

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITIES AND PLACE COMMITTEE**

### **RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the decisions made by the Communities and Place Committee concerning issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

#### **Information**

##### **A. Safety improvements on Main Street, Eastwood (Ref 2019/0393)**

1. A 57 signature petition was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Tony Harper on behalf of residents of Main Street, Eastwood. The petition requests that road safety improvements are carried out on Main Street.
2. The invasive environmental impact and noise created by physical traffic calming measures, which often have only limited support, has led to traffic calming measures being introduced only where there has been an identified serious injury accident problem involving vulnerable road users.
3. During the period between 01/01/2017 and 31/07/2020 on Main Street there has been one reported personal injury accident on record, in 2018, so it is considered that the introduction of traffic calming measures at this time cannot be justified.
4. Having recorded 7 accidents, 3 of which were serious, in the previous reporting period on Church Street Eastwood and, with a high number of vulnerable users, traffic calming features were installed after consultation with residents.
5. Currently there are bend warning signs and two 'SLOW' markings either side of the Main Street/Chewton Street junction. The carriageway markings have recently been refreshed and the chevron sign will be replaced due to its condition.
6. Via EM Ltd's Safer Highways Team work closely with Nottinghamshire Police to proactively identify and treat sites that have an existing injury accident problem. There are currently no such schemes at the moment proposed for Main Street and the surrounding area in Eastwood. However, the Authority are always happy to assess locations that are brought to its attention on a case to case basis.
7. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

## **B. Safety improvements on Killisick Road, Arnold (Ref 2019/0400)**

8. A 41-signature petition was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Michael Payne on behalf of residents in the Killisick Junior School area. The petition requests that road safety improvements are carried out on Killisick Road.
9. Nottinghamshire County Council and Via East Midlands take road safety very seriously and has consistently invested in highway improvements to reduce accidents on its roads. Every year there is a dedicated budget available to fund casualty reduction schemes at sites where high numbers of accidents are occurring and where there is a recognised pattern of injury accidents. Currently the Authority implements around 50 such schemes in a year, specifically aimed at accident problem sites.
10. In the period between 01/01/2017 and 30/06/2020 there have been no reported personal injury accidents so, at the present time, it would be difficult to justify any improvements on these grounds.
11. However, taking the petition into account the Via Road Safety Team has offered road safety training to the school and there will be a survey commissioned to determine if the site would be appropriate for a school crossing patrol.
12. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

## **C. Safe road crossing on Beckside, Gamston (Ref:2019/0394)**

13. A petition with 72 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Jonathan Wheeler on behalf of residents requesting the installation of one or more zebra crossings on Beckside in Gamston and Edwalton.
14. There are currently five uncontrolled pedestrian crossing points on Beckside. Being a spine road through the housing estate, there is no single point where pedestrian desire lines converge. Instead, pedestrians cross at random points to suit their needs. As a result, there are few locations where a formal crossing point would be considered safe or could be prioritised against other competing requests.
15. There is, however, more significant pedestrian demand at the existing pedestrian refuge west of the Morrison's supermarket access. An assessment of the location in early 2019, using the County Council's standard assessment and prioritisation method – the PV<sup>2</sup> survey, generated a score of 0.27. This is not a high score, suggesting that there is little conflict between pedestrians and motor vehicles. However, it is noted that the design and layout of Beckside can be intimidating to pedestrians and that there is potentially sufficient demand to suggest that a crossing may provide a significant benefit at a low cost. As a result, a study will be commissioned to determine the feasibility and cost of constructing a formal crossing at this location. Depending on the outcome of this work, a crossing will be considered for inclusion in a future year's programme of works.
16. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

#### **D. Parking Scheme on Eatons Road, Stapleford (Ref:2019/0395)**

17. A petition with 16 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Doddy on behalf of residents requesting the introduction of a residents' parking scheme on Eatons Road in Stapleford.
18. Eatons Road is a residential cul-de-sac located to the southeast of the town centre. Few of the properties have off-street parking available. The northern half of the road is already subject to a permit scheme.
19. The County Council will carry out a parking survey to determine whether intrusive non-resident parking takes place and the extent to which it affects the availability of on-street parking for residents. Depending on the outcome of this assessment, a permit scheme may be considered for inclusion in a future year's programme of works.
20. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

