

19th June 2014

Agenda Item:6

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS**RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL ON 15TH MAY 2014.****Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee the responses to the issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 15th May:

A. Petition against proposed island scheme on Huthwaite Market Place (Ref 2014/067)

1. A petition collected by the Huthwaite Community Action Group of 942 signatures was presented to the County Council meeting on 15th May 2014 by Councillor Tom Hollis. The petition is rejecting the proposed island scheme on Huthwaite Market Place and supporting the installation of a signalised pedestrian crossing on Chesterfield Road at the site of the current school crossing patrol.
2. The proposed island scheme follows concerns raised over the safety of the Market Street / Main Street / Chesterfield Road junction adjacent to the Market Place in the centre of Huthwaite. The existing junction layout and one-way system along Market Street was introduced during 2009 with modifications made in 2012 to address safety concerns. These modifications included a raised plateau at the end of the one-way street and since these changes there have been no reported collisions at this location.
3. The proposed scheme includes pedestrianising a section of Market Street adjacent to Market Place and the installation of a 3-arm mini-roundabout on the junction of Main Street and Chesterfield Road. This would require alterations to the traffic flow through the Market Place including buses and the introduction of additional parking restrictions to enable the required traffic movements to take place.
4. The County Council has not carried out any consultation on the proposals. However, in August 2013 the local member, Councillor Tom Hollis, wrote to local constituents regarding concerns over the Market Place junction and included a copy of the initial plans for the junctions produced by the Highways Division.

5. Following the release of the initial proposals, County Council representatives have met with the local member and the Huthwaite Community Action Group and discussed proposals with local residents and business owners. In addition an Environmental Weight Limit along Chesterfield Road (starting at the Market Place junction) will be in place from June 2014 and this should reduce the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles using this junction. It has been suggested that this will reduce the traffic issues at this junction and that the proposed junction changes are not required at this stage. It is being proposed that funding is used to install a signalised pedestrian crossing close to this junction and that this would have more benefit.
6. The local member, Councillor Hollis supports improvements for Huthwaite but is concerned that the petition is premature and misinformed.
7. It is recommended that surveys are undertaken to assess the justification for a pedestrian crossing on Chesterfield Road. This involves looking at both pedestrian and vehicle flows and evaluating the potential conflict between vehicles and pedestrians. Dependent upon the survey results the County Council will consider the implementation of a signalised crossing within the current financial year.
8. In addition following the implementation of the Environmental Weight Limit, the County Council will continue to monitor traffic issues and accidents at this junction and put the proposed mini-roundabout scheme on hold for a period of at least 18 months to enable a full evaluation to be undertaken. Any future scheme would still be subject to funding availability and priorities at the time.
9. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

B. Petition for amendments to a residents' parking scheme on Grosvenor Road, Eastwood (Ref 2014/068)

10. A petition was presented to the 15th May 2014 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Keith Longdon on behalf of 34 residents of Grosvenor Road, Eastwood. The petition requested that the existing residents' parking scheme should be amended.
11. Grosvenor Road is a residential street with no off-street parking, located near to the town centre.
12. Residents complain that the county council has issued too many permits for the available road space. This problem, they state, is worsened by the presence of limited waiting bays in which non-permit holders may park for up to two hours.

13. The county council confirms that there are currently 38 active permits for the 41 properties located within the scheme.
14. This is not considered to be an inappropriate number of permits, given that it is less than the number of properties that would be entitled to receive one.
15. However, the county council acknowledges that the presence of limited waiting bays within the scheme increases the likelihood of residents being unable to park in permit-only bays at any given time; and acknowledges that the two-hour waiting limit makes the non-permit bays of limited use to residents.
16. It was agreed that the county council would carry out an investigation to determine whether amendments should be made to the existing scheme.
17. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

C. Petition regarding parking in Tuxford (Ref 2014/069)

18. A petition of 698 signatures was presented to the County Council Meeting on 15th May 2014 by Councillor John Ogle requesting that amendments be made to a recently completed town centre scheme that would mean reinstating parking bays that have been removed.
19. The purpose of the scheme, requested and supported by the Town Council is to offer a more attractive and pedestrian friendly environment improving links through the town and removing what was previously considered to be inconsiderate and obstructive parking. The scheme has resulted in an overall reduction of two parking spaces, however the nearby free public car park has been improved making it more attractive and easier to use. The width of the parking bays remains as previous.
20. The design has been developed to comply with current design standards, specifically the adopted Highways Design Guide, and has been subject to the usual design checks that will apply to such schemes including safety audit and vehicle tracking. The Town Council, as key stakeholder, has been consulted throughout the design development and supported the final layout. Residents and traders have been kept updated of the proposals.
21. Given the aims of the project It is not proposed to remove the build out adjacent to No's 10 and 12 Eldon St, as this would simply recreate the obstructive parking that occurred previously and was instrumental in the scheme being requested initially.
22. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

D. Petition regarding tram compensation (Ref 2014/070)

23. A petition of 3324 signatures was presented to the County Council Meeting on 15th May 2014 by Councillors Richard Jackson and Dr John Doddy to extend the

Financial Assistance Package as a matter of urgency to all qualifying businesses who have suffered financial loss as a result of tram works in Beeston, Chilwell, Toton and Attenborough.

24. A report on this subject was presented to the 21st May 2014 Transport and Highways Committee and it is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed of the recommendations contained in that report.

Reason for Recommendation

25. To recommend to Committee the responses to issues raised in petitions presented to the County Council on 15th May 2014.

Statutory and Policy Implications

26. 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 Full Council for the actions to be noted.

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Peter Barker.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s)

Sutton in Ashfield West, Eastwood, Tuxford, Chilwell and Toton.

