

**7 March 2019****Agenda Item:15****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 to the County Council.

**A. Petition regarding parking problems Broad Lane, Brinsley (Ref: 2018/0316)**

2. A 48 signature petition was submitted to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Handley. The petition requests a feasibility study to consider the redesign of the road to help address traffic management concerns.
3. The County Council has limited funding for such feasibility studies and therefore prioritises the available funding on the roads that will deliver Nottinghamshire's strategic aims and provide the benefit to the greatest number of people (and therefore deliver the best for money). Schemes to deliver the redesign of roads are also very costly and therefore such schemes are prioritised on roads that are likely to attract the necessary external funding required to deliver them. Consequently, feasibility studies for such schemes (and the funding to deliver schemes identified in such studies) are prioritised on Nottinghamshire's strategic road network and specifically on roads that deliver national, regional and Nottinghamshire strategic priorities.
4. The funding available to the County Council for such feasibility studies is currently allocated to undertaking studies to identify journey time improvements on the strategic growth transport corridors identified in the Place Departmental Strategy. Broad Lane is not on the strategic road network or identified as a priority growth corridor in the Place Departmental Strategy and therefore would not currently be considered a priority for such a study.
5. Local traffic management issues that residents have should, however, be discussed with the area highway manager so that the highway manager can consider if there are any practical, affordable, solutions to the local residents' concerns.
6. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed accordingly and provided with the contact details of the Broxtowe area highway manager so that they are able to discuss their concerns in more detail with the area highway manager.

**B. Petition requesting part time traffic signals on Main Street, Gunthorpe (Ref: 2018/0317)**

7. A 120 signature petition was submitted to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Roger Jackson on behalf of residents requesting that the County Council installs part-time traffic signals at the junction of the A6097 and Main Street to help drivers exit Gunthorpe at busy times.
8. The junction is illuminated and the A6097 is subject to a 40 mph speed limit. The Council acknowledges that, at busy times, it may be difficult for vehicles to enter the A6097. However, a traffic survey on Main Street confirms that only around 70-110 vehicles enter the A6097 from this road on average during the peak periods. With the extremely high cost of installing traffic signals, it is considered that this would offer very poor value for money given the low number of motorists that would benefit.
9. There are also concerns about the safety of any new signals at this location. There have been no reported injury accidents at this junction between 1 January 2015 and 30 September 2018 and it is considered that the introduction of traffic signals could result in an increase in accidents, as signals often cause heavy braking and nose-tail shunt collisions. Additionally, the Council does not support the installation of part-time signals due to concerns that drivers find them confusing causing them not to follow the normal rules of the road when the signals are not operating, and this could result in a mixture of accident types., There are not any signals operating part-time in the county.
10. The County Council will not, therefore, consider the installation of part-time signals at this junction at this time.
11. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**C. Petition requesting measures to improve parking conditions on Peveril Road, Beeston (Ref: 2018/0318)**

12. A 62 signature petition was submitted to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Steve Carr on behalf of residents requesting the introduction of limited parking restrictions on Peveril Road in Beeston due to the presence of non-resident parking on the road. Residents complain of extensive long-term parking exacerbating traffic congestion and pollution and causing safety concerns.
13. The road in question is residential, located to the east of Beeston town centre. On the southern section of the road (where the restriction is requested) there is a mix of properties with and without off-street parking. Broadly speaking, properties on the western side do not have off-street parking whereas those on the eastern side have off-street parking.
14. Residents state the road is used by drivers in order to avoid traffic queues on nearby main roads. A speed survey carried out in July 2018 confirmed that average speeds are restricted to 23 mph. It is clear that the presence of parked vehicles acts as a deterrent to travelling at higher speeds. Given that the road is straight, there is a clear risk that removing parking will result in significantly increased vehicle speeds which in turn would encourage more drivers to use the road, and these two factors could also potentially worsen road safety on the road.