#### **E. Parking Scheme on Horace Avenue, Stapleford (Ref:2019/0396)**

21. A petition with 68 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Doddy on behalf of residents requesting the modification of the hours of operation of the existing residents' parking scheme on Horace Avenue in Stapleford from 9am-5pm to 24 hours.
22. Horace Avenue is a residential cul-de-sac located off Derby Road in the town centre. None of the properties have off-street parking available. The parking restrictions on this road form part of a package of parking measures on several residential streets near the town-centre. They were designed to provide a balance between improving access to on-street parking for residents and also providing parking for the town centre's evening economy.
23. If the additional parking that takes place in the evening is a result of residents returning home from work or receiving visitors, extending the hours of operation will not address the problem. If the problems are caused by visitors to nearby pubs, restaurants etc, extending the hours of operation may have an adverse impact on those businesses or move the problem elsewhere. The only solution to this would be to extend the hours of operation of permit schemes on the other nearby roads as well.
24. However, the County Council has not received any representations from residents of other streets seeking the extension of the hours of operation of their schemes, so it is not clear that an area-wide modification would command the required level of support.
25. On balance, therefore, it is not considered appropriate to undertake further assessment of this request. However, it will be kept on file and if evidence is presented that the majority of residents on William Road, Warren Avenue, Cyril Avenue and Wellington Street are generally in support of permit schemes, the council will undertake the necessary assessment work.
26. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

## **F. Parking Scheme on Park Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield (Ref:2019/0397)**

27. A petition with 33 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Samantha Deakin on behalf of residents requesting the re-introduction of a residents' parking scheme on Park Street in Sutton in Ashfield.
28. Park Street is a residential cul-de-sac located off Outram Street in the town centre. It has an entrance to a school at its northern end. None of the properties have off-street parking available.
29. A residents' permit scheme was introduced on Park Street as part of a wider scheme including other nearby residential roads in 1987. However, the restrictions were not welcomed by all residents and a campaign to remove them (which included the signs regularly being painted over in order to make the restrictions unenforceable) culminated in the permit scheme being revoked in 2012. However, the County Council then received a petition in July 2016 requesting that the permit scheme be reintroduced, which was rejected on the grounds that the scheme had only recently been removed with residents' support. It would therefore appear that there was little consensus among residents regarding their desire for a permit scheme.
30. The present petition, however, features signatures from all but seven properties (out of 41) suggesting that a permit scheme may now receive sufficient support for implementation (although support at petition stage does not always convert into support at formal consultation). It should also be borne in mind that any non-resident parking on Park Street would simply relocate to other nearby streets in the event of the introduction of permits. This is in contravention of the council's policy regarding parking permit schemes, so in order to address the issue it would be necessary to reintroduce permits across a wider area, similar to the previous scheme.
31. The County Council has not received any representations from residents of other streets near Park Street seeking the reintroduction of residents' permits so it is not clear that an area-wide scheme would command the necessary support to secure implementation. Officers will therefore undertake a survey of the residents on the nearby streets to determine if they are generally in support of an area-wide permit scheme which will inform whether a review of the parking restrictions in the area should be taken forward.
32. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

## **G. Speed Limit Change on Warsop Lane, between Blidworth and Rainworth (Ref:2019/0401)**

33. A petition with 26 signatures was presented to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Yvonne Woodhead on behalf of residents requesting a reduction of the speed limit on the B6020 Warsop Lane between Blidworth and Rainworth.
34. Warsop Lane is a rural road with no development on either side. It has a system of street lighting and is straight, both of which contribute to providing good visibility. The road has a footway on the eastern side which is used by children attending a secondary school in Rainworth.
35. This section of highway has been the subject of a previous petition (submitted in November 2017) at which time the County Council agreed to assess the request. An investigation was

carried out using government guidance as set out in the Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 "Setting Local Speed Limits".

