



9th February 2017

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee the responses to the issues raised in petitions to the County Council on 12th January 2017.

A. Petition requesting traffic calming on Forest Road, Clipstone (Ref: 2016/0213)

2. A 38 signature petition was presented to the 12th January 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Peck. The petition requested that the Council provide suitable traffic control measures along Forest Road to reduce the speed of vehicles. Specifically, it requested speed humps or similar controls as already exist on Garibaldi Road, nearby. The accompanying letter cited an apparent increase in traffic speeds on Forest Road since it was resurfaced, and that Forest Road is a popular route for children walking to and from several local schools.
3. The most effective form of Traffic Calming in a 30 mph speed limit consists of 'vertical deflection' features, i.e. road Humps of various types. These have been very successful in reducing the level of road accident casualties. However, these projects are expensive, they can be unpopular with drivers, and usually lead to complaints about noise from residents. Consequently, they are only considered as a remedy to the most serious of problems.
4. The number of reported injury accidents at a location is the measure used to allocate funding to improve road safety. By targeting funding where high numbers of injury accidents have occurred, we have been very successful in reducing the level of road accident casualties across the county.
5. Traffic calming with vertical deflection has previously been installed on the immediately neighbouring Garibaldi Road, as mentioned in the petition. This was in response to a period when seven reported injury accidents occurred including five involving injury to school-aged children.
6. In the period 1st January 2013 to 31st October 2016 there were only two reported injury accidents on the whole length of Forest Road. One involved a motorcyclist falling off his machine after apparently hitting an object in the carriageway. The other involved a van which collided with a pedal cycle upon which two twelve-year old boys were travelling. Fortunately, both accidents involved slight injuries only.

7. Based on the accident history on Forest Road the Council could not justify funding for traffic calming. This length of road will, however, be monitored actively for further reported injury accidents in order that prompt action can be taken if the situation worsens.
8. It is recommended that the leading petitioner be informed.

B. Petition requesting the extension of the Robin Hood Line to Edwinstowe and Ollerton (Ref: 2016/0214)

9. A 621 signature petition was presented to the 12th January 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Peck. The petition requests the County Council do everything possible to enable the extension of the Robin Hood Line to Edwinstowe and Ollerton.
10. The County Council supports the extension of the Robin Hood Line from Shirebrook to Ollerton, with intermediate stations at Warsop and Edwinstowe; and has been working hard since 2009 to try to secure funding to enable this to happen. Nottinghamshire County Council alone has paid for all the work undertaken to date to develop this scheme, amounting so far to nearly £225,000. No financial contribution of any sort whatsoever has been received from any other body towards any aspect of taking this scheme forward.
11. Currently, to enable the re-opening of the line to passenger services, funding is needed for five elements:
 - i. Development and design
 - ii. The renovation of the old stations in Warsop and Edwinstowe and construction of a new station at Ollerton
 - iii. Bringing the tracks, signalling and related infrastructure up to passenger line standards
 - iv. Alterations to Network Rail's test track, and
 - v. An annual revenue subsidy.
12. The costs of the above works are outside the scope of the County Council as the capital costs have been estimated to be in excess of £20m, with an ongoing annual revenue cost of nearly £1m per year. The only available funding sources for the capital works are either through the Local Growth Fund (negotiated between central Government and the Local Enterprise Partnership) or the New Station Fund. In order to access funding from either of these allocations, all of the match funding and other funding elements required for the project must be already committed. These multiple funding processes are outside the control of the County Council and for this scheme to move forward it therefore needs a coordinated commitment from within central Government.
13. The County Council therefore met with the new Rail Minister on 21st November to raise these issues and the Minister agreed to ask their officers to look into the scheme further. It should, however, be noted that the main funding mechanisms for any works, the Local Growth Fund and New Stations Fund, have already been allocated up to March 2021 and March 2020 respectively. The County Council is therefore unable to apply for funding for any works to extend the Robin Hood Line from these funding allocations until 2020 at the earliest. The Council will continue to seek opportunities to promote the extension and secure the necessary funding.
14. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

C. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme on Meyrick Road, Newark (Ref: 2016/0215)

15. A 9 signature petition was presented to the 12th January 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Tony Roberts on behalf of residents of Meyrick Road, Newark. The petition requests that a residents' parking scheme is introduced on the road due to parking by non-residents accessing Newark Northgate station and the town centre.
16. Meyrick Road is a residential road with no off-street parking situated to the north-west of the town centre; there are currently no on-street parking restrictions.
17. 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 traffic speeds. Schemes are prioritised based on the level of non-resident parking.
18. A parking survey will be undertaken to determine if a residents' parking scheme should be considered a priority at this location for possible inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme.
19. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

D. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme on Ley Lane, Mansfield (Ref: 2016/0216)

20. A 5 signature petition was presented to the 12th January 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak on behalf of residents of Ley Street, Mansfield Woodhouse. The petition requests that a residents' parking scheme is introduced in the road.
21. Ley Lane is a residential road situated to the north-east of the town centre. There is a mixture of properties on the road, the majority of which have off-street parking. Whilst there are existing on-street parking restrictions on Ley Lane outside Nettleworth Infant and Nursery School, this request relates to an existing parking bay located outside numbers 17 to 25 Ley Lane which has no parking restrictions. These properties have no off-street parking and it is unclear if the parking bay is being used by residents or non-residents.
22. 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 traffic speeds. Schemes are prioritised based on the level of non-resident parking.
23. A parking survey will be undertaken to determine if a residents' parking scheme should be considered a priority at this location for possible inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme.
24. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

E. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme on Whitfield Street, Newark (Ref: 2016/0217)

25. A 29 signature petition was presented to the 12th January 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Stuart Wallace on behalf of residents of Whitfield Street, Newark. The petition requests that a residents' parking scheme is introduced.
26. Whitfield Street is a residential road with no off-street parking situated to the north-west of the town centre; there are currently no on-street parking restrictions.
27. In 2015, residents of Whitfield Street were consulted on whether to be included in a residents' parking scheme that was proposed on nearby William Street, but the residents did not support the scheme at that time.
28. A residents' parking scheme is (subject to statutory procedures) due to be implemented on nearby Barnby Gate and a survey was undertaken on Whitfield Street in October 2016 to determine if this road should be included in the scheme. The survey identified that it would be appropriate to incorporate Whitfield Street in the residents' parking scheme proposed on Barnby Gate, should the residents support such a scheme.
29. A residents' parking scheme on Whitfield Street will therefore be included in the 2017/18 integrated transport programme subject to Transport and Highways committee approval and the necessary statutory consultation processes.
30. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

F. Petition requesting a review the traffic management system on Derby Road, Stapleford (Ref: 2016/0218)

31. A 904 signature petition was presented to the 12th January 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Stan Heptinstall (although it should be noted that some of the signatories appear on the petition a number of times). The petition, organised by local district councillors, requests that the County Council review the traffic management system on Derby Road, Stapleford and to allow three hours free parking in the local car parks.
32. Officers will contact Councillor Heptinstall, and subsequently the organisers of the petition, to discuss their concerns about the existing traffic management arrangements on Derby Road in further detail. Following these discussions, feasibility studies will be undertaken, if required, to determine if any amendments to the existing arrangements should be prioritised for inclusion in a future integrated transport programme.
33. The local car parks are operated by Broxtowe Borough Council. A copy of the petition has therefore been sent to Broxtowe Borough Council so that they can consider the request for free parking in the local car parks.
34. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

G. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme on Carlingford Road, Hucknall (Ref: 2016/0219)

35. A 94 signature petition was presented to the 12th January 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Wilmott on behalf of residents Carlingford Road, Hucknall. The petition requests that a residents' parking scheme is introduced.
36. Carlingford Road is a residential road situated to the north of the town centre and has a pre-school located on the road; there are currently no parking restrictions.
37. The County Council proposes to undertake an area wide review of parking in Hucknall during 2017/18 following the completion of the Hucknall town centre improvement scheme. The review will consider non-resident parking on a number of streets in Hucknall and it is proposed that Carlingford Road be included in the proposed review.
38. Following the completion of the Hucknall parking review, a residents' parking scheme (or alternative parking restrictions) on Carlingford Road will be considered for inclusion in a future integrated transport programme should it be considered appropriate (subject to Transport & Highways Committee approval).
39. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Statutory and Policy Implications

40. 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 petitioners be informed accordingly and a report be presented to a County Council meeting for the actions to be noted.

Adrian Smith - Corporate Director Place Department

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Rufford – Councillor John Peck
- Newark West – Councillor Tony Roberts
- Mansfield North – Councillors Joyce Bosnjak and Parry Tsimbiridis
- Newark East – Councillor Stuart Wallace
- Bramcote & Stapleford – Councillors Stan Heptinstall and Jacky Williams
- Hucknall – Councillors John Wilmott, Alice Grice and John Wilkinson