

20th July 2017**Agenda Item: 14****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE DEPARTMENT****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 on 25th May 2017.

A. Petition for junction improvements to access Bilsthorpe (Ref 2016/0236)

2. Up to a 1000 signature petition was presented to the 25th May 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Bruce Laughton. The petition is to improve the junctions in and out of Bilsthorpe onto both the A614 and A617.
3. Some improvements / adjustments have been undertaken in this area over the last few years. Bilsthorpe residents like those of many other rural settlements can, at times, have some delay to safely join the more strategic road network (in this case either the A614 or A617). It is not feasible to introduce signals to provide more controlled entry and exit to all such villages and any such policy would not only be unaffordable, up to £500,000 per junction, but would also cause significant additional delay across the Countywide network.
4. There have been 12 slight accidents at the 5 locations since 01/01/2014 including 6 at the Mickledale Lane junction. Due to these numbers this has just triggered a review for further investigation, but consideration will need to be given to achieving a high rate of economic return on any potential improvements which could be difficult based on the accidents alone.
5. Any further development in and around Bilsthorpe will be subject to the usual planning process and require mitigation measures from the developers, if it is considered that impacts would be severe. These will be investigated as part of the transport assessment at the planning application stage.
6. Further feasibility work will be undertaken to look at these issues and consider the benefits and dis-benefits of any further junction works, including signal options.
7. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

B. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme on West Street, Arnold (Ref: 2016/0237)

8. A 14 signature petition was presented to the 25th May 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Muriel Weisz on behalf of residents of West Street, Arnold. The petition requests that a residents' parking scheme is introduced on the roads due to parking by non-residents accessing the town centre.
9. Requests for residents' parking schemes are prioritised in locations where residents do not have off-street parking and where a scheme won't negatively affect nearby streets and town centres, or increase rat running or traffic speeds. Schemes are prioritised based on the level of non-resident parking.
10. West Street is a residential road situated to the west of the town centre with a mixture of properties, including social housing schemes managed and operated by Gedling Homes with associated private car parks accessed off West Street. There are existing parking restrictions on the road.
11. A parking survey will be undertaken to determine whether a residents' parking scheme should be considered a priority at this location for possible inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme.
12. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

C. Petition Regarding Road Condition in Eastwood (Ref: 2016/0238)

13. A 192 signature petition was presented to the 25th May 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Tony Harper concerning the number of potholes and the general state of the roads in and around Eastwood.
14. In recent years, resurfacing works have been carried out at several sites in the Eastwood area, most notably Nottingham Road and Dovecote Road with some additional works on some unclassified roads in the area. The maintenance programme 2017/18 includes resurfacing works in the vicinity of IKEA. In recent years greater emphasis has been placed on surface treatment works on the unclassified road network countywide and this is reflected also in the future proposals for Eastwood. This current financial year surface dressing works have been undertaken on numerous roads on the Daisy Farm Road Estate to help save them from further deterioration.
15. One of the key principles with highways asset management is to increase the use of 'preventative non-invasive treatments' and reduce the level of invasive high-cost worst-first resurfacing schemes where possible. Only fixing the very worst roads every year means that a lot of public money is spent on only a few sites and while this is being carried out, other sites will deteriorate to a point where they too will require high-cost resurfacing. The current strategy therefore is still to carry out full resurfacing at a limited number of sites but for the cost of one resurfacing scheme, 'preventative' works which will save several other sites from deteriorating to a similar level can be undertaken for the same money.

16. In the past, priority has been given to the classified road network and this has led to a gradual countywide deterioration of the unclassified network (estate roads and some rural links). To redress this imbalance, plans are in place with more of a focus on the unclassified network whilst still maintaining the classified roads in a safe and serviceable condition.
17. The scheme selection system involves a 'candidate list' of potential sites in all categories, ranging from those requiring full reconstruction to those which can be saved from further damage. It is possible that some sites may have had patchwork repairs over several years in order to maintain safety and whilst they may not be aesthetically pleasing they are at least fit for purpose from a safety perspective.
18. The main priority at all times is for the safety and serviceability of the highway network, including footways, cycleways and all other associated assets. For this reason, highway safety inspections are carried out at varying frequencies (monthly, quarterly, six-monthly, annually) dependent upon the hierarchy of the road / footway in question. There are a series of 'intervention levels' for defects on the highway and these are attended to either as part of this inspection regime or as a result of individual enquiries from members of the public, local councillors or other source.
19. A programme of works focused on the small sites which have received excessive patching and / or pothole repairs is being prepared. It is planned that this will lead to surface course repairs, approximately 40mm thick, to restore sections of some roads to a serviceable condition and to prevent further use of public money in continuous reactive repairs. These sites may then be suitable for further preventative surface treatment in future works programmes.
20. The above mentioned 'candidate list' contains many sites in the Eastwood area which are potentially suitable for a variety of treatments and these are currently being considered for the draft Capital Maintenance Works Programme for 2018/19 which will be presented to this committee in the Autumn.
21. All sites are assessed against their peers from across the whole county. Funding is allocated on a pro-rata funding basis which is connected to the Road Condition Indicator (a national measure) for each road class to ensure the money is appropriately spent.
22. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

D. Petition regarding network condition on Cropston Close, West Bridgford (Ref: 2016/0239)

23. An 18 signature petition was presented to the 25th May 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Gordon Wheeler concerning condition of the road surface on Cropston Close and the need for additional yellow lines.
24. Planning permission for the school was granted in 2012, including conditions that various highway improvements were to be carried out and a review of the parking situation to be undertaken within 12 months of the works being completed. Parking restrictions were put in place in tandem with laybys being constructed and then amendments to the parking restrictions were made in response to the review finishing in March 2016. Both these sets of

improvements were subject to the formal public consultation process with all parties in the local area including residents, the school, Councillors, emergency services and various statutory consultees. These works were adjudged to satisfy the requirements of the Planning Conditions which were then discharged.

25. Some further complaints from residents regarding parking have been received in the intervening time, but these are now separate from the Planning process and the previous funding received from the school project. The criteria for parking restrictions is based on a pattern of reported injury accidents involving parking being apparent or bus services/emergency services suffering severe obstruction. Both the bus services and emergency services were included in the two previous public consultations and neither have requested any further restrictions be put in place. The ambulance service has also commented previously that they do not expect unobstructed access to narrow residential streets and have methods to deal with these situations as a result.
26. Further issues have also become apparent on Swithland Drive and a petition is being prepared along similar lines. It is therefore considered appropriate that these are dealt with in parallel and will be evaluated together once the second petition has been submitted.
27. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Statutory and Policy Implications

28. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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 the proposed actions be approved, the lead petitioners be informed accordingly and a report be presented to a County Council meeting for the actions to be noted.

Adrian Smith - Corporate Director Place Department

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Arnold South – Councillors John Clarke & Muriel Weisz
- Muskham and Farnsfield - Councillor Bruce Laughton

- Eastwood – Councillor Tony Harper
- West Bridgford West – Councillor Gordon Wheeler