36. The following key factors were considered:

- history of collisions;
- road geometry and engineering;
- road function;
- composition of road users (including existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users);
- existing traffic speeds; and
- road environment.

37. Following the advice set out in the national guidance, the investigation concluded that a reduction in the speed limit was not appropriate. This agrees with an earlier recommendation made when the speed limit was reviewed as part of the countywide 'A and B Road Speed Limit Review'.

38. It should be noted that there has not been a reported injury accident on this section of road in the last three full years. However, in recognition of local concern, the County Council will undertake a study to determine the feasibility and cost of improving the footway alongside the road.

39. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

#### **H. Objection to access road to Park and Ride site, Redhill (Ref:2019/0399)**

40. A 238-signature petition was submitted to the 15 October 2020 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Michael Payne requesting that outline proposals for an access road to the Redhill park and ride site along Bestwood Lodge Drive be scrapped immediately.

41. The A60 Leapool Park & Ride (P&R) proposal is a long-standing County Council safeguarded transport project and there is also a safeguarded policy for this scheme in the adopted 2018 Gedling Borough Council Local Plan. Nottingham City Council's successful Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) bid has provided the County Council with an opportunity to secure funding to enable this project to move to the next stage in its delivery.

42. Part of the successful TCF bid is a package of proposed bus priority measures to be designed, planned and delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council. This package includes a proposed bus Park and Ride site at the A60/A614 Leapool roundabout; and associated bus priority measures along sections of the A60 Mansfield Road, Oxclose Lane and Edwards Lane such that buses from the A60 P&R gain an advantage over cars, bypass the congestion through Arnold and Daybrook and can also serve the City hospital. The access point to the park and ride site as part of this proposal is solely off the A60/A614 roundabout.

43. The TCF bid documents also show, for indicative purposes only, a possible future bus link running parallel to and to the west of the A60 linking the proposed Leapool P&R site to Bestwood Lodge Drive. This bus link does not form part of the successful award of funding and is not being actively promoted for delivery by Nottinghamshire County Council. Conceptual plans of the bus only link were produced for the purpose of demonstrating possible future public transport options that could be considered if they were judged to form essential transport infrastructure to support future housing/employment allocations by Gedling Borough Council as part of a future Local Plan. The plan preparation process will include opportunity

for consultation and any land allocated for development would need to be supported by evidence.

44. Following the award of funding to Nottingham City Council this scheme will now need to be reported to and approved by the County Council's Policy Committee as well as being subject to detailed design considerations, public consultation and all necessary statutory processes including planning permission, land acquisition etc.
45. In summary the award of TCF funding now allows the County Council (subject to Policy Committee approval) and its partners the opportunity to work up the detail and consult on scheme proposals and options i.e. to provide a bus based P&R site at the A60 Leapool roundabout and bus priority measures along the A60 Mansfield Road, Oxclose Lane and Edwards Lane. Any suggested allocation of residential and employment land on land to the west of the A60 at Redhill, including consideration of a possible dedicated bus link connecting to Bestwood Lodge Drive or elsewhere, is subject to future consideration by the Local Planning Authority, Gedling Borough Council, through the preparation of the next Gedling Local Plan.
46. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

3. 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 the contents of the report be noted.

### **Councillor John Cottee – Chairman of Communities and Place Committee**

#### **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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

- Responses to Petitions Presented to the Chairman of the County Council – Communities and Place Committee, 3 December 2020

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

- Arnold North – Councillor Michael Payne and Councillor Pauline Allan
- Bingham East – Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan
- Blidworth – Councillor Yvonne Woodhead

- Eastwood – Councillor Tony Harper
- Stapleford and Broxtowe Central – Councillor John Doddy and Councillor John Longdon
- Sutton Central and East – Samantha Deakin
- West Bridgford South – Councillor Jonathan Wheeler