



6th June 2013

Agenda Item:

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS
COMMITTEE**

**RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL ON 28TH FEBRUARY AND 25TH APRIL 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 meetings on 28th February and 25th April 2013:

- A. Petition requesting improved pedestrian safety measures on Halloughton Road, Southwell (Ref:2013/004)
- B. Petition requesting resurfacing of Loughborough Road, West Bridgford (Ref:2013/08)
- C. Petition requesting suspension of proposed implementation of one way scheme on Clumber Street, Warsop (Ref:2013/012)
- D. Petition requesting reinstatement of No 53 bus service between Cotgrave and Bingham (Ref:2013/015)
- E. Petition requesting improved crossing facilities near Rivermead Flats on Wilford Lane, West Bridgford (Ref:2013/020)

A. Request for improved pedestrian safety measures on Halloughton Road, Southwell

1. A petition was presented by County Councillor Bruce Laughton on behalf of 129 residents of Southwell. The petition requests the closure of Halloughton Road to prevent people from using the road as a cut through and other traffic management measures.
2. During the last five years there has been no reported road traffic collisions resulting in injuries involving pedestrians, cyclists or motor vehicles on Halloughton Road. During the same period there has been only one reported road traffic collision on Westgate near to its junction with Halloughton Road

which involved two vehicles travelling along Westgate and resulted in one slight injury. There were no reported collisions on Nottingham Road near its junction with Halloughton Road. Traffic surveys undertaken in 2012 did not indicate either high traffic volumes or high vehicle speeds along Halloughton Road.

3. However, in response to this petition further detailed surveys will be undertaken to determine if there has been a significant increase in vehicles using the road as a short cut and therefore establish if measures now need to be considered to stop such manoeuvres. As pupils who are taking exams are no longer required to attend school, the surveys will be undertaken in September to ensure they reflect normal term time conditions.

B. Petition requesting resurfacing of Loughborough Road, West Bridgford

- 4 A petition of 32 names was presented to Full Council on 28/2/13 by County Councillor Gordon Wheeler asking that Loughborough Road be resurfaced with a noise reducing surface. A detailed study attached to the petition also asks that the Council undertake works to reduce vehicle speeds, seeks to control new developments on noise pollution grounds, applies the same responsibility to control noise from new developments to traffic noise generated by existing roads and carries out a number of other assessments and survey work.
5. Traffic noise adjacent to roads where speeds are 50 mph or less is generally dominated by the noise of the engine rather than the tyres on the road surface so changes to the road surface have a marginal effect on the overall traffic noise adjacent to the road. It should be noted that tyre noise is more apparent inside vehicles than adjacent to the road due to transmission of noise through the chassis. The County Council therefore has no intention to resurface this road due to noise.
6. Also Highway Authorities do not have a statutory duty to provide noise mitigation on existing and unaltered streets because traffic noise is excluded from the schedule of nuisance noise in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. For this reason it is not appropriate for the County Council as highway authority to make comment regarding potential traffic noise impact of planning applications for new developments. Rushcliffe Borough Council as local planning authority may consider noise associated with new developments generally.
7. Loughborough Road currently benefits from various road safety and speed management measures appropriate for the nature of the road.
8. Roads are assessed annually and prioritised for the maintenance programme based on their structural condition. This section of the A60 Loughborough Road is currently in very good condition and will probably not require resurfacing on structural maintenance grounds for at least the next 10 years.

9. A review of the concerns raised in the petition concludes that at present there is no case to consider either additional road safety or speed management measures, and that resurfacing the road will not in this location address the traffic noise concerns.

