



Meeting **ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE**

Date **Tuesday, 29 June 2004**

agenda item number

From: **Cabinet Member for Environment**

REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL 2004 – JUNE 2004

I reported the following issues to Council on 6 May:

- Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation
- Street Lighting Improvement Plan
- 'Strategy for Community Railways' consultation paper
- Improvements to the A453
- Proposed Glapwell Bypass

1. A6097 Gunthorpe Bridge Repairs

Gunthorpe Bridge is a three span reinforced concrete bridge which opened to traffic in 1927 and carries the A6097 over the River Trent. Major maintenance work involving the provision of a new waterproof membrane and new bridge joints was carried out in 2002. Now the bridge deck has had sufficient time to dry out, the final phase of repairs to the arch ribs, transverse beams and deck slab can begin. All the work is to the underside of the bridge and, apart from short off peak lane closures, road traffic will not be affected. I have given approval for the works to proceed.

2. Slack Walk, Worksop – Proposed Prohibition of Waiting

Ben Bailey Homes Ltd are proposing a residential development on the east side of Slack Walk which will include a new junction onto Slack Walk for vehicular and pedestrian access. It was a condition of the planning permission for the development that on street parking should be prohibited along a length of Slack Walk to allow safe use of the new

junction. On-street parking would severely restrict the visibility of drivers emerging from the site.

Three objections were received during consultation. Two were from people who used the street for short stay parking when visiting the bank and shops in Worksop and one from a resident of Slack Walk who objected to losing on-street parking for his visitors.

In view of the road safety implications and the fact that the proposed waiting prohibition is a condition of the planning permission, I have agreed that the Traffic Regulation Order will be implemented as advertised.

3. Eakring Road, Clipstone Forest – Permanent Traffic Regulation Order

In February 2002 an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order was approved prohibiting driving for all but authorised or emergency vehicles on a stretch of Eakring Road from Sherwood Forest Golf Club to the visitor car park. This was to combat problems with off-road vehicles, burnt-out cars and fly tipping. The closure was requested by the Police and was supported by local district councils, the Forestry Commission, emergency services and the Environment Agency. All these bodies feel that the closure has been successful in reducing the problems considerably.

The golf club has not objected to the permanent closure in principle, but has asked that the closure point is moved further east to minimise nuisance to the club's premises and that litter/flytipping is cleared on a more regular basis. We have agreed to reposition the closure point and Mansfield DC will be asked to address the litter problem.

Three other objections have been received from members of the public on the grounds that the rights of law-abiding individuals are being infringed because of an antisocial minority. In reality the number of genuine users of this stretch of road is quite small and the legislation does allow road closures in order to combat the sort of problems being experienced here. I have agreed, therefore, that the Experimental Closure Order will be made permanent.

4. Grass Cutting

As a consequence of Health and Safety Legislation and a recent focus on safety aspects of grass cutting, the health and safety practice of the Parishes cutting grass on behalf of the County Council has been examined in some detail. The Authority has a duty to ensure that anyone performing work on the highways on behalf of the Authority does so in a manner which fully complies with all necessary legislation including safety. The County Council would likely be held liable in the event of an accident or incident should it fail to do so.

Feedback has therefore been sought from all Parishes undertaking grass cutting on the highways seeking confirmation that all their activities are fully compliant. Unfortunately some Parishes have been unable to comply with the necessary requirements primarily related to issues associated with cost. For these Parishes which cannot meet the necessary requirements the work will now be undertaken by the County Council's own resources.

5. Petitions

Petition regarding changes to the bus service in Huthwaite: in August 2003 Stagecoach East Midlands made changes to the main service to Huthwaite cutting out a loop into the Clegg Hill Drive housing estate. Residents on the estate now have a maximum walk to the nearest bus stop of 450m ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile). The petitioners have asked the County Council to hold urgent talks with Stagecoach East Midlands to reinstate the service and also address the issue of its frequency. The petitioners have been informed that they will be contacted again when investigations are complete.

Petition requesting the closure of a footpath between Eyam Close and Finsbury Road on crime reduction grounds: on 26 May Cabinet adopted a new procedure for dealing with requests of this kind. All applications for closure on the grounds of crime reduction will now be considered by the relevant Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. There are seven partnerships based on district council areas. They meet regularly to progress crime reduction initiatives in their area and are best placed to comment on such applications and consider the options available. The County Planning Committee will consider a report from the Partnership before deciding whether the request should be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The petitioners have been informed that their request will be considered by the Broxtowe Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Councillor Terry Butler
Cabinet Member for Environment