

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 18 January 2018.

A. Petition regarding traffic regulation orders in Forest Town (Ref 2016/0273)

2. A 48 signature petition was presented to the 18 January 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Martin Wright on behalf of residents of Forest Town. The petition asked that the existing prohibition of driving Traffic Regulation Orders on Minton Pastures, Beechwood Close and Fernwood Close be replaced with a different Order prohibiting parking. This is on the grounds of lack of enforcement of the existing Order by the police and the belief that the Council would enforce parking restrictions more effectively against the incursion of school parking. The named roads are cul-de-sacs off Holly Drive where the school's access is situated and there have been previous parking restrictions introduced on Holly Drive and the adjoining through route of Holly Road in recent years to try and curb the problem. Complaints regarding school parking in this area have continued, however, including from residents further afield on Holly Road who have experienced parking near their homes which was displaced by the current parking restrictions.
3. The existing prohibitions of driving on these roads can be enforced by the police, but how the police prioritise their resources is beyond the County Council's control. The Council receives many complaints regarding parking at arrival and departure times outside schools in the county. Various attempts at area-wide parking restrictions have been made previously, but these have generally resulted in either yellow lines being ignored by drivers, the parking problem being displaced to adjacent road lengths and child pedestrian movements being spread across wider areas where drivers may not expect them to be present. Also, yellow lines allow drivers to set down and pick up passengers, so this activity is not actually made illegal by the introduction of double yellow lines.
4. The Council has subsequently taken the approach of targeting parking issues at specific locations near schools, such as school entrances and crossing points. The County Council has consequently undertaken two major programmes at all school sites in the county – making all “School Keep Clear” road markings legally enforceable and introducing advisory 20mph speed limits outside schools. These programmes target keeping the school entrances clear of parking to create a safe space for crossing movements whilst impressing upon drivers that they are expected to lower their speed outside all schools in Nottinghamshire. The enforcement of “School Keep Clear” markings was improved further with the commissioning of camera enforcement car which can immediately record and log any vehicle it sees contravening the No Stopping Orders which now underpin all “School

Keep Clear” markings. A penalty charge notice is then issued to the registered vehicle owner. Requests for the camera enforcement car to visit a school can be made via the County Council’s website.

5. Whilst it is appreciated that school parking patterns can cause disruption and inconvenience, they rarely result in a road safety problem. The Council does, however, offer advisory white H-bar markings to assist residents who find their driveways are being obstructed by parking at a cost to the resident of £185. Application details and conditions can be obtained by the individual resident(s) contacting us directly.

B. Petition requesting 50mph speed limit on Grange Lane, Staunton in the Vale (Ref 2016/0274)

6. A 37 signature petition was presented to the 18 January 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Keith Walker requested a 50mph speed limit on Grange Lane, Staunton in the Vale. The road is rural in nature with a 60mph speed limit.
7. To consider the speed limit request an assessment would be carried out including consideration of the road layout and its purpose, the number of properties fronting the road, an evaluation of traffic speeds, and an investigation of the speed related injury accident data. Once this data is available the request would be considered in line with guidelines for setting local speed limits; and if appropriate, alterations to the speed limit would be considered for inclusion in a future integrated transport programme.

C. Petition objecting to proposed residents’ parking scheme on Epperstone Road, West Bridgford (Ref 2016/0275)

8. A petition of over 300 signatures from users of the West Bridgford Methodist Church was presented to the 18 January 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Liz Plant. The objections to the proposed Epperstone Road area residents’ parking scheme stated that the residents’ parking scheme would limit available on-street parking in the area and negatively impact on the operation of their organisation and the many community based groups which used the church premises.
9. There are many competing demands for free, convenient on-street parking in this area and when dealing with a finite resource it is not possible to meet all these demands for parking. The scheme was proposed to reduce the effect of non-resident parking on residents of the area. It is important to ensure that the volume of on-street parking on Epperstone Road and part of George Road reflects anticipated levels of demand. As such it is not considered appropriate to further reduce the on-street spaces available to permit holders by allocating part of Epperstone Road as limited waiting. Visitors, including carers, visiting residents of Epperstone Court have alternative options available including the 2hr limited waiting bays on George Road and Patrick Road.
10. The Epperstone Road area residents’ parking scheme was considered and responded to in the report to Communities and Place Committee on the proposed scheme (which was on 19 April 2018 Committee agenda).

