

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT 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 Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment concerning issues raised in petitions presented to the County Council at its 30 March and 11 May 2023 meetings.

Information

A. Petition in support of continuing bus services in Sutton Bonington (Ref:2023/04)

2. A 251-signature petition was presented to Full Council on 30 March 2023 by Councillor Matt Barney in support of continuing bus services in Sutton Bonington.
3. In September 2022 Trentbarton made the decision to withdraw the Skylink bus service between East Midlands Airport and Loughborough which provided an hourly service for the residents of Sutton Bonington. The County Council has provided financial support from its Bus Service Improvement Plan funding to maintain the Skylink route until 15 May 2023.
4. The County Council has commissioned a service from 17 May 2023 which will operate as a Demand Responsive Transport service. This new service will also replace the 865 route and continue to provide links to Kegworth and the Clifton Park & Ride site. Additionally, this new service will provide new links to multiple destinations in the operating zone including East Midlands Gateway, East Midlands Airport, and East Leake, offering access to employment, and connections to major bus services and the NET Tram. The service will operate between 07:00 and 24:00 7 days a week. Information about the new service is now available on the Council's website [Nottsbus On Demand Zones | Nottinghamshire County Council](#). This new service will be provided by Kinchbus under contract to the County Council.
5. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

B. Request for a residents parking permit scheme on Frederick Road, Stapleford (Ref:2023/05)

6. A 32-signature petition was presented to the 30 March 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John McGrath requesting a residents' parking scheme be introduced on Frederick Road, Stapleford, for house numbers 1 to 29 on the north-western side of the road and 2-22 on the south-eastern side.
7. Frederick Road is a residential street with a church, shops, Nottingham College, and other amenities nearby, to the east.

8. The petition raises issues with residents being unable to park on Frederick Road, near their homes, due to cars being parked by visitors and workers of the nearby shops, businesses, and Nottingham College, as well as residents of adjacent roads that have permit schemes in place.
9. Residents' permit schemes are prioritised in locations where residents do not have access to off-street parking and the presence of non-resident parking makes it difficult for residents, who rely on on-street parking, to park their vehicles.
10. To determine the impact of non-resident parking on Frederick Road, a survey will be carried out. This will be used to determine whether a residents' parking scheme at this location should be considered for inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme.
11. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

C. Petition requesting Mansfield Road, Warsop, be closed at its junction with Vale Avenue, and installation of new turning area (Ref:2023/06)

12. A 50-signature petition was presented to Full Council on 11 May 2023 by Councillor Bethan Eddy on behalf of residents, requesting that the service road on Mansfield Road, Warsop, be closed at its junction with Vale Avenue, with a new turning area installed at the Vale Avenue end of the service road. The request has been made in response to the proposed installation of a new traffic signal-controlled junction at the junction of Vale Avenue and the A60, with residents raising concerns over potential safety issues resulting from cars rat-running along Mansfield Road in an attempt to avoid having to wait at the proposed traffic signals.
13. The signals in question form part of an agreed highway mitigation package relating to planning application 2017/0816/OUT determined by Mansfield District Council (MDC). The application relates to the provision of 400 dwellings to the south of Stonebridge Lane, located approximately 400m north of Mansfield Road. The proposed signal layout was consulted upon and agreed through the planning process, with planning permission being granted by MDC in September 2018. Once planning permission has been granted it is not within the gift of the County Council to force a developer to change their agreed plans once they have been approved by the Local Planning Authority. Whilst we do undertake further design checks relating to the detailed design, these checks are limited to compliance and technical standards rather than the general principal of the design.
14. Notwithstanding this, the proposed signals have been designed to control vehicle speeds and flows on the A60 as well as to try and prevent erratic driver behaviour, by allowing controlled safe access/egress from Vale Ave onto the A60. The signals have been designed to cope with the anticipated traffic flows generated by the development, so minimum queuing should help to discourage any recurring rat-running. Having consulted with our traffic signals specialists at Via East Midlands Ltd, they consider based on their experience with similar arrangements elsewhere in the County that rat-running is unlikely, especially along a narrow service road, that is extensively used for on street parking, with a very difficult exit priority junction because of high daily flows on the A60.
15. We recognise that no matter how much junction designs are improved there will unfortunately always be a minority of miscreant drivers that defy reason/expectations, seemingly being too impatient to follow normal driving etiquette. However, until the signals are installed and

operational it is unclear whether this theoretical problem will translate into a highway safety issue.

