

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY-AUGUST 2011

Street Lighting Energy Saving

1. I am pleased to report further progress on this programme. In Rushcliffe, works to install part-night lighting in the Bingham electoral division were completed in June. Some minor adjustments were necessary to extend the area of retained all-night lighting in Bingham Town Centre following reported incidents of antisocial behaviour.
2. Draft proposals for the Radcliffe on Trent and Cotgrave divisions have been published for consultation and proposals are currently being developed for Keyworth and Soar Valley divisions.
3. In Bassetlaw, works have been completed in 15 of the 19 parishes in Misterton electoral division. Following consultations no changes were made to the lighting in Ranskill and Torworth. Consultations on draft proposals for Barnby Moor and Saundby are still in progress.
4. Draft proposals for the Blyth & Harworth and Tuxford divisions have been published for consultation and proposals are currently being developed for Retford East and Retford West divisions and local members will continue to be involved in the consultation process.

New Local Bus Service in Ashfield

5. The County Council has successfully bid through the European Regional Development (ERDF) fund to improve bus access to jobs in Ashfield District.

6. A new bus service was designed which links Eastwood, Selston, Annesley Business Park and Hucknall. This new service will serve a number of markets and local needs. It provides a link between Selston and Hucknall, good access to the Business Park from both, with connections at Hucknall to tram and train services, and also connects Brinsley, Jacksdale, Westwood and Underwood as well as Selston itself. It also incorporates some school travel routes in a more cost effective way.
7. A tender was issued inviting bidders to operate the route. Six Operators submitted a total of twelve bids, although only ten met the minimum requirements. The best scoring bid was from Premiere Travel, who have been awarded the contract to run the service for a maximum of three years. Funding is from a combination of the European Regional Development Fund grant, employer contributions and statutory scholars travel. There is no new funding from the County Councils own budget, and I hope that the service may become commercially sustainable in the longer term.
8. The new service started on the 1st August, and so will be in place for the start of the new school year. The service runs from Monday to Saturday on an hourly frequency, increasing to half hourly at peak times. Positive feedback has already been received from employers and employees at the business park.

Shepherds Pocket Park and Ride Scheme, Stragglethorpe

9. I am pleased to announce that the second pocket park and ride site opened in July. The site is in the Shepherds restaurant car park at Stragglethorpe, and is served by buses from Cotgrave to West Bridgford and Nottingham.
10. 56 spaces are available, and improved lighting, CCTV, a bus shelter, cycle storage and signs have been provided.

Queen Street Area Retford Residents Parking Scheme

11. The Queen Street Area, Retford was ranked highly in the 2009 priority list of possible residents parking schemes. The area is adjacent to Retford railway station and many complaints had been received from residents about parking by rail users.
12. Nearly 400 consultation letters were sent out 1st August 2010 for a scheme which included ten roads in the vicinity of the station.

13. 33 objections and 16 letters in support of the scheme were received. Most of the objectors lived further away from the station, while those in support lived closer to it.
14. The Scheme was reconsidered in the light of the comments received, and a second proposal devised to cover a smaller area. The streets included in the scheme being Darrel Road, Clumber Street and parts of Victoria Road, Station Road and Cobwell Road. Other changes were made in response to comments so that part of Station Road would be available for station users, and outside of the scheme limited waiting of one hour would be provided for business customers on Darrel Road, Victoria Road and Station Road.
15. A second consultation was sent out in December 2010 with letters to the same consultees as before, and the proposals were publicly advertised in April and May 2011.
16. 13 objections remain to the proposal, the majority being about the charge for residents' permits, with possible migration of parking, and problems for rail users, and the limited waiting on Darrel Road also raised.
17. I have given careful consideration to these issues. It is Council policy to charge for permits so it is not possible to introduce a scheme without charges. If migration of parking to streets outside the scheme becomes a problem, there is a possibility of extending the scheme, and I am satisfied that the limited waiting is appropriate. I have therefore decided that the Order be made as advertised.

Huthwaite Road Sutton in Ashfield 30 mph Limit

18. The B6026 Huthwaite Road is a residential road between Sutton in Ashfield and Huthwaite. The Central section of the road between George Street and Peveril Drive has a 40 mph limit, while both ends at Sutton and Huthwaite are 30 mph.
19. There have been 12 injury accidents in the 40mph zone, including one that was fatal, in the last 3 years. The police have called for a lowering of the 40 mph limit to give a consistent 30 mph limit along the whole route, and this is supported by the local Councillor.
20. Public Consultation has been undertaken, and 7 letters of support and 1 objection has been received. The objector felt that the scheme was not justified by the accident record, and the money would be better spent on road repairs, and there was no local support for the scheme.

21. I have considered the objectors points, and I am satisfied that the accident rate is significant, and that the scheme provides social and economic benefit to the community, and there is local support for the 30 mph limit. I have therefore approved the making of the new speed limit Order.

A46 Supplementary Orders

22. Members will of course be aware of the Highways Agency Scheme to build a new dual carriageway section of the A46 between Widmerpool and Newark.
23. It proved necessary for the Highways Agency to publish draft Supplementary Orders in May to correct a minor omission in the earlier confirmed Orders of 2009 with regard to the de-trunking of the A46/A6097 Margidunum roundabout, and also some minor modifications to private accesses for a number of landowners adjacent to the A46/B6166 Fandon roundabout in Newark.
24. The de-trunking of the Margidunum roundabout is consistent with the de-trunking of the old A46 on each side of it, and the altered private means of access at Fandon connect directly to the new A46 trunk road, and the County Council will not have any future responsibilities.
25. I have therefore agreed that the Highways Agency be informed that the County Council supports the proposed scheme modifications as published in the Supplementary Side Order, Compulsory Purchase and Margidunum roundabout (De-trunking) Orders, subject to details of the scheme being discussed and agreed with officers of the County Council.

Ashfield and Mansfield Trail Multi User Route Opened

26. I was pleased to be able to open a new 12 mile route for walkers and cyclists from Rainworth to Pleasley via Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield on the 7th July.
27. The route runs along existing trails such as the Timberland Trail, the Meden Trail, Teversal and Skegby Trails, and the Mansfield Way. In course of the work surfaces have been upgraded, additional signage provided, new timber footbridges installed on the Meden Trail and a steel bridge installed at Buttery Lane to replace the old cast iron railway bridge. The project has also included the restoration and management of sensitive habitats, construction of DDA compliant ramps, and replacement of barriers and chicanes. The full route links National Cycle Route 6 at Sherwood Pines to the Derbyshire trails network, and also provides quiet routes into the centre of the two towns.

28. The work has been funded with £1,090,598 from the East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) Single Programme and European Regional Development Fund budgets, £28,459 from the County Council and £29,046 from Ashfield District Council. Work started in October 2009 and was completed in June 2011. Trail leaflets are available and I hope that the new route will help lots of people keep active while enjoying the countryside or cycling to work. In combination with other long-distance routes across the county, it will also benefit the local economy by attracting more visitors to Nottinghamshire.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON

Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways