

23 March 2022**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE 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 presented to the County Council at its 25 November 2021 and 20 January 2022 meetings.

Information

- A. Request for a One-way TRO on Reform Street and Cutts Row, Annesley Woodhouse (Ref:2021/0426)**
2. A 12-signature petition was presented to the 25 November 2021 meeting of the County Council by County Councillor Daniel Williamson on behalf of residents in the Cutts Row and Reform Street area. The petition requests that a one-way system is introduced on Reform Street and Cutts Row, Annesley Woodhouse.
3. In some circumstances one-way streets can be a means of reducing conflict between vehicles and improving traffic flow, unfortunately they can also lead to additional access difficulties, increased vehicle speeds, and a diversion of traffic. The introduction of a one-way system is generally only considered in exceptional circumstances and will not be considered in any area where increased traffic speeds may generate accidents, significant access difficulties would be created, or transferred traffic would cause problems elsewhere.
4. Following an assessment of the above the request for a one-way system at this location is not supported and therefore alternatives have been explored. To help address the concerns raised by petitioners the introduction of parking restrictions to aid traffic flow and reduce vehicle conflict, with the addition of advisory signage and road markings to improve awareness will be considered at this location.
5. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

B. Request for the speed limit to be reduced on Barnby Road, Newark (Ref: 2022/0429)

6. A 509-signature petition was presented to the 20 January 2022 meeting of the County Council by County Councillor Sam Smith on behalf of residents on Barnby Road in Newark. The petition requests that the speed limit is reduced or the existing 30mph limit is extended past Barnby Crossing Cottages.
7. An extension of the existing 30mph speed limit on Barnby Road was approved by Transport & Environment Committee at its 10 June 2021 meeting as part of the 2021/22 Highways capital and revenue programmes. A scheme is therefore currently at the consultation stage and if there are no objections to the proposals the speed limit will be extended and in place by the end of Spring 2022.
8. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

C. Petition requesting Traffic Restrictions on Lingwood Lane, Woodborough (Ref: 2022/0431)

9. An 80-signature petition was presented to the 20 January 2022 meeting of the County Council by County Councillor Boyd Elliott on behalf of residents of Woodborough. The petition requests that additional 'no waiting restrictions' are introduced outside the school on Lingwood Lane.
10. A meeting on site was held with Councillor Elliott to determine the extent of the problems. Following this a scheme including the introduction of waiting restrictions and a pedestrian dropped crossing have been included in the provisional Highways capital and revenue programmes to be delivered during 2022/23, subject to Committee approval. Any proposals will be subject to consultation with residents.
11. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

D. Request for a footway along the B684 Mapperley Plains (Ref:2021/0424)

12. A 453-signature petition was presented to the 25 November 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Pauline Allan on behalf of residents requesting the construction of a footway along the B684 Mapperley Plains between the Mellish RFC ground and Arnold Footpath 7, a length of approximately 200m.
13. It is proposed that officers will carry out a study to determine the feasibility, cost, and value for money of the proposal. If a footway is feasible it will be considered along with other such requests for inclusion in a future year's programme of highway works.
14. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

E. Request for a pedestrian crossing on Compton Acres, West Bridgford (Ref:2021/0425)

15. A 159-signature petition was presented to the 25 November 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Gordon Wheeler on behalf of residents requesting the construction of a pedestrian crossing over Compton Acres south of Rugby Road, West Bridgford.
16. The County Council receives far more requests for pedestrian crossings than it is able to fund and therefore requests for crossings are prioritised based on the number of people crossing, the volume of traffic and other relevant factors at the proposed location so that the available funding helps the greatest number of people.

