

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 21 OCTOBER 2010

agenda item number **5b**

RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2010

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to respond to the issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 16 September 2010.
 - A. Petition regarding A612 Burton Road Bus Priority Scheme Public Consultation
 - B. Petition regarding traffic calming measures at the crossroads of Lynncroft / Walker Street, Eastwood
 - C. Petition regarding obstruction by motor vehicles on the pavement at the end of Allison Gardens, Chilwell
 - D. Petition against resident parking scheme in the Dallas Street area of Mansfield
 - E. Petition against residents parking scheme in areas of Hucknall
 - F. Petition to remove residents parking scheme in Douglas Street, Oxford Street, Regent Street and Pelham Street
 - G. Petition regarding enforcement of the speed limit on A606 Melton Road at Stanton on the Wolds
 - H. Petition regarding Middle Street Resource Centre, Beeston
 - I. Petition against residents parking schemes in West Bridgford

A. Petition regarding A612 Burton Road Bus Priority Scheme Public Consultation

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

1. A 19 signature petition was presented to the Chairman of the 16 September 2010 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Clarke. The petitioners state they have no confidence in the consultation carried out during July regarding the operation of the A612 Burton Road bus plug.

2. The consultation was carried out in order to offer as many interested parties as possible the opportunity to comment on the future operation of the A612 Burton Road bus plug. It supplements the consultation carried out during January 2010 which comprised of public meetings held in Gedling and Burton Joyce.
3. The consultation does not form part of any statutory procedure which the County Council is obliged to follow. It has been undertaken however to provide me with wider views from a number of different communities affected by the bus plug. On the basis of all the evidence I have, I consider it appropriate to introduce experimental changes to the operation of the bus plug. Statutory procedures to introduce experimental changes at the bus plug are currently being implemented which will enable formal comments to be registered with the County Council for consideration.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

B. Petition regarding traffic calming measures at the crossroads of Lynncroft / Walker Street, Eastwood

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

4. A 142 signature petition was presented to the Chairman of the 16 September 2010 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Keith Longdon. The petition requests speed control/traffic calming measures along Lynncroft and Walker Street, Eastwood.
5. The petition highlights local concerns for vehicle speeds and the safety of road users, particularly young children and the elderly and cites the use of the two roads as a cut through avoiding Eastwood High Street. The petition is also supported by the Head of the Lynncroft School and local Nursing Home, Church and Victory Club.
6. There have been 5 reported injury accidents along Lynncroft/Walker Street between January 2007 and May 2010, 4 of these being at the crossroads junction of the two roads. One of the accidents involved pedestrian injury.
7. Current policy stipulates that traffic calming will only be considered where a significant reduction in vulnerable road user injury accidents can be expected and on this basis traffic calming cannot be justified at this location.

8. It is proposed to investigate conditions at the Lynncroft/Walker Street Junction to establish whether any improvements can be made in the light of the accidents that have occurred here and also to investigate whether interactive speed limit signing can be justified.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

C. Petition regarding obstruction by motor vehicles on the pavement at the end of Allison Gardens, Chilwell

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

9. I presented a petition containing 61 signatures to the Chairman of the 16 September 2010 meeting of the County Council concerning obstruction to pedestrians by parked vehicles on Allison Gardens, Chilwell.
10. Residents state that staff of a local nursing home repeatedly blocks the pedestrian route on and between sections of footway to the rear of the home with their cars which has an adverse impact on pedestrians, especially those with mobility difficulties.
11. There are no restrictions on parking in this vicinity. There is a discontinuity in the footways which enables vehicles to be parked in a manner which, although preventing pedestrians to follow their desired route, could not reasonably be deemed to be an obstruction. The parking cannot therefore be displaced by enforcement.
12. The feasibility and cost of providing a footway over the 'missing' section will be investigated. This footway would also provide a link to the rear pedestrian access to the nursing home.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

D. Petition against resident parking scheme in the Dallas Street area of Mansfield

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

13. A petition of 302 signatures was presented to the Chairman of the 16 September 2010 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Chris Winterton stating that the petitioners disagree with charges for on-street parking permits issued in connection with Residents Parking Schemes.
14. Residents' Parking Schemes exclude the majority of motorists from parking in the area of the scheme thereby improving the opportunity for

local residents to park nearer to their homes. Charging for permits ensures that those who obtain the benefit from such schemes contribute to their operation and management, which is a fair and equitable arrangement. The charge relates to the provision of the permit and administration of the scheme and is not a charge for parking on the public highway.