15. Additionally, the lack of off-street long-stay parking in Beeston means that on-street long-stay parking is critical to the economic well-being of the town centre. Removal of a significant amount of long-stay parking is likely to simply displace it elsewhere, or have an adverse impact on the vitality of the town centre.
16. The County Council will consider whether appropriate parking restrictions could be introduced but this will only be considered appropriate if restrictions do not encourage additional vehicles to use the road, do not increase vehicle speeds, and do not adversely impact on the town centre or other nearby streets.
17. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**D. Petition regarding concerns about road safety around Stanford Hall (Ref: 2018/0319)**

18. A petition requesting the redesign of the A6006 junction with Stanford Hall due to road safety concerns was submitted to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Reg Adair.
19. The County Council recognises the importance of the new Defence and National Clinical Rehabilitation Facility, the significant benefit it offers both locally and nationally as a world class clinical rehabilitation centre, as well as the substantial investment it has brought to the local area. Nonetheless we are aware of the residents' and Parish Council's concerns regarding the access arrangements associated with the National Facility portion of the development.
20. Permission for this part of the site was granted in 2013 at which time the principle of access was established in planning terms. Whilst we are aware additional development has been granted permission in the East Leake area, this does not alter the position that there is an existing planning permission in place for the site which defines the access arrangements for the development.
21. Once planning permission has been granted the County Council does not have the power to force a developer to retrospectively alter their proposals, any changes to the proposed access arrangements for the site will require the developer's agreement, co-operation and goodwill.
22. Initial discussions between the County Council and the developer's agents regarding the access arrangements have already taken place. The agents have stated their client is willing to undertake further discussions on the matter and the Council is currently in the process of arranging further meetings in this regard. Through this process the County Council will continue to explore options with the developer.
23. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**E. Petition request for Residents' Parking Scheme on Distillery Street, Ruddington (Ref: 2016/0320)**

24. A 16 signature petition was submitted to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Reg Adair on behalf of residents requesting that the County Council introduces a residents' parking scheme on Distillery Street in Ruddington.
25. The road in question is residential, located to the southwest of the village centre.

26. Requests for residents' parking schemes are prioritised in locations where residents do not have off-street parking. Most of the properties on Distillery Street (77%) have off-street parking so this request is not considered to be a priority. Indeed, the covering letter submitted with the petition refers to concerns about inconsiderate parking and emergency service vehicle access when large deliveries are made rather than difficulty finding parking spaces.
27. Residents' permit schemes are intended to address situations where the presence of non-resident parking throughout the day makes it difficult or impossible for residents to park near their properties and are not intended to address issues such as inconsiderate parking or obstruction. Instances of obstruction of the highway should be reported to the Police. In any case, the emergency services have developed methods of dealing with the issue when attending incidents. Also, a residents' permit scheme would need to be designed so that it did not adversely affect local businesses and so would not address concerns about obstruction caused by delivery vehicles.
28. As a result, it is not considered that a residents' permit scheme is appropriate for Distillery Street and the request will not be taken forward.
29. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**F. Petition regarding the future of the Newark number 67 bus service (Ref: 2018/0321)**

30. A petition was presented to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Maureen Dobson concerning the number 67 bus service.
31. The County Council has received a registration for a reduced service 67 from the current operator which will commence in April 2019. The County Council will shortly be procuring additional service to compliment this registration and to re-instate the majority of the current service. There are no planned route changes and villages currently served by the 67 route will continue to be covered. The combined timetable will commence in April, until then the County Council will continue to support the existing route.
32. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed accordingly.

**G. Petition requesting to make Main Street, Calverton safer to cross (Ref: 2018/0322)**

33. A 327 signature petition was presented to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Boyd Elliott on behalf of residents requesting a pedestrian crossing.
34. The County Council receives far more requests for pedestrian crossings (such as puffin or zebra crossings) than 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.
35. Surveys have been undertaken to determine whether a crossing at this location should be prioritised for future funding. The results of the survey showed the number of pedestrian crossing the road in the vicinity of the requested crossing is of a sufficient level for the County Council to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing at this location.

36. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed accordingly.

**H. Petition requesting for new light controlled pedestrian crossing between Mill Field Close and Maris Drive, Burton Joyce (Ref: 2018/0323)**

37. A 323 signature petition was presented to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Nikki Brooks on behalf of residents requesting a pedestrian crossing.
38. As a result of a planning application for 14 dwellings on Mill Field Close, the County Council has considered the feasibility of widening the existing pedestrian refuge located north-east of Crow Park Drive, however, this identified that the carriageway width is too narrow to do so.
39. 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.
40. Surveys have been undertaken to determine whether a crossing should be prioritised for future funding in two locations: at the existing pedestrian refuge located north-east of Maris Drive; and at the existing pedestrian refuge located north-east of Crow Park Drive.
41. The surveys undertaken identified that the number of pedestrians crossing the road at both sites is very low when compared to other locations that have requested a formal crossing (during the 9-hour surveys only 26 pedestrians crossed north-east of Maris Drive and only 17 pedestrians crossed north-east of Crow Park Drive). Therefore, for this location to be prioritised for a formal crossing the number of pedestrians crossing the road in the vicinity of the proposed crossing would need to increase significantly throughout the day.
42. Formal crossings are also provided where they are identified as the most effective means of addressing a history of reported road collisions resulting in injuries. Our records show that fortunately there have been no reported injury accidents involving pedestrians at this location in the three years up to 30 September 2018. Therefore, a crossing would not be prioritised at this location to address a pattern of pedestrian casualties.
43. The request for a formal crossing at this location will be kept on file and should the number of pedestrians crossing at this location throughout the day significantly increase (or a pattern of pedestrian injury accidents is reported) we will reconsider the scheme request.
44. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed accordingly.

**I. Petition opposing Fracking in Edwinstowe (Ref: 2018/0324)**

45. A 3,032 signature petition was presented to Full Council on the 13 December 2018 by Councillor John Peck. The petition states that 'we the undersigned agree that Sherwood and Edwinstowe should be kept a frack free zone'.
46. Although the County Council is in the process of developing a new Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan this petition was submitted outside of any public consultation being undertaken on the Plan.

47. Government planning guidance in the form of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) states that Minerals Planning Authorities (the County Council) should recognise the benefits of onshore oil and gas development and put in place planning policies to facilitate their exploration and extraction. Minerals Local Plans should also plan positively for the three phases of development (exploration, appraisal and production) whilst ensuring appropriate monitoring and site restoration is provided for.
48. To ensure the Draft Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan conforms to the NPPF, the minerals plan contains policy MP12: 'Hydrocarbon Minerals' which sets out how planning applications would be assessed at the key stages – exploration, appraisal, extraction and restoration. The draft Plan also contains Development Management policies against which planning applications for all types of minerals development would be assessed. These policies cover issues such as protecting local amenity, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity and the historic environment.
49. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**J. Petition request for a 30mph speed reduction on Forest Road, Warsop (Ref: 2016/0327)**

50. A petition was submitted to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Andy Wetton on behalf of residents requesting that the County Council reduce the speed limit on the B6035 Forest Road to the south of Market Warsop from the current 60 mph to 30 mph.
51. An assessment of the road has been carried out using the national guidance for setting speed limits, and it has been determined that it would be appropriate to reduce the limit to 40mph on that section of road which features residential properties.
52. To this end, a proposal to introduce a 40mph speed limit on the built-up section of this road (with a new 50mph limit on the section between the houses and the A6075 to make it consistent with that latter road) has (subject to approval by this Committee) been included in the 2019/20 integrated transport programme.
53. Enforcement of this new limit would be undertaken by the Police as part of their normal speed limit enforcement duties. Traffic calming and speed cameras will only be considered as a last resort in response to the very worst accident problems after all other measures have been considered. Fortunately, this is not considered necessary in this instance. However, the County Council can assess the need for interactive speed signs at this location to improve compliance if appropriate once the new limit is in force.
54. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**K. Petition request for 'siding up' works to be undertaken on the part of the footpath on Forest Road (Ref: 2018/0328)**

