



9th October 2014

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

RESPONSE TO PETITION PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON 26TH JUNE 2014.

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee the response to the issues raised in a petition presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 26th June:

Petition Regarding Various Highway Matters in West Bridgford (Ref 2014/075)

1. On 26th June 2014 a petition of 11 names was presented to Full Council by Councillor Liz Plant stating various issues with overgrown private vegetation, weeds, tree maintenance, a derelict property and parking on pavements.
2. The Council has no direct enforcement powers to prevent the reported parking on the Highfield Rd footway near Clumber Rd as this still falls within the remit of the Police at present. Our records show that there has not been an injury accident reported at this junction since 1996. We also have no records of any other complaints in the last 7 years regarding obstructive parking.
3. The property referred to in the petition is not owned by the County Council and any issues regarding its appearance should be directed to the owner or to Rushcliffe Borough Council's Environmental Health Team.
4. We have investigated the reports of overgrowing vegetation and although there were a few cases of marginal overgrowth, we found only two instances we felt were causing actionable obstruction. We contacted the owners of both properties and one has now cut back the overgrowth, whilst the other owner reports that they have a tree surgeon scheduled to undertake cutting back in mid-September.
5. The Council undertakes weed spraying activities in West Bridgford in June and August. There have been some issues with the hot and wet weather reducing the effectiveness of the treatment in June, but some remedial spraying has been carried out in response to this. Some of the 'weeds' around the bases of highway trees are actually known as "epicormic growth" from the trees themselves. This type of growth is scheduled for removal by September.

6. It is acknowledged that these roads, amongst many others, are out of phase with the usual cycle of tree maintenance as budgets have been focused on the direct abatement of safety threats to road users. The trees on Highfield Road are now placed on a priority list of trees to be pollarded during the autumn and winter of 2014 due to the risk posed by the trees as outlined in the petition. These works will remove the upper growth from the trees and should ensure that the concerns raised are dealt with.

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

Reason for Recommendation

8. To recommend to Committee the response to issues raised in a petition presented to the County Council on 26th June 2014.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. 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 petitioner 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)

West Bridgford Central and South