15. The proposal to charge for permits was included in the budget proposals in November 2009 and confirmed as part of the County Council's budget for 2010/11 on 25 February 2010.
16. On 9 March 2010 the "Charges for Highway Services 2010/11" report included the detail of this charge as being £25 per permit issued (with permits being valid for a maximum of 12 months).
17. Concessions have been agreed for Blue Badge holders and those aged 75 and over, since Blue Badge holders and the elderly can be more reliant upon private transport than other residents and therefore have greatest need to keep a vehicle near to their homes.
18. Charging for permits for on-street schemes is common practice in the UK and the charges which are applicable in Nottinghamshire are similar to those applied by many other authorities. Charging for permits will, therefore, continue.
19. The petition questions the right of the County Council to charge when parking cannot be guaranteed. However, as stated earlier the charge is for the provision of a permit to the minority who are entitled to make use of a scheme. Lack of parking space is a consequence of high levels of car ownership in areas of limited kerb space.
20. The County Council has committed to reviewing a number of schemes where local circumstances have changed since their introduction. This includes Dallas Street which is one street from which the names on this petition have been collected, and for which consultation has already commenced. The petition will be used to inform further stages in these reviews.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

E. Petition against residents parking scheme in areas of Hucknall

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

21. A petition of 1004 signatures was presented to the Chairman of the 16 September 2010 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Mick Murphy stating that the petitioners object to proposals for Residents

Parking Schemes and charges for on-street parking permits issued in connection with such schemes.

22. Residents' Parking Schemes are provided, usually in direct response to requests from residents, where an area is subjected to substantial intrusion by non-residents' parking, making it difficult for residents to park near to their homes. Very few new schemes had been provided for many years but the demand from residents for such schemes had continued. Therefore, in 2008 and 2009 consultation was undertaken with residents in areas from which requests had been received to gauge the level of interest and take forward potential schemes on a prioritised basis.
23. Following this preliminary consultation, positive responses led to the implementation of schemes in Yorke Street and the Thoresby Dale area of Hucknall. Other prioritised schemes have been further investigated and more detailed consultation started on outline proposals of each scheme appearing to have support from residents. This consultation requests residents to comment on the proposals. All comments received through this invitation are considered before taking a scheme further and where the majority of residents do not wish to have a scheme, that proposal is likely to be abandoned.
24. The County Council has also committed to reviewing a number of schemes where local circumstances have changed since their introduction and to improve parking availability where possible.
25. Residents' Parking Schemes operate by excluding the majority of motorists from parking in the area of the scheme thereby improving the opportunity for local residents to park nearer to their homes. Charging for permits ensures that those who obtain the benefit from such schemes contribute to their operation and management, which is a fair and equitable arrangement. The charge relates to the provision of the permit and administration of the scheme and is not a charge for parking on the public highway.
26. The proposal to charge for permits was included in the budget proposals in November 2009 and confirmed as part of the County Council's budget for 2010/11 on 25 February 2010.
27. On 9 March 2010 the "Charges for Highway Services 2010/11" report included the detail of this charge as being £25 per permit issued (with permits being valid for a maximum of 12 months).
28. Concessions have been agreed for Blue Badge holders and those aged 75 and over, since Blue Badge holders and the elderly can be more reliant upon private transport than other residents and therefore have greatest need to keep a vehicle near to their homes.

29. Charging for permits for on-street schemes is common practice in the UK and the charges which are applicable in Nottinghamshire are similar to those applied by many other authorities. Charging for permits will, therefore, continue.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

F. Petition to remove residents parking scheme in Douglas Street, Oxford Street, Regent Street and Pelham Street

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

30. A list of 109 names was presented to the Chairman of the 16 September 2010 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Michelle Gent requesting that the County Council reconsider the need for a Residents Parking Scheme covering Douglas Road, Oxford Street, Regent Street and Pelham Street.
31. The roads are located within walking distance of the town centre of Sutton in Ashfield and close to business premises. The scheme was introduced in 1994 and serves approximately 140 households. Included within the scheme are a limited number of properties on Huthwaite Road and Alfreton Road. The need for the scheme is now being queried in light of the closure of a nearby factory and the advent of charging for permits.
32. Residents' Parking Schemes exclude the majority of motorists from parking in the area of the scheme thereby improving the opportunity for local residents to park nearer to their homes. However, it is recognised that some Residents' Parking Schemes may no longer be required as the original conditions which attracted high levels of non-local parking may have changed and a number of requests have been received for the removal of schemes.
33. The current policy is to prioritise these requests until such time as a decision can be reached in relation to the impact of budgetary pressures on any potential review process. The Douglas Road Area Scheme has already been added to this list following an earlier request from a resident.
34. The proposal to charge for permits was included in the budget proposals in November 2009 and confirmed as part of the County Council's budget for 2010/11 on 25 February 2010.
35. On 9 March 2010 the "Charges for Highway Services 2010/11" report included the detail of this charge as being £25 per permit issued (with permits being valid for a maximum of 12 months).