55. A petition was presented to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Andy Wetton on behalf of residents of Forest Road, Warsop. The residents raise highway safety concerns due to the footway width being restricted due to the verge encroaching over the footway. The petition states that pedestrians using this footway, especially those with push chairs or mobility scooters, are restricted and forced closer or even

into the carriageway. The petition therefore requests the footway along Forest Road, from its junction with A6075 Peafield Lane through to the rail bridge (approximately 1200 metres), receive siding up works to improve the width of the existing footway.

56. Via East Midlands are aware of this issue through routine highway inspections and previous customer requests and feel Forest Road would benefit from receiving siding up works. This location has already been included in the potential 2019/20 siding up programme to be prioritised alongside other similar requests and determined later this year.

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

**L. Petition request for a Zebra crossing outside Sherwood Street Junior School, Warsop (Ref: 2018/0329)**

58. A 323 signature petition was presented to the County Council by Councillor Andy Wetton on behalf of the school community. The petition requests a zebra crossing to help pupils cross the roads because the school crossing patrol site outside the school is currently vacant.

59. A school crossing patrol operated outside the school on Sherwood Street, Warsop until approximately a year ago but the site has been vacant since that time. Via EM Ltd has worked with local school and advertised locally around the site but have so far been unsuccessful in finding a replacement patrol.

60. The County Council receives far more requests for formal crossings (such as puffin or zebra crossings) than it is able to fund. Requests for crossings are therefore prioritised based on the numbers of people crossing and the volume of traffic at a proposed location so that the available funding helps the greatest number of people. Zebra crossings are also currently only installed where they are used by pedestrians throughout the day, if there is not pedestrian demand throughout the day, such a crossing will not be considered. A survey will therefore be undertaken to determine whether a crossing at this location should be prioritised for future funding.

61. As this location currently meets the criteria for the provision of a school crossing patrol, Via EM Ltd will continue to work with the school in order to try and recruit a patrol to the vacant site. Via EM Ltd officers will therefore contact the school to discuss further options for advertising campaigns for the vacant school crossing patrol post.

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

**M. Petition regarding junction improvements and signage at Town Street crossroads, Lound (Ref: 2018/0330)**

63. A 180 signature petition was presented to the County Council by Councillor Tracey Taylor on behalf of Lound Parish Council. The petition requests significant safety improvements at this junction; their preferred option is for an interactive 'Give Way' sign to be installed on Daneshill Road to highlight the junction ahead.

64. This junction is within the 30mph limit, with traffic on Daneshill Road required to 'Give Way' and Chainbridge Lane drivers instructed to 'Stop'. There are advance 'crossroads' signs on Town Street for both north and southbound traffic, an existing advance 'Give Way in 100 yards'

sign on the north side of Daneshill Road and two large 1.2 by 1.2 linear metre illuminated 'Give Way' signs at the junction with the appropriate road markings which were refreshed in April 2018.

65. On Chainbridge Lane there is an advance 'SLOW' road marking and an illuminated 'STOP' sign with the associated road marking. The junction is street lit and all but Chainbridge Lane has a footway. Additionally, there is an 18tonne environmental weight limit on Town Street with associated illuminated signage.
66. The current data held indicates that two road injury collisions occurred at this junction in the 3.75 years up to 30 September 2018. The collisions occurred in June and July 2017 and both involved vehicles overshooting the Daneshill Road, travelling east bound.
67. It is currently considered that the junction is adequately and clearly signed and, in comparison to other sites, this junction has a low level of accidents and therefore this location would not currently be prioritised for any casualty reduction measures. Via EM Ltd monitors reported road traffic collisions throughout the county and develops appropriate engineering, enforcement and education measures to address patterns of road traffic collisions. Reported road traffic collisions will therefore continue to be monitored as part of this process and an accident remedial scheme will be considered should a pattern of treatable collisions occur.
68. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**N. Petition regarding parking on The Close, Rainworth, Mansfield (Ref: 2018/0331)**

