

15 June 2021

Agenda Item:15

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 presented to the County Council at its 25 March 2021 meeting.

Information**A. “Make Ambleside, Gamston, Safer” (Ref:2020/0409)**

2. A 69 signature petition was presented to the 25 March 2021 meeting of the County Council by County Councillor Kay Cutts.
3. The petition requests that traffic calming features and a weight restriction are installed on Ambleside at Gamston; in addition to the road being resurfaced.
4. The Authority actively promotes road safety on the County’s network and we have previously implemented a number of features on this stretch of road in a bid to lower traffic speeds and improve safety. Examples of these are ‘Children’ warning signage, white centre line hatching, SLOW road markings, a signalled crossing facility, pedestrian refuges and an interactive speed sign.
5. Following a recent assessment of Ambleside, its current safety record, at the present time, does not warrant any intervention measures such as physical traffic calming. This will however, continue to be monitored.
6. Environmental weight restrictions have in the past been implemented in urban residential areas, but there are exemptions that apply to HGVs accessing the area for delivery purposes. In this instance, if a weight restriction were to be in place on Ambleside, HGVs using the route for deliveries within the housing estate would be exempt therefore not achieving the desired result and disproving any illegal usage would be extremely difficult in terms of the level of enforcement required.
7. In relation to the request for Ambleside to be resurfaced, the road features on our candidate list for inclusion in a future financial year’s resurfacing programme.
8. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

B. Trial Road Closure in West Bridgford (Ref:2020/0411)

9. A 22 signature petition was presented to the 25 March 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Jonathan Wheeler requesting a trial closure for through traffic on Devonshire Road at West Bridgford.
10. The petition has been raised by local residents who have concerns regarding the volume and speed of traffic that utilises the road, conflict of two way traffic due to the presence of the railway bridge; in addition to safety worries for cyclists that use this route. Residents also feel that closing the road will encourage locals to walk or cycle, instead of using their cars.
11. Nottinghamshire County Council takes road safety very seriously and has consistently invested in highway improvements in a bid to reduce accidents and increase safety on the County's network for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.
12. The Authority are unable to accede to the closure requested, as Devonshire Road provides one of only two points south of Melton Road where the highway crosses the former railway line and its closure would cause significant severance to cyclists, as well as other road users. It would also have significant adverse impacts on the Melton Road and Musters Road junction. In addition, a closure would also cause difficulties for vehicles, due to the lack of turning area available on the road and the inability to create such an area.
13. The Authority have however previously implemented features on this road in a bid to lower traffic speeds. For example, a mandatory 20mph speed limit was recently introduced in order to incorporate the road in our strategic cycle network. This is in addition to 'children' warning signage incorporating a 'school' plate. We will however, undertake a traffic count to monitor the effectiveness of these measures.
14. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

C. Resurfacing Surgeys Lane (Ref:2020/0413)

15. A 162 signature petition was presented to the 25 March 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Michael Payne requesting that Surgeys Lane in Arnold is fully resurfaced as a matter of urgency.
16. The petition states that Surgeys Lane is a thoroughfare to hundreds of homes in Arnold and also serves as part of a major bus route meaning it is subject to a high volume of vehicular traffic. It also states that Surgeys Lane is covered in a patchwork quilt of repairs and potholes and seriously defected at intervals along its entire stretch.
17. The most recent condition survey of the County's Unclassified road network has shown that resurfacing work is required on some major sections of Surgeys Lane. All sites are assessed for a variety of observed damage, including cracking, rutting, subsidence, patching, crazing (so-called 'crocodile cracking'), chipping loss and general ride quality. All sites which required work will be subsequently prioritised (assessed against similar sites) and priority given to those locations which already attract a significant amount of reactive maintenance (potholes) and provide the highest usage (measured by traffic counts, bus routes, number of commercial, retail and domestic properties) along with their amenity value in terms of the location of schools, health centres, emergency services and so on.
18. This is not to say that those streets which do not have high amenity value or usage are simply left behind as the process requires us to strike a balance between the percentage of the site

which is in poor condition alongside the overall usage. Lower amenity sites will still score highly if the overall condition is poor enough.