C. Petition requesting suspension of proposed implementation of one way scheme on Clumber Street, Warsop

10. On 25th February 2013 a petition containing 59 signatures from local residents and businesses objecting to the proposed one-way at Clumber Street in Market Warsop was passed to the local County Councillor John Allin. This petition was subsequently presented to full Council.
11. The scheme arose from a Transport Study carried out by Nottinghamshire County Council during 2010 to establish any concerns or opinions that local people in Warsop had regarding the town.
12. As part of this public consultation a number of issues emerged, among those were concerns raised over the lack of pedestrian footway at the Northern end of Clumber Street causing problems for pedestrians and the wish to see a more pedestrian friendly environment. The outcome of the study was presented to and agreed with the Warsop Town Council and the local County Councillor.
13. In order for the proposed scheme to operate safely a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was required to create one way system and a 21ft vehicle length restriction at the end of Clumber Street.
14. This order was implemented and consulted upon in accordance with the agreed statutory TRO procedure. A Total of 5 objections were received and duly considered by Transport and Highways committee, none were upheld.
15. Works started on site on 25th February 2013 and were completed 18th March 2013. Following concerns raised by local traders regarding access for deliveries, it was agreed that the 21ft length restriction would not be implemented immediately upon completion of the works and the situation would be monitored to establish if the scheme could operate safely without it.
16. In the two months post completion there have been no reported incidents or further concerns raised by the general public.
17. In conclusion it is proposed that the County Council continue to monitor the operation of scheme for a further four months (allowing six months post completion in total). Any issues raised during this period will be discussed with the local County Councillor and referred to Transport and Highways Committee as appropriate.

D. Petition requesting reinstatement of No 53 bus service between Cotgrave and Bingham

18. Service 53 was a Monday to Saturday service operated by Premiere Travel serving Cotgrave – Cropwell Bishop – Cropwell Butler to Bingham. This service was financially supported by Nottinghamshire County Council as part of a contract that covered Rushcliffe local bus services. Passenger numbers indicated that on average less than 10 passengers a day were using this service.
19. When Premiere Travel ceased trading on Friday the 25th January 2013, the County Council acted quickly to replace the majority of services for Monday the 28th January, with priority being given to School bus services, journey to work and communities who would have been left without a local bus service.
20. The demise of Premiere Travel has added £300K to the local transport budget for the essential bus services for 2013/14, so a decision was made, reluctantly, not to replace service 53 as alternative provision is available and local bus companies were not interested in replacing the service. If an operator had been able to cover service 53 as it was previously provided then the Council would be looking at an annual cost of £91,000 for this one service or a subsidy of £35 per passenger per day.
21. A request from Bingham Town Council to have the 53 re-instated on a Thursday (market day) has also been considered but no vehicles were available to operate the service.
22. In conclusion passengers from Cotgrave wishing to travel to Bingham can travel to Holme House or Gamston on the Cotgrave Connection then on the Radcliffe Line to Bingham.
23. Passengers from Cropwell Bishop/Butler wishing to travel to Bingham can travel to Upper Saxondale on the Radcliffe Line and then on the Bingham Express to Bingham.
24. The journey time is now 30 minutes off-peak and 45 minutes at peak times compared to 30 minutes on the 53 service.
25. Service 56A operating on a Tuesday and a Thursday serves Orston, Thoroton, Shelton, Hawksworth, Scarrington and Bingham and has now been extended to Mallow Way, Bingham which was previously served by service 53.
26. However as part of the TITAN (Towards Integrated Transport across Nottinghamshire) initiative, all services are currently being reviewed across the Rushcliffe area including the options for the Cotgrave – Bingham corridor. The TITAN roadshow will be visiting Cotgrave and Bingham on Saturday the 8th June and Cropwell Bishop on Wednesday the 12th June. The roadshow will complement Bingham Fair and the Visioning Cotgrave weekend which

are also taking place on the 8th June and will give local people the opportunity to comment on future proposals and any gaps in service.

E. Petition requesting improved crossing facilities near Rivermead Flats on Wilford Lane, West Bridgford

27. A petition with 201 signatures requesting the provision of a safe place to cross Wilford Lane near to the Rivermead site was presented to full Council by County Councillor Gordon Wheeler.
28. During the last ten years there has been no reported road traffic collisions resulting in pedestrian injuries on this section of Wilford Lane, however there are proposed new developments along Wilford Lane.
29. In response to this petition therefore further investigations are being undertaken to determine what type of suitable crossing is feasible along this section of Wilford Lane. Progress with these investigations is being reported to Councillor Wheeler who is liaising directly with the Rivermead Residents Association.

Reason for Recommendation

30. To recommend responses to issues raised in petitions presented to the County Council on 28th February 2013 and 25th April 2013.

Statutory and Policy Implications

31. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service 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

- 1) 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)

Southwell and Caunton, West Bridgford West, Warsop, Cotgrave.