36. Concessions have been agreed for Blue Badge holders and those aged 75 and over, since Blue Badge holders and the elderly can be more reliant upon private transport than other residents and therefore have greatest need to keep a vehicle near to their homes.
37. Charging for permits for on-street schemes is common practice in the UK and the charges which will be applicable in Nottinghamshire are similar to those applied by many other authorities.
38. Charging for permits ensures that those who obtain the benefit from such schemes contribute to their operation and management, which is a fair and equitable arrangement. The charge relates to the provision of the permit and administration of the scheme and is not a charge for parking on the public highway.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

G. Petition regarding enforcement of the speed limit on A606 Melton Road at Stanton on the Wolds

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

39. A 25 signature petition was presented to the Chairman of the 16 September 2010 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Cottee. The petitioners wish to urge the County Council to investigate and implement a system to enforce the 40 mph speed limit on Melton Road at Stanton on the Wolds. This has come to the fore due to the recent removal of the splitter islands and bollards.
40. The speed limit was lowered from the national speed limit to 40mph as part of the Village Speed Limit Review. As part of the scheme solar powered bollards were installed on splitter islands as no electrical connections were available for conventionally powered apparatus.
41. The solar powered bollards did not operate effectively. A Safety Audit of the scheme revealed that the bollards were inconspicuous during the day and almost invisible at night. Leaving the scheme in place in its original form was therefore considered to be an unacceptable risk.
42. In order to improve the situation the site will be considered for interactive speed signs and the local Neighbourhood Policing Inspector will take appropriate action to enforce the speed limit. The Parish Council will be kept informed about the sites suitability for interactive speed signs.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

H. Petition regarding Middle Street Resource Centre, Beeston

43. A petition of 4,000 names objecting to the proposed changes in the way that mental health day services are run was presented to the Council on 16 September 2010 by Councillor Eric Kelly. The petition consisted of signatures.
44. At the Cabinet meeting of 14 July 2010 Members approved that the Council commence formal consultation on the future of mental health day services. The proposals included ceasing the use of current buildings as a place to provide day services and to support people to achieve what they want through the use of a personal budget. The district-based community mental health teams would commission the day and community support that would be needed by individuals.
45. The formal consultation period ended on 06 October 2010. All responses received will be taken into consideration and a final report will be completed by the end of October.
46. A report outlining the response to consultation and providing recommendations for future services will be presented to the County Council's Cabinet.
47. If the Cabinet approves any changes which affect the present users of the Day and Resource centres in Bassetlaw, Ashfield and Broxtowe, officers of the council will work with each individual service user and their carers to complete a review of their support needs. This process will provide each person the opportunity to consider the most appropriate means of meeting their social care needs in the future.

COUNCILLOR KEVIN ROSTANCE
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

I. Petition against residents parking schemes in West Bridgford

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

48. A petition of approximately 347 signatures was presented to the Chairman of the 16 September 2010 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Barrie Cooper stating that the petitioners object to proposals for a Residents Parking Scheme in the Edward Road area of West Bridgford.
49. Residents' Parking Schemes are provided, usually in direct response to requests from residents, where an area is subjected to substantial intrusion by non-residents' parking, making it difficult for residents to park near to their homes. Very few new schemes had been provided for many years but the demand from residents for such schemes had

continued. Therefore, in 2009 consultation was undertaken with residents in areas from which requests had been received to gauge the level of interest and take forward potential schemes on a prioritised basis.

50. The Edward Road area was one with the greatest support for a scheme with 108 responses in favour compared with 68 against such a scheme, out of a survey undertaken at 368 properties. Following this preliminary consultation, the positive responses led to more detailed consultation on outline proposals of a scheme. This consultation resulted in 168 objections to the introduction of a scheme. The residents have been informed that the County Council neither wishes nor intends to impose a scheme on residents where the majority of residents do not wish to have a scheme. The scheme has therefore been cancelled.
51. Many of the objectors have raised matters of a practical nature. It is recognised that Residents Parking Schemes are not a panacea to all residents parking problems but a method to improve parking for residents where intrusion occurs by non-residents.
52. Residents' Parking Schemes operate by excluding the majority of motorists from parking in the area of the scheme thereby improving the opportunity for local residents to park nearer to their homes. Charging for permits ensures that those who obtain the benefit from such schemes contribute to their operation and management, which is a fair and equitable arrangement. The charge relates to the provision of the permit and administration of the scheme and is not a charge for parking on the public highway.
53. The proposal to charge for permits was included in the budget proposals in November 2009 and confirmed as part of the County Council's budget for 2010/11 on 25 February 2010.
54. On 9 March 2010 the "Charges for Highway Services 2010/11" report included the detail of this charge as being £25 per permit issued (with permits being valid for a maximum of 12 months).
55. Concessions have been agreed for Blue Badge holders and those aged 75 and over, since Blue Badge holders and the elderly can be more reliant upon private transport than other residents and therefore have greatest need to keep a vehicle near to their homes.
56. Charging for permits for on-street schemes is common practice in the UK and the charges which are applicable in Nottinghamshire are similar to those applied by many other authorities. Charging for permits will, therefore, continue.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways

RECOMMENDATION

57. It is RECOMMENDED that the contents and proposed actions be noted and that the petitioners are informed accordingly.

Legal Services' Comments

The proposal in this report is for noting only and is within the remit of Council. (SB 11/10/10)

Background Papers Available for Inspection

None