19. Surgeys Lane does not currently feature in the Capital Maintenance Programme for 2021/22, however, it may still be near the top of the prioritised listings once the process is completed. It should be borne in mind that the prioritisation of all sites is the only fair way in which the County Council is able to allocate available funds to the correct sites, in the correct order.
20. Until such time as Surgeys Lane can be resurfaced, it will continue to be inspected regularly and any safety defects attended to in line with the County Council's 'Highway Inspection & Risk Manual'
21. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

D. Request to fully resurface Lodge Farm Lane in Redhill (Ref:2020/0414)

22. A 59 signature petition was presented to the 25 March 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Michael Payne requesting that Lodge Farm Lane in Redhill is fully resurfaced as a matter of urgency.
23. The petition states that Lodge Farm Lane is a thoroughfare to hundreds of homes in Redhill and subject to a high volume of vehicular traffic, covered in a patchwork quilt of repairs and potholes and seriously defected at intervals along its stretch.
24. The most recent condition survey of the County's Unclassified road network has shown that resurfacing work is required on Lodge Farm Lane. The worst section appears to be the opening 280m or so from Redhill Road up to Houldsworth Rise. All sites are assessed for a variety of observed damage, including cracking, rutting, subsidence, patching, crazing (so-called 'crocodile cracking'), chipping loss and general ride quality.
25. All sites which required work will be subsequently prioritised (assessed against similar sites) and priority given to those locations which already attract a significant amount of reactive maintenance (potholes) and provide the highest usage (measured by traffic counts, bus routes, number of commercial, retail and domestic properties) along with their amenity value in terms of the location of schools, health centres, emergency services and so on. This is not to say that those streets which do not have high amenity value or usage are simply left behind as the process requires us to strike a balance between the percentage of the site which is in poor condition alongside the overall usage. Lower amenity sites will still score highly if the overall condition is poor enough.
26. Lodge Farm Lane does not currently feature in the Capital Maintenance Programme for 2021/22, however, it may still be near the top of the prioritised listings once the process is completed. It should be borne in mind that the prioritisation of all sites is the only fair way in which the County Council is able to allocate available funds to the correct sites, in the correct order.
27. Until such time as Lodge Farm Lane can be resurfaced, it will continue to be inspected regularly and any safety defects attended to in line with the County Council's 'Highway Inspection & Risk Manual'.
28. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

E. Request for a pedestrian crossing on Wellin Lane, Edwalton (Ref:2020/0412)

29. A 342 signature petition was presented to the 25 March 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Jonathan Wheeler requesting the installation of a zebra crossing on Wellin Lane, Edwalton near Edwalton Primary School.
30. Wellin Lane has a school crossing patrol site near the school but unfortunately the site has been vacant for some time. A school crossing patrol, operating at the start and end of the school day, is still considered to be the most appropriate form of crossing to help Edwalton Primary School pupils cross at this location. Via EM Ltd has therefore worked with the school and advertised locally around the site and on its website, but have so far been unsuccessful in finding a replacement patrol. In the future Via EM Ltd are looking to develop a technique using social media adverts targeted at local areas, key demographics and times of day. In the meantime Via EM Ltd will look to include the school patrol position in their next round of recruitment advertising.
31. 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. For road safety reasons formal crossings are also currently only installed where they are used by pedestrians throughout the day.
32. A pedestrian and traffic survey will therefore be undertaken to determine whether a pedestrian crossing at this location should be prioritised for future funding. At locations where formal crossings aren't provided, alternative measures are also considered to help overcome issues raised. The Council will therefore also carry out an assessment of the site to determine if there are alternative options to a formal crossing that could be considered for inclusion in a future years' highways programme.
33. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

Statutory and Policy Implications

34. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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:

Items A to D – Joanne Horton, Via EM Ltd Service Manager Highway Management, Tel: 0115 804 0123

Item E – Sean Parks, Local Transport Plan Manager, Tel: 0115 977 4251

Constitutional Comments (SG 29/04/2021)

35. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Transport and Environment 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 (SES 28/04/2021)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Arnold North – Councillor Michael Payne and Councillor Pauline Allan
- Radliffe on Trent – Councillor Roger Upton
- West Bridgford South – Councillor Jonathan Wheeler