

23 April 2015

Agenda Item: 10

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS & SERVICE DIRECTOR,
TRANSPORT, PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT**

**RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2015.**

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 on 26th February 2015.

- A. **Petition Requesting That The County Council Enter Into Discussions With The City Council Regarding The Extension Of The Medi-Link Service To The New Park & Ride Site At Clifton (Tram Service) (Ref:2015/106)**

2. A 1151 signature petition was presented to Full Council on 26 February by Councillor Andrew Brown requesting that the County Council enters into discussions with the City Council regarding the possible extension of the Medi-link service, which is funded by the NHS and City, to Clifton tram stop.

3. Discussions with the City Council are ongoing covering a range of strategies to improve local bus service provision in the Greater Nottingham area especially when the two new tram lines are operational, specifically the provision and route of the Medi-link service and any possible extension will form part of the discussions. At present NCT service 53 (Grey Lane) provides a 30 minute frequency throughout the day from Clifton serving both the QMC and City Hospital. It is hoped that this service will also serve the new Tram Park and Ride site when the Clifton line is operational.

4. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

B. Petition Requesting a Safe Crossing Point Between A617 Woburn Lane And Poplar Drive, Pleasley (Ref:2015/107)

5. A petition of 415 signatures was presented to Full Council on 26th February 2015 by Councillor Darren Langton requesting a safe crossing point be constructed between the junctions of the A617 MARR Route/Woburn Ln and Poplar Drive, Pleasley. It stated that increased pupil numbers at the nearby Farmilo Primary School on Woburn Rd, new play facilities at Woburn Rd play area and the Pleasleyhill Regeneration Scheme featuring 150 new houses as being likely to increase vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the near future warranting better pedestrian facilities.
6. Within this road length there are currently 2 existing pedestrian refuges, 3 westbound interactive speed signs, an eastbound school warning sign with flashing amber warning lights and to the west of Poplar Dr there is an eastbound interactive speed sign. The proposed Section 106 Agreement for the Pleasleyhill Regeneration Scheme includes various improvements, but upgraded pedestrian facilities were not felt to be necessary.
7. The Crash Reduction Team has been looking at the whole A617/A6191 Chesterfield Road North route and carried out a speed survey in the area in question which showed the 85th percentile speed as being 30mph in the 30mph speed limit. There have also been no pedestrian accidents from 2011 to November 2014 (the latest data available). Subsequently, no improvements are currently being proposed on safety grounds at this location. However, accident patterns will continue to be monitored and we will review the situation as necessary.
8. The Council will also carry out pedestrian/vehicle surveys following the completion of the Pleasleyhill Regeneration Scheme at both existing pedestrian refuges and consider if either facility warrants upgrading to a light controlled pedestrian crossing as part of a future Local Transport Plan Programme.
9. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

C. Petition Opposing The Proposed Changes To Parking Bays And One-Way System In Kirkby-In-Ashfield (Ref: 2014/0108)

10. A 32 signature petition was presented to County Council on 26th February 2015 by Councillor John Knight. The petition is a result of consultation undertaken on changes to the Traffic Regulation Orders required to help improve traffic flows in Kirkby in Ashfield, especially along Station Street. The proposed improvements include the relocation of the bus stops sited to the east of Ellis Street, reversing the one-way system on Ellis Street and making Pond Street one-way in an eastbound direction. These changes will also require a small reduction in parking bays in the town.
11. The petition opposes both the proposed changes to the parking bays and the one-way system on Pond Street. The petition raises concern that the changes would put a significantly higher volume of traffic (including heavy goods vehicles) along Pond Street, having a negative impact on residents many of whom are elderly. The petitioners also

state that there is no provision for a crossing and express concern that the junction of Pond Street and Portland Street will be unable to function efficiently under the new highway layout.

12. The consultation on the changes to the Traffic Regulation Orders ends on Friday 10th April 2015 and the petition will be considered as an objection to the scheme. The outcome of the consultation, including the objections contained in the petition (and any other comments/objections received), will be considered and reported to a future Transport and Highways Committee in due course.
13. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

D. Petition Requesting Traffic Calming Measures at East Drayton (Ref:2015/109)

14. A 123 signature petition was presented to the 26th February meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Ogle. The petitioners are requesting the introduction of traffic calming in East Drayton Village.
15. Increasingly the development and public consultation on proposed physical traffic calming schemes (road humps etc.) has led to significant concerns from local residents about the impact these have on their daily travel. These schemes are also an expensive investment for the County Council.
16. Traffic calming is only considered as a casualty reduction measure and the accident rate here would not support this. The suggested initial approach therefore is for local speed watch to be established. This is led by the local community and supported by the Police and can bring immediate benefits.
17. Two sites in East Drayton were assessed for the provision of flashing interactive speed limit signs in 2014 and neither site achieved a sufficiently high score in terms of vehicle speeds and volumes to be considered a priority. These will however be carried forward for consideration from the 2016/17 Programme.
18. The county council has received an offer to fund the installation of a sign privately. Discussions are ongoing with the potential funder to agree terms and conditions. As soon as this is resolved the county council will contact the parish council to agree an appropriate location for a sign.
19. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

E. Petition Requesting Reduction of Speed Limit to 50mph on A610 Nuthall Bypass (Ref:2015/110)

20. The County Council has received a number of requests from local residents and the local County Councillor for the speed limit to be lowered on the section of the A610 Nuthall Bypass between the Nuthall roundabout and Cinderhill roundabout which is within the City area. The mean speed on this section of road is 46mph, which indicates that a 50mph speed limit would be appropriate. The section is currently dual carriageway and derestricted so operates under the national speed limit of 70mph. The proposed lower 50mph speed limit for the A610 was recommended as part of

Nottinghamshire County Council's 2011 speed limit review in order to improve road safety.

21. A 45 signature petition was presented to the 26th February 2015 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Philip Owen. The petition was organised on the social media web site Facebook seeking support or otherwise for the proposal to reduce the speed limit from 70mph to 50mph on the A610 Nuthall Bypass. 41 petitioners did not support the speed reduction, 2 were in support and 2 did not state any preference.
22. The proposed speed limit reduction has been subject to public consultation and formal advertisement earlier this year and six responses were received - the common theme was the desire for a 40mph order to be applied rather than the 50mph limit proposed.
23. The Transport and Highways Committee on the 12th February 2015 approved the proposed speed limit reduction on the basis that such a change takes into account a balanced view of the needs of all road users, current average speeds and likely levels of driver compliance with resultant road safety benefits.
24. It is recommended that Councillor Owen be informed directly of the petition response and not via Facebook.

Other Options Considered

25. Each petition response sets out any other options that may be considered.

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

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.

Neil Hodgson
Service Director - Highways

Jas Hundal
Service Director - Transport, Property & Environment

Background Papers and Published Documents

Minutes of County Council meeting 26th February 2015.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

East Leake, Mansfield West, Kirkby in Ashfield North, Tuxford, Nuthall