17. This location has been the subject of previous requests and was surveyed in June 2013 and again in June 2021. Whilst the number of people crossing at this location has increased, the survey undertaken in 2021 identified that the numbers of pedestrians crossing the road at this location is still very low in comparison to other locations that have requested a formal crossing. For this location to be prioritised for a formal crossing the numbers of pedestrians crossing the road in its vicinity would therefore need to increase significantly.
18. Formal crossings are also provided where they are identified as the most effective means of addressing a history of reported road collisions resulting in injuries. Fortunately, our records show that there have been no reported injury accidents at this location in the last three years.
19. At locations where formal crossings aren't provided, alternative measures are also considered to help overcome issues raised. Officers will therefore also carry out an assessment of the site to determine if there are alternative options to a formal crossing that are feasible and could be considered for inclusion in a future years' highways programme.
20. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed.

F. Request for a raised zebra crossing on Digby Avenue, Mapperley (Ref:2021/0427)

21. An 817-signature petition was submitted to the 25 November 2021 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Clarke on behalf of residents requesting the installation of a raised zebra crossing on Digby Avenue, Mapperley.
22. Digby Avenue is a primarily residential road but does have three schools, care facilities, and pedestrian access to Digby Park located within an approximate 300m section between Lambley Avenue and College Road. The road is subject to a 30mph speed limit and has school warning signs and a signed advisory 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of the schools.
23. The County Council receives far more requests for pedestrian crossings than it is able to fund and therefore requests for crossings are prioritised based on the number of people crossing, the volume of traffic and other relevant factors such as accident history at the proposed location so that the available funding helps the greatest number of people. For road safety reasons formal crossings are also currently only installed where they are used by pedestrians throughout the day.
24. A pedestrian and traffic survey will therefore be undertaken on Digby Avenue to determine whether a pedestrian crossing at this location should be prioritised for future funding. At locations where formal crossings aren't provided, alternative measures are also considered to help overcome issues raised. Officers will therefore also carry out an assessment of the site to determine if there are alternative options to a formal crossing that could be considered for inclusion in a future year's highways programme.
25. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

G. Request for the speed limit to be reduced on Tollerton Lane and Cotgrave Lane, Tollerton (Ref: 2022/0430)

26. An 83-signature petition was presented to the 20 January 2022 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Richard Butler on behalf of residents requesting the reduction of the speed limits on Tollerton Lane and Cotgrave Lane, Tollerton.

27. The County Council is obliged to review speed limits using national guidance. An assessment will be carried out of the sections of these roads set out in the petition and the County Councillor and lead petitioner will be informed accordingly of the results once these assessments are complete. If changes to the speed limits are considered appropriate, this will be considered for inclusion in a future year's work programme.

28. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

H. Request for changes to the management of hostile vehicle mitigation barriers across highway at the City Ground, West Bridgford (Ref: 2022/0432)

29. A 36-signature petition was presented to the 20 January 2022 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Penny Gowland.

30. The petition was submitted to the Councillor by residents from the streets adjacent to the City Ground, West Bridgford who have been affected by the introduction of hostile vehicle mitigation barriers operational when Nottingham Forest FC have a home fixture.

31. The barriers and associated Traffic Regulation Orders were introduced following a local consultation that commenced in 2019. Following tragic attacks in crowded public places by terrorists using vehicles, the Council in consultation with the police introduced the barriers to protect members of the public from potential incursions from hostile vehicles.

32. The barriers are deployed shortly before kick-off as the crowd arrives and then again around the final whistle to restrict access whilst the concentration of pedestrians on these roads is at its highest. Residents of Colwick Road, Orston Road (East and West), Hawksworth Road, Pavilion Road, and Rosebery Avenue can purchase a permit that allows them access through the gates for urgent reasons only. This ensures that the gates are kept closed as much as possible to maintain the safety of pedestrians.

33. The gates were first used on 2 December 2021 and there have been some operational issues surrounding clarity of when the gates are to be closed and when residents can gain access. Consequently, the Council and representatives from the police and Nottingham Forest FC have arranged to meet with affected residents who have an access permit to address these concerns. The expectation is that some operational changes can be proposed that will improve upon the existing situation and the County Councillor and lead petitioner will be informed accordingly.

34. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

I. Request for a pedestrian crossing on Westdale Lane, Carlton (Ref: 2022/0433)

35. A 698-signature petition was presented to the 20 January 2022 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Jim Creamer requesting a pedestrian crossing on Westdale Lane outside Haddon Primary School, Carlton.

36. The location is a school crossing patrol site but the school crossing patrol post has been vacant since November 2021. A school crossing patrol, operating at the start and end of the school day, is still considered to be the most appropriate form of crossing to help school pupils cross at this location. Via EM Ltd has therefore worked with the school and advertised locally around the site and on its website but have so far been unsuccessful in finding a replacement patrol. Via East Midlands will continue to actively try to recruit to the position in both the mornings and afternoons, as previously the post was mornings only.

37. A formal crossing could, however, be considered if the school crossing patrol site remains vacant and the location meets the criteria for the provision of a formal crossing. As the County Council receives far more requests for pedestrian crossings (such as puffin or zebra crossings) than it is able to fund, requests for crossings are prioritised based on the number of people crossing, the volume of traffic and other relevant factors such as accident history at a proposed location so that the available funding helps the greatest number of people. For road safety reasons formal crossings are also currently only installed where they are used by pedestrians throughout the day. A pedestrian and traffic survey will therefore be undertaken to determine whether a pedestrian crossing at this location should be prioritised for future funding in case the school crossing patrol post remains vacant in the long-term.

38. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is informed accordingly.

J. Request for a pedestrian crossing on Nottingham Road, Keyworth (Ref: 2022/0434)

39. A 524-signature petition was presented to Full Council on the 20 January 2022 by Councillor John Cottee requesting a pedestrian crossing on Nottingham Road outside Keyworth Primary and Nursery School in Keyworth.

40. Nottingham Road is subject to a 30mph speed limit. There is no school crossing patrol located in the vicinity of the school as the role was disestablished in 2008. A school crossing patrol is still considered to be the most appropriate form of crossing to be located outside a school to help school pupils cross. Via EM will therefore be asked to review the site for the potential establishment and provision of a school crossing patrol at this location.

41. The County Council receives far more requests for pedestrian crossings than it is able to fund and therefore requests for crossings are prioritised based on the number of people crossing, the volume of traffic and other relevant factors such as accident history at the proposed location so that the available funding helps the greatest number of people. For road safety reasons formal crossings are also currently only installed where they are used by pedestrians throughout the day.

42. A pedestrian and traffic survey will therefore be undertaken on Nottingham Road to determine whether a school crossing patrol, or alternative formal pedestrian crossing, at this location should be prioritised for future funding.

43. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Statutory and Policy Implications

44. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1) the proposed actions be approved, and the lead petitioners be informed accordingly;

2) the outcome of Committee's consideration be reported to Full Council.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Items A to C – Joanne Horton, Via EM Ltd Service Manager Highway Management, Tel: 0115 804 0123

Items D to J – Ellie Jaycock, Local Transport Plans Officer, Tel: 0115 804 3891

Constitutional Comments (SJE – 23/02/2022)

45. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Transport & Environment Committee to whom responsibility for the consideration of petitions concerning matters falling under the remit of that Committee and the reporting back to Full Council in relation to the same has been delegated in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

Financial Comments (RWK 21/02/2022)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Arnold North – Councillor Pauline Allan and Councillor Michael Payne
- Arnold South – Councillor John Clarke and Councillor Michelle Welsh
- Calverton – Councillor Boyd Elliott
- Carlton West – Councillor Jim Creamer and Councillor Errol Henry
- Cotgrave – Councillor Richard Butler
- Keyworth – Councillor John Cottee
- Kirkby South – Councillor Daniel Williamson
- Newark East – Councillor Sam Smith
- West Bridgford North – Councillor Penny Gowland
- West Bridgford West – Councillor Gordon Wheeler