16. The engineering works associated with closing the road to through traffic, as well as the required legal orders to restrict vehicle movements are significant and therefore cannot be undertaken lightly. Unfortunately, without definitive evidence to suggest rat running will be a problem, these works cannot be justified at this time. It is recommended this matter is revisited if it does become a proven and significant issue after the signals have been operational for a while, but that otherwise no other changes to the highway are proposed at this time.

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

D. Request for the introduction of a Residents' Parking Scheme on The City, Beeston (Ref:2023/07)

18. A 16-signature petition was presented to the 11 May 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Kate Foale on behalf of residents of The City, Beeston.

19. The City is an historic residential road to the south of Beeston town that was split in half when Middle Street was extended during the middle of the 20th Century. The eastern part of the road (the section to which the petition relates) is now a cul-de-sac featuring a mix of housing types.

20. While the County Council is sympathetic to the frustrations caused by intrusive parking, permit schemes are applied, where it is appropriate to do so, to assist residents without access to off-street parking and are, therefore, prioritised in locations where residents do not have access to off-street parking.

21. All but three of the properties appear to have access to off-street parking. Additionally, the road is very narrow: at its narrowest it is only 3.8m wide, which means that any vehicle that parks on the road is likely to make access to or egress from off-street parking very difficult. As a result of the above this request would not be considered appropriate for inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme and so it is proposed that no further assessment be undertaken. Residents' Permit Schemes cannot be introduced to address issues resulting from vehicles blocking access to a property, and if residents' accesses are being obstructed, this should be reported to the Police. To help prevent vehicles obstructing access to their property, residents are, however, able to request the installation of H-bar markings. Where approved (by the district highways manager), the current charge for the installation of such markings is £244 which covers design, health and safety, administration, works, and renewal costs.

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

Link to Nottinghamshire Plan/Annual Delivery Plan

23. Should the proposed actions be approved, they will help deliver the following Nottinghamshire Plan ambitions/delivery plan priorities:

- 'Improving transport and digital connections' and more specifically:
 - response to petition labelled A will help in the delivery of the action: '*Keep our highways safe and reduce congestion*'

- response to petition labelled A will help in the delivery of the action: *‘Improve local and regional transport connections to make journeys easier’*
- response to petition labelled A will help in the delivery of the action: *‘Support people with transport options that are healthier and more sustainable’*
- response to petition labelled A will help in the delivery of the action: *‘Improve bus services’*
- *‘Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint’* and more specifically:
 - response to petition labelled A will help in the delivery of the action: *‘Drive use of public transport and other green ways to travel’*
- *‘Improving transport and digital connections’* and more specifically:
 - response to petition labelled C will help in the delivery of the action: *‘Keep our highways safe and reduce congestion’*

Other Options Considered

24. There are no other options to consider as this report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

25. The recommendations detailed within this report have been developed to help ensure delivery of the County Council’s ‘Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-31’ priorities, national priorities, and local transport goals and objectives. Recommendations are based on their ability to deliver strategic objectives (including transport objectives), evidence of need (including technical analysis), feasibility, and value for money assessments.

Statutory and Policy Implications

26. 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.

Financial Implications

27. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

Councillor Neil Clarke MBE
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

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 – Delegated Decision (Reference 355) by Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Beeston Central and Rylands – Councillor Kate Foale
- Leake and Ruddington – Councillor Matt Barney and Councillor Reg Adair
- Stapleford and Broxtowe Central – Councillor John McGrath
- Warsop – Councillor Bethan Eddy