69. A petition was presented to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Martin Wright on behalf of residents of The Close, Rainworth. The petition requests parking restrictions at the junction of The Close and Southwell Road East, Rainworth in response to parking concerns which the residents feel is causing highway safety and visibility issues.
70. Via East Midlands do not consider parking restrictions to be an appropriate measure to address the parking issues raised by residents as no evidence of inconsiderate or obstructive parking on the junction of The Close with Southwell Road East has been proven following site investigations by Via officers.
71. The grass verge which runs adjacent to the car dealership is being used to park vehicles, however, the verge is not adopted highway and vehicles parked on this private land are not causing a highway safety issue. If there is evidence that the situation has worsened in future Via will reconsider the request but any future request would need to be considered a higher priority than the many other requests for parking restrictions we receive every year.
72. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**O. Petition request to permanently close footpath between The Mount and Clipstone Drive, Forest Town (Ref: 2014/0333)**

73. A 12 signature petition was presented to the 13 December 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Martin Wright on behalf of residents of Forest Town requesting the permanent closure of a public footpath between The Mount and Clipstone Drive, Forest Town.



74. The landowner closed the path to pedestrians in 2011 following the granting of planning consent in 2010 for the construction of five houses. The land was previously in the ownership of Mansfield District Council and had been the site of a local community centre. Residents established a public footpath through the site having used it as a cut-through to access the nearby playing field and woodlands.
75. Although the planning application included provisions for the retention of a public footpath, the path was deleted from the approved planning decision due to concerns about anti-social behaviour. No steps were taken at that time to lawfully stop-up or divert the footpath under provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Work commenced on the site in late 2013 and was noted to be substantially complete in late 2015. An electricity sub-station was also constructed alongside the path.
76. Mansfield District Council attempted to stop-up the public footpath in 1980 and again in 2018 by means of Highways Act Extinguishment Orders. On each occasion objections were received and the Order was duly referred to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has declined to confirm the Order on each occasion. The Inspector appointed to decide the 2018 Extinguishment Order considered that the path would be well used if reinstated and that local people had been disadvantaged by its closure.
77. It is recognised that residents living next to the public footpath have experienced anti-social behaviour issues in the past, but it is clear that any further attempt to formally close it would not succeed.
78. Following an application made to Nottinghamshire County Council, a Definitive Map Modification Order was made which seeks to record the public footpath on the Definitive Map and Statement. Objections have been received in respect of this Order and consequently the Council is obliged to refer the matter again to the Secretary of State for a decision as to whether the Order should be confirmed.
79. It is expected that the Order will be confirmed. The Council will then be obliged to seek the removal on any obstructions blocking the legal line of the footpath, i.e. the recently constructed house, gate and fencing along the former access track. In order to avoid this scenario, it is suggested that the landowner makes an application under the Highways Act 1980 section 119 to Mansfield District Council to divert the public footpath around the site boundary.
80. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

81. 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 [LW 29/01/2019]**

82. Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

### **Financial Comments [SES 29/01/2019]**

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

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

- None

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

- **Greasley and Brinsley** - Councillor John Handley
- **Southwell** - Councillor Roger Jackson
- **Bramcote and Beeston North** - Councillor Steve Carr
- **Leake and Ruddington** - Councillor Reg Adair
- **Collingham** - Councillor Maureen Dobson
- **Calverton** - Councillor Boyd Elliott
- **Carlton East** - Councillor Nicki Brooks
- **Sherwood Forest** - Councillor John Peck
- **Warsop** - Councillor Andy Wetton
- **Misterton** - Councillor Tracey Taylor
- **Mansfield East** - Councillor Vaughan Hopewell
- **Mansfield East** - Councillor Martin Wright