

REPORT OF 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 requesting the removal of a tree on Nottingham Road, Eastwood (Ref: 2016/0309)**
2. A 41 signature petition was presented to the 20 September 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Tony Harper on behalf of residents of Eastwood requesting the removal of a tree on Nottingham Road, Eastwood.
3. The concerns of local residents are noted. It is not the County Council's policy to remove a healthy tree without a specific reason to do so but a Forestry Officer will inspect the tree to establish whether there is any maintenance required.
4. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.
- B. Petition requesting street lighting improvements on Leeks Close, Southwell (Ref: 2016/0310)**
5. A 105 signature petition was presented to the 20 September 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Roger Jackson on behalf of residents of Southwell requesting that improvements are made to the existing lighting on Leeks Close, Southwell.
6. Following a site assessment, an order has been raised to change the lantern on the existing column to a 360 degree output.
7. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.
- C. Petition requesting footway resurfacing of Riverside Road, Fairway, Peebles and Hawton Road, Newark (Ref: 2016/0311)**
8. A 158 signature petition was presented to the 20 September 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Keith Girling on behalf of residents of Newark requesting that the footways on Riverside Road, Fairway, Peebles and Hawton Road in Newark are resurfaced.
9. Our main priority at all times is for the safety and serviceability of the highway network, including footways, cycle ways and all other associated assets. For this reason, we carry out highway safety inspections at varying frequencies (monthly, quarterly, six-monthly, and

annually) dependent upon the hierarchy of the footway in question. We have a series of 'investigatory levels' for defects on footways and these are assessed, and where necessary considered for improvements, either as part of this inspection regime or as a result of individual enquiries from members of the public, local members, etc..

10. As part of the highway inspection regime, the inspectors also highlight those sites which they believe are in a condition which requires further consideration for resurfacing. These sites are collated and subsequently assessed at a more detailed level to determine the scale and cost estimate of carrying out appropriate works. We use these recommendations, along with a review of the level of reactive maintenance which has been carried out on these footways in order to identify those which need to be targeted to help save money in the longer term.
11. Numerous footway sites in the Newark & Sherwood district are included on the Council's 'candidate list' which contains the footways across the whole county that are potentially suitable for consideration in the annual capital maintenance programme, or any additional maintenance programmes where extra funding is made available, either from the Department for Transport or local sources, such as the County Council itself. All sites are assessed against one another based upon a pro-rata funding allocation connected to both network length and condition / hierarchy to ensure an objective and fair allocation for each area.
12. As a result of a broad assessment of the sites in question, they will now be placed on the 'candidate list' for inclusion in future footway maintenance programmes. There is no date for delivery as yet, but this enables us to monitor them more closely and they will also be included in detailed inspections, due to take place during October 2018.
13. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

D. Petition regarding concerns about HGV traffic on Boundary Road, Newark (Ref: 2016/0312)

14. An 88 signature petition was submitted to the 20 September 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Keith Girling on behalf of residents requesting that a lorry ban (environmental weight limit) is introduced on Boundary Road, Newark.
15. The road in question is residential but also acts as a through route linking Bowbridge Road and Farndon Road. Two churches and Newark Hospital are located on the road and a school is situated nearby.
16. Several issues have had to be taken into account when assessing this request, particularly:
 - The presence of an existing weight limit on the nearby C3 Grange Lane and C100 Newark Road means that, if a restriction were to be put in place, lorry traffic would simply be diverted to other residential roads
 - The ongoing significant roadworks and diversions associated with the Severn Trent works in Newark are likely to have worsened conditions in the short term, but the completion of this work should lead to a reduction in traffic, including HGVs, on Boundary Road
 - It is anticipated that the Newark Southern Link Road will reduce lorry traffic on Boundary Road, thus negating the need for a lorry ban.
17. Given the above it is considered appropriate to await until completion of both the Severn Trent works and the Newark Southern Link Road before it can be determined whether an

environmental weight limit should be prioritised for delivery. The level of HGVs travelling on Boundary Road will, however, be monitored during this time.

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

E. Petition requesting footway repairs in Hucknall (Ref: 2016/0313)

19. A 130 signature petition was presented to the 20 September 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Phil Rostance on behalf of residents of Hucknall requesting footway repairs on a number of roads in Hucknall.