D. Petition requesting a pedestrian crossing on the A611 near the Brooklyn Day Nursery (Ref 2016/0276)

11. A 192 signature petition was presented to the 18 January 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillors John Knight and Rachel Madden requesting a pedestrian crossing for pedestrians to access the Brooklyn Day Nursery.
12. 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 numbers 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.
13. Accident records show that between 1 January 2014 and 31 November 2017 (the most up to date records) fortunately there had been no reported road traffic collisions involving pedestrians on the section of the A611 between Annesley Cutting and the A608 so a crossing would not be introduced to address a history of road traffic collisions involving pedestrians. Given that there are very few residential properties in this locality it is likely that there will be low numbers of pedestrians wishing to cross at this location throughout the day. Surveys will, however, be undertaken to determine whether a crossing at this location should be prioritised for possible inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme.

E. Petition requesting traffic signals at the junction of Breck Hill Road and Plains Road, Mapperley (Ref: 2016/0277)

14. A petition was presented to the 18 January 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Clarke requesting that the County Council "re-examine the safety of the junction of Breck Hill Road and Plains Road, Mapperley" and asked "that serious consideration be given to the installation of proper traffic controls at this junction".
15. Records show that between 1 April 2014 and 30 October 2017 there had been two road traffic collisions at this location resulting in serious casualties; and five collisions resulting in slight injuries.
16. Providing traffic signals at this location might be possible but it is likely to have significant impacts on the wider highway network, including journey times for drivers, increased vehicle queues, pedestrian safety, nearby on-street parking, access to nearby car parks, as well as nearby pedestrian crossings and traffic signals. It is also not clear whether introducing traffic signals at this junction would improve road safety at the junction. Therefore traffic and pedestrian surveys will be undertaken so that a preliminary appraisal of the feasibility and impacts of the introduction of traffic signals at this junction can be undertaken.

F. Petitions requesting a residents' parking scheme on Second Avenue, Carlton (Ref 2016/0278); and that some properties on Second Avenue, Carlton are exempt from the residents' permit scheme requested (Ref 2016/0279)

17. Two separate petitions concerning a residents' parking scheme on Second Avenue, Carlton were presented to the 18 January 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Jim Creamer. A 33 signature petition was presented on behalf of residents requesting that a residents' parking scheme be introduced on Second Avenue. At the same meeting a 55

signature petition was presented on behalf of residents of Second Avenue requesting that a residents' parking scheme not be introduced in front of their properties.

18. Second Avenue is a residential road located between the B686 Carlton Hill and Foxhill Road. The southern part of the road is located near the Carlton Hill shopping area and comprises semi-detached properties, none of which have their own off-street parking; and it is residents of these properties that are seeking a residents parking scheme. The northern section of Second Avenue is located further away from the shopping area and most, if not all, properties at the northern end have off-street parking; and it is residents of these properties that are requesting that a residents' parking scheme is not introduced outside their properties.
19. 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 vehicle speeds. Schemes are prioritised based on the level of non-resident parking throughout the day.
20. A parking survey will be undertaken to determine whether a residents' parking scheme should be considered a priority on any section of Second Avenue for possible inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme.
21. It should, however, be noted that as requests for residents' parking schemes are prioritised in locations where residents do not have off-street parking, it is unlikely that the northern section of Second Avenue would be considered a priority for the introduction of such a scheme. In any event, residents of Second Avenue will be consulted on any proposed permit scheme should such a scheme be prioritised for delivery.

