted to the Councillor by residents of The Green, Holme Lane and Island Lane, Radcliffe on Trent. The residents of the aforementioned roads are experiencing difficulties with vehicles parking at and in the vicinity of the Main Road junction with The Green.
8. The residents request that double yellow lines are installed at the junction of Main Road and The Green, with the restrictions extending into The Green by 25 metres. The Green is scheduled to be resurfaced in August 2021 and the petitioner would like to see the restrictions laid at the same time as these works.
9. It is acknowledged that the route from Main Road, through The Green to Holme Lane, is used by drivers towing horse boxes and vehicles wishing to access the facilities at Holme Pierrepont for leisure and walking purposes. In order to ensure the free passage of the highway at the location of concern, a scheme to implement parking restrictions will be consulted on in the next financial year (2022/2023).
10. The proposals will be to provide double yellow lines from the Main Road junction, extending into The Green on both sides of the road, up to and opposite the boundary of Nos 4 and 6.
11. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to introduce these restrictions at the same time as the resurfacing works due to the formal consultation process that the Authority is obliged to follow.
12. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

C. Request for additional parking or parking restrictions, Owthorpe Road, Cotgrave (Ref:2021/0419)

13. An 18-signature petition was presented to the 22 July 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Richard Butler. The petition was submitted to the Councillor by local residents that are experiencing difficulties accessing and egressing their driveways due to vehicles from staff attending Ash Lea School, parking opposite their properties on Owthorpe Road at Cotgrave.
14. The residents have requested that either additional parking is provided within the school grounds to remove the overflow parking on Owthorpe Road; or that parking restrictions are installed opposite the residential properties on Owthorpe Road, between the junction of White Furrows and the existing 'School Keep Clear' zig zag lines.
15. A thorough investigation has taken place and unfortunately, as the staff car park at the school is already used to its maximum capacity, it is foreseen that installing restrictions on Owthorpe Road may cause the staff to park elsewhere on the highway; transferring the parking problem to other locations nearby.
16. For example, the parking may move further down Owthorpe Road to opposite the junction with White Furrows and in the vicinity of the bus stop clearway, onto the same side of the road as the properties, or onto nearby estate roads. This transference of parking would generate complaints from residents elsewhere and create visibility and access issues for the residents.

17. The request for parking restrictions has therefore been declined, but further investigations are currently taking place to explore the possibility of increasing the off street parking capacity at the school.

18. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

D. Request for a footway and signage along the A616, Little Carlton (Ref:2021/0420)

19. A 119-signature petition was submitted to the 22 July 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Bruce Laughton on behalf of residents requesting that the County Council construct a footway (referred to in the petition as a bridleway) alongside the A616 with an interactive sign warning of horses in the road.

20. The section of the A616 along which a footway has been requested is of a significant length (approximately 300m) and, despite having wide verge available for much of its length, also has a narrow bridge over the watercourse adjacent to the bus stops and mature hedging along the entire length of route. These three issues would make the cost of any works extremely high. Given the high cost and the estimated low number of people using the route means that the proposal would offer very poor value for money. Due to the high number of outstanding requests for such facilities and the fact that a footway along this route would offer poor value for money, unfortunately this request cannot be prioritised at present. However, the request will be kept on file and will be considered should a future funding opportunity arise.

21. The County Council's policy regarding the installation of interactive hazard warning signs states that they may be used as a means of addressing injury accidents where the site has been identified as having a pattern of reported personal injury accidents. In all cases alternative solutions should always be considered such as geometric improvements, conventional signing and lining treatments, surface treatments or improved street lighting.

22. There have been no reported injury accidents on this section of road and therefore an interactive sign is not considered appropriate. However, the installation of standard warning signs may be appropriate, and this will be considered for inclusion in a future year's programme of works.

23. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

E. Wilford Field – Proposed Local Nature Reserve (Ref: 2020/0410).

24. A 1,769-signature petition was presented to the 25 March 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Gordon Wheeler. The petition requests that the Council protect Wilford Field for the future, designate it as a Local Nature Reserve and work with the local community to formulate a management plan, including planting trees and access improvements.

25. The area known as Wilford Field is a restored former waste tip, owned by the County Council and is protected as an open space under Policy 34: Green Infrastructure and Open Space Assets of Rushcliffe Borough Council's Local Plan. It is adjacent to the Greythorne Dyke Local Wildlife Site.

26. Since the site was originally capped, it has developed a grassland flora with trees around the edges and some scrub encroachment. There are also well-used informal footpaths around the edge of the site and across the centre, with a number of other evident desire lines. The site can be accessed via a bridge and steep bank from Lydney Park, with a level access from

the footpath and cycle route connecting Rushcliffe Arena to the new development at Foxfield Way.

27. We are advised that the site is still venting and that any future management works would need to avoid breaching the capping material. This is likely to preclude tree planting across the main part of the site and may require more active management of encroaching scrub.
28. Following the submission of the petition, an informal Friends Group has been formed by interested local residents, with a view to writing a Management Plan for the site and potentially taking on some management activities and/or responsibilities.
29. The Friends can be supported and advised on forming a properly constituted group by members of the Conservation Team (Greenwood and Green Spaces), with the potential for developing a more formal arrangement for the Friends to take on some or all of the ongoing management. A Management Plan would also need to be agreed for the site, with proposals for seeking funding for any improvements required, with a view to designation as a Local Nature Reserve in the longer term.
30. Responsibility for any management actions and interventions related to the former waste tip itself would remain with the County Council.
31. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Petition considered by the Children and Young People's Committee

F. Petition against the closure of North Clifton Primary School (Ref:2020/0418)

32. A petition with 1,052 signatures was presented to the 22 July 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Maureen Dobson, requesting the Council to 'assist the governors and community in retaining the school'.
33. The petition was considered as part of the formal stage one consultation on options for the future of North Clifton Primary School, which was considered by Children and Young People's Committee on 13 September 2021.
34. Following the outcomes of the stage one consultation and in considering further information regarding funding allocations, the committee agreed to defer a decision on the proposal to close the school until June 2022, thus allowing the governing body and wider community to secure viability of the school. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Statutory and Policy Implications

35. 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.

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RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

Councillor Neil Clarke MBE – Chairman of Transport and Environment Committee
Councillor Tracey Taylor – Chairman of Children and Young People’s Committee

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Background Papers and Published Documents

- Responses to Petitions Presented to the Chairman of the County Council – Transport and Environment Committee, 13 October 2021 (published)
- Outcome of the Consultation on Options for the Future of North Clifton Primary School and Response to Petition to Keep the School Open – Children and Young People’s Committee, 13 September 2021 (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Bingham West – Councillor Neil Clarke
- Collingham – Councillor Maureen Dobson
- Cotgrave – Councillor Richard Butler
- Muskham and Farnsfield – Councillor Bruce Laughton
- Radcliffe on Trent – Councillor Roger Upton
- West Bridgford West – Councillor Gordon Wheeler