

9th January 2014

Agenda Item:

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTORS, HIGHWAYS, AND TRANSPORT,
PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT**

**RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AND 21ST NOVEMBER 2013.**

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee responses to the issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 26th September and 21st November:

- A. Petition requesting the reinstatement of the original termination point of the Coddington bus service (Ref 2013/034)
- B. Petition Requesting Gritting On Various Named Roads in Sutton in Ashfield (Ref 2013/040)
- C. Petition – Removal of Planters – Gladstone Street, Mansfield (Ref 2013/041)
- D. Petition requesting the registering of a pathway as a right of way in Mansfield (Ref 2013/042)
- E. Petition regarding traffic issues (linked to taxi rank) outside Asda store on Front Street in Arnold (Ref 2013/043)
- F. Petition requesting reinstatement of direct bus service to Doncaster via Misterton (Ref 2013/044)
- G. Petition concerning No. 22 bus service to Langar-cum Barnstone (Ref 2013/045)
- H. Petition Requesting Traffic Calming on Warwick Avenue, Beeston (Ref 2013/047)
- I. Petition Requesting Introduction of a 20mph speed limit on Cow Lane Bramcote (Ref 2013/048)
- J. Petition Requesting Traffic Calming on Forest Avenue, Mansfield (Ref 2013/049)
- K. Petition Requesting Extension of Speed Limit in Collingham (Ref 2013/050)

L. Petition for a zebra crossing outside St Peters C of E primary and nursery school (Ref:2013/051)

A. Petition requesting the reinstatement of the original termination point of the Coddington bus service (Ref 2013/034)

1. The County Council will raise this issue with the service operator at the next regular liaison meeting. Previous talks have taken place regarding the punctuality of the service and these will be reviewed as part of the discussion. The County Council currently makes a limited financial contribution to the service which is currently being reviewed as part of the Transport & Travel Service Outline Business Case B17.
2. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

B. Petition Requesting Gritting On Various Named Roads in Sutton in Ashfield (Ref 2013/040)

3. A 139 signature petition from residents of various Ashfield estates was presented to the 21st November County Council meeting by Councillor Tom Hollis. The petitioners request that their roads are added to the 'formal' gritting routes this winter and they express concerns of neglect and no longer feeling safe during adverse weather conditions.
4. The aim of the Winter Maintenance Service is to permit the safe movement of essential vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the highway network whilst minimising delays and accidents directly attributable to adverse weather conditions.
5. The County Council salts as a matter of routine (i.e. on every occasion when ice is predicted to form on road surfaces) approximately 34% of the County Road network.
6. The remaining 66% of roads therefore have ice present on occasion. The approach, shared by the Police, Motoring Organisations and Local Authorities is that it is the duty of the road user to be aware of the prevailing conditions and to drive accordingly.
7. Many of the roads mentioned in the petition are minor estate roads and culs-de-sac. They carry very low volumes of traffic and have no strategic importance. However, Woodland Way, Redbarn Way and Castlewood Grove are secondary distributor roads and form part of a severe weather route that provides a link to the B6023 Alfreton Road and Kirkby Road. These roads would therefore be gritted on occasions when severe and prolonged ice or snow is forecast.

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

C. Petition – Removal of Planters – Gladstone Street, Mansfield (Ref 2013/041)

9. A 30 signature petition was presented to the 21 November 2013 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Kevin Greaves. The petition is from residents of Gladstone Street, Mansfield and surrounding streets.

10. There have been several complaints and enquires from residents requesting the overgrown planters to be cut back/maintained or removed to create additional parking spaces since 2008.

11. A bid has been submitted to LIS by Councillor Bosnjak to have the planters removed but in the meantime the new Mansfield Woodhouse Community Lengthsman scheme will be asked to cut back and maintain the planting.

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

D. Petition requesting the registering of a pathway as a right of way in Mansfield (Ref 2013/042)

13. A petition was presented to the County Council meeting on 21st November 2013 by County Councillor Kevin Greaves on behalf of 77 signatures. The petition requests that;

“We, the undersigned, are in support of a request for the pathway between Balmoral Drive and Chesterfield Road North to become a registered ‘right of way’. The actions of the ‘cost cutter (Post Office) owner have denied access for wheelchair users – also baby buggies, by installing knee high barriers and reducing the width of the footpath by erecting fencing and extending his property. We consider this action to be unreasonable”.

14. The petition refers to an unregistered footpath in Mansfield. The Countryside Access Team has received an application from North Sherwood Tenants and Residents Association to record this path on Nottinghamshire’s legal record of public rights of way, the Definitive Map and Statement. The application will be considered along with all the available evidence regarding the existence (or not) of the path. Petitioners and the landowner(s) will be kept advised of progress and recommendations will be made to the Rights of Way Committee in due course.