G. Petitions asking the County Council to prevent all seismic surveys, exploration and any activity related to fracking and coal bed methane (Ref: 2016/0280)

22. The County Council received a petition of 501 signatures in November and a further two petitions, one of 459 signature petition and another of 434 signatures were presented to the 18 January 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Helen-Ann Smith. The petitions ask the County Council to prevent all seismic surveys, exploration and any activity related to fracking and coal bed methane within Nottinghamshire.
23. The County Council is developing an up to date planning policy against which applications for exploration, appraisal and extraction of all hydrocarbon minerals (including coal bed methane and shale gas) will be judged. This will be contained within a revised Minerals Plan which will be published later in 2018. The policy will need to reflect national guidance on this subject ("Planning practice guidance for onshore oil and gas" 2013) which seeks to ensure that appropriate provision is made for exploration and production. The Plan will need to show Petroleum Licence Areas on the proposals maps, include criteria-based policies for each of the exploration, appraisal and production phases of hydrocarbon extraction and provide clear guidance and criteria for the location and assessment of hydrocarbon extraction within the Petroleum Licence Areas.
24. The Committee will be asked to endorse a draft policy approach which will be issued as part of the Draft Plan proposals for the purposes of wider public involvement later in 2018. The

petition which reflects the views of local residents will be considered further in light of national guidance on this matter.

25. With regard to request to refuse all requests for a licence to undertake seismic surveys on all County Council owned land, members will make any such decisions on a case by case basis at a public committee meeting.

H. Petition requesting speed reduction measures on B6010 Moorgreen and B600 Church Road and measures to reduce HGV traffic on B6010, Moorgreen (Ref 2016/0281)

26. A 224 signature petition was presented to the 18 January 2018 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Handley on behalf of residents of Moorgreen. The petition requested that measures be introduced to reduce speeding on Moorgreen and Church Road and that HGV numbers be reduced on Moorgreen.

27. The B6010 is subject to a 30 mph speed limit and is the subject of an on-site speed awareness campaign in the form of "It's 30 for a reason" signing. There is also a vehicle activated speed warning sign located on the road. The B600 Church Road also has a 30 mph speed limit from the point where residential properties have frontages on the highway; and a vehicle activated speed sign is due to be installed on this road during 2018/19.

28. Enforcement of the speed limits on these roads should be directed to the area neighbourhood policing inspector and therefore a copy of the petition has been forwarded to the police for consideration.

29. The issue of HGV traffic using Moorgreen has been considered previously following representations from the Moorgreen Residents' Association (the sponsors of the present petition). An assessment carried out in 2014 concluded that as it was quicker, and therefore cheaper, for haulage companies travelling through Eastwood to use alternative routes (namely the A608/A610 or B600) it was likely that only HGVs accessing/serving local businesses were using the B6010. Therefore, if a weight restriction was introduced on the B6010 it would have a significant detrimental impact on local businesses and would simply transfer the problem to other nearby residential streets.

30. A weight restriction could be considered if it was assessed to be the most appropriate measure to address a history of road traffic collisions on the road. Analysis of reported road traffic collision data resulting in injuries, however, shows that fortunately between 1 January 2014 and 31 October 2017 there have been no reported road traffic collisions involving lorries on the B6010 between Church Road and Mill Road. Consequently, a HGV weight restriction would not currently be considered to resolve a history of road traffic collisions. It is therefore not currently proposed that a restriction on lorry traffic is introduced on the B6010.

Statutory and Policy Implications

31. 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 and the actions approved be considered.

Councillor John Cottee
Chairman of Communities and Place Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Adrian Smith, Corporate Director, Place
adrian.smith@nottsc.gov.uk

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Mansfield East – Councillor Martin Wright
- Balderton – Councillor Keith Walker
- West Bridgford North – Councillor Liz Plant
- Kirkby North – Councillor John Knight
- Kirkby South – Councillor Rachel Madden
- Arnold South – Councillor John Clarke and Councillor Muriel Weisz
- Carlton West – Councillor Jim Creamer and Councillor Errol Henry JP
- Sutton North – Councillor Helen-Ann Smith
- Greasley and Brinsley – Councillor John Handley