20. The following streets listed in the petition are not currently on the 'candidate list' for resurfacing, which contains the footways across the whole county that are potentially suitable for consideration in the annual capital maintenance programme:

- Cherry Avenue
- Farleys Lane
- Papplewick Lane (Ashfield section – the section in Gedling Borough from the boundary to Moor Road is on the list)
- Shortwood Avenue
- Windmill Grove
- Woodstock Street.

21. This does not necessarily mean that works are not required on these streets but that there are currently other streets ahead of them in terms of priority/condition, and the annual budgets available unfortunately do not allow for all to be included in the annual programme of footway maintenance schemes.

22. The condition of these sites will, however, continue to be monitored as part of the appropriate footway maintenance inspection routine and considered for inclusion in a future year's maintenance programme should the highway inspector recommend any of the sites for maintenance.

23. The following streets listed in the petition are currently included on the 'candidate list' for resurfacing or significant patching, although their delivery dates are yet to be determined:

- Beardall Street
- Watnall Road
- Whyburn Lane (potentially to be delivered during 2020/21)
- Wood Lane (section from Windermere Road to Sandy Lane was considered for 2019/20 but now more likely to be delivered in 2020/21)

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

F. Petition requesting a residents parking scheme on Larkspur Avenue, Arnold (Ref: 2016/0314)

25. A 37 signature petition was submitted to the 20 September 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Pauline Allan on behalf of residents. The petition requests that a residents' parking scheme is introduced on Larkspur Avenue, Arnold due to the presence of intrusive non-resident parking on the road and concerns about emergency service vehicle access.

26. The road in question is residential, located to the west of the A60 Mansfield Road.
27. Requests for residents' parking schemes are prioritised in locations where residents do not have off-street parking. Although all properties on Larkspur Road have off-street parking available, it is noted that most of these take the form of garages located in blocks away from the properties; these garages are too small to accommodate most modern vehicles and so it is considered that residents are likely to rely on on-street parking spaces being available.
28. As a result, a parking survey will be undertaken to determine whether a residents' parking scheme should be considered a priority for possible inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme.
29. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

G. Petition requesting tarmac on the highway verge outside Weaverthorpe Primary School Centre, Arnold (Ref: 2016/0315)

30. A 40 signature petition was presented to the 20 September 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Muriel Weisz on behalf of the Weaverthorpe pre-school on Derwent Crescent, Arnold. It requested the grassed verges adjacent to the pre-school be tarmacked to widen the footway. Parents and children queue outside the entrance before the pre-school opens, resulting in pedestrians walking over and/or standing on the verges on either side of the tarmac access which in their view is a slip and trip hazard.
31. Highway verges serve the purpose of providing natural drainage so that surface water run-off does not cause flooding issues and also for utilities to install and maintain apparatus without having to disrupt footways or carriageways. Subsequently, requests are generally refused to replace verges with hard standing on these grounds, but also the construction costs would be significant and difficult to justify.
32. In this case, the pre-school appears to be lower than the highway, so surface water run-off from the highway into their land would likely be increased by any removal of the verge. The verge area is also apparent, so parents are choosing to walk over this area with their children as opposed to waiting on the adjacent footway which is roughly 1.7 metres wide along most of its length, although it features a pedestrian guardrail along the kerb line at the entrance as a safety feature. There is also a footway on the opposite side of the road with an uncontrolled dropped kerb crossing point linking to it.
33. With regard to safety, Derwent Crescent is a group of cul-de-sacs which carry limited traffic at low speed within an advisory 20mph speed limit. An inspection was carried out on 17 May 2018 to look specifically at the condition of the verges and no defects meeting intervention levels were found. There is a slight upstand between the rear of the verge and the access path to the entrance which is likely to be due to the gradient of the land, but this is not deemed a hazard. The directly adjacent Ernehale Junior School has two accesses of a near identical design and no similar problems have been reported there.
34. It is proposed that the condition of the verges be monitored as part of the standard inspection and maintenance regimes and if actionable defects are found in the future, then these will be rectified as necessary.
35. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Statutory and Policy Implications

36. 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 9774251

Constitutional Comments [SJE 02/11/2018]

37. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Communities and 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 [RWK 05/11/2018]

38. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- **Eastwood** - Councillor Tony Harper
- **Southwell** - Councillor Roger Jackson
- **Newark West** - Councillor Keith Girling
- **Hucknall South** - Councillor Phil Rostance
- **Arnold North** - Councillor Pauline Allan
- **Arnold South** – Councillor Muriel Weisz