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

E. Petition regarding traffic issues (linked to taxi rank) outside Asda store on Front Street in Arnold (Ref 2013/043)

16. A petition of 172 signatures from taxi drivers and shoppers along Front Street was presented to the Chairman at the meeting of the County Council on 21st November 2013 by Councillor Michael Payne. The petition is linked to the taxi rank situated outside the Asda store on Front Street, Arnold and concerns raised regarding traffic congestion caused by the rank and safety issues to the general public.
17. A scheme is included in the 2013/14 Highways Integrated Transport Measures programme to deal with the conflicts between vehicles (including taxis) and pedestrians on Front Street following complaints. Proposals have been consulted and publicly advertised during December with a closing date of 6th January 2014, details of the scheme changes include:
 - Remove the existing zebra crossing outside ASDA, along with its associated road hump, and reconstruct the hump and zebra near the stepped access to the car park. This is a safer and more appropriate location on main pedestrian desire lines and well away from busy parking areas.
 - Extend the taxi rank to accommodate another 4-5 vehicles, and the disabled bay to accommodate another 1-2 vehicles.
 - Relocate bus stand 4 further along Front Street to avoid conflicts between buses and pedestrians using the new crossing.
18. The consultation includes street notices, plans on deposit in Arnold Library and County Hall, letters to all the frontages on Front Street plus statutory consultees. To further ensure consultation with a wide range of stakeholders a plan and feedback forms were made available within the Asda store. The lead petitioner has been included in the consultation therefore had an opportunity to comment or object on the proposals advertised.
19. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

F. Petition requesting reinstatement of direct bus service to Doncaster via Misterton (Ref 2013/044)

20. As part of the current bus service review Transport & Travel Services are currently discussing bus services in the Bassetlaw area including a proposed service from Gainsborough to Doncaster via Misterton. This could be achieved as part of a wider review of services in the Retford and Gainsborough area and a report will be made to Transport & Highways Committee during 2014 with any proposed service changes. Consultation on all bus service proposals is open until 17th January 2014 as part of the County Council budget consultation process.
21. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

G. Petition concerning No. 22 bus service to Langar-cum Barnstone (Ref 2013/045)

22. As part of the current bus service review a number of proposals have been made to revise services in the Rushcliffe area. A number of consultation events and meetings with the Parishes involved have resulted in the current proposals. These ensure the continued access for employment, health and essential shopping in a revised network of services which will connect with the high frequency commercial networks operating close by. Consultation on these proposals is open until 17th January 2014 as part of the County Council budget consultation process.
23. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

H. Petition Requesting Traffic Calming on Warwick Avenue, Beeston (Ref 2013/047)

24. A 23 signature petition was presented to the 21st November meeting of the County Council by Councillor Steve Carr. The petitioners requested the introduction of traffic calming on Warwick Avenue Beeston.
25. 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.
26. Where there are personal injury accidents already taking place the need to introduce such measures more quickly may be unavoidable. However, this is not the case for Warwick Avenue and therefore the suggested initial approach is for a local speed watch to be established. This is led by the local community and supported by the Police and can bring immediate benefits.
27. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

I. Petition Requesting Introduction of a 20mph speed limit on Cow Lane Bramcote (Ref 2013/048)

28. A 168 signature petition was presented to the 21st November meeting of the County Council by Councillor Stan Heptinstall. The petitioners requested the introduction of a 20mph limit on Cow Lane Bramcote.
29. It is proposed to introduce advisory 20mph speed limits outside all schools between September 2013 and March 2016. These will be 24 hour speed limits outside schools on residential roads such as Cow Lane.

30. The 20mph speed limit on Cow Lane is likely to be programmed for 2014/15.
31. Surveys to determine speeds outside the remaining schools are currently being undertaken to support the implementation of the programme of 20mph speed limits. The survey for Cow Lane planned in January 2014 will also inform the most effective and appropriate length of the 20mph speed limit.
32. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

J. Petition Requesting Traffic Calming on Forest Avenue, Mansfield (Ref 2013/049)

33. A 16 signature petition was presented to the 21st November meeting of the County Council by Councillor Andy Sissons. The petitioners request the introduction of traffic calming on Forest Avenue, Mansfield.
34. 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.
35. Where there are personal injury accidents already taking place the need to introduce such measures more quickly may be unavoidable. However, this is not the case for Forest Avenue and therefore the suggested initial approach is for a local speed watch to be established. This is led by the local community and supported by the Police and can bring immediate benefits.
36. The Police will also be asked to investigate the allegations made by the petitioners of inappropriate speeds by drivers from the new housing development at the end of Forest Avenue.
37. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

K. Petition Requesting Extension of Speed Limit in Collingham (Ref 2013/050)

38. At the County Council meeting on 21st November 2013 a petition with 239 signatures was presented by County Councillor Maureen Dobson. The petition from residents of Collingham requests that the 30mph limits at all the entrances and exits be extended to help slow down the speeds within the village.
39. An assessment will be carried out on each entrance to the village including a visual survey, speed surveys and an investigation of the speed related injury accidents to determine whether there is justification for extending the 30mph

speed limits in line with Department for Transport guidelines for setting speed limits.

40. If appropriate and funding is available any alterations can be included in a future programme. The response to the petition should be noted and the petition organiser informed.
41. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

L. Petition for a zebra crossing outside St Peter's C of E primary and nursery school (Ref:2013/051)

42. A 90 signature petition requesting a zebra crossing outside St Peter's school was presented to the County Council by Councillor Colleen Harwood. A survey to determine the volume of traffic and numbers of pedestrians crossing throughout the day will be undertaken at this location during January 2014 and the petitioner advised accordingly. The results of the survey will be used to determine if a zebra crossing is suitable at this location and whether it should be considered for a future safer route to school scheme. A 20mph speed limit outside the school is, however, planned to be introduced on Bellamy Road before the end of March 2014 which should help improve road safety in the vicinity of the school entrance.
43. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

Reason for Recommendation

44. To recommend responses to issues raised in petitions presented to the County Council on 26TH September 2013 and 21st November 2013.

Statutory and Policy Implications

45. 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 petitioners 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)

Collingham, Sutton in Ashfield West, Worksop West, Misterton, Cotgrave, Beeston South & Attenborough, Bramcote & Stapleford, Mansfield South, Mansfield East.