

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMEN OF CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT &
SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEES****RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of decisions made by the Culture, Environment & Sustainability and Transport & Highways Committees concerning issues raised in petitions presented to the County Council on 26th November 2015.

Information and Advice**CULTURE COMMITTEE****A. Petition requesting a public toilet in Hucknall Library (Ref 2015/0142)**

2. At the County Council meeting on 26th November 2015 a petition was presented by County Councillor John Wilmott. The petition of 1,416 signatures stated that 'we the undersigned would like to lodge, through our County Councillor, Hucknall First Community Forum's John Wilmott and the Hucknall Tourism and Regeneration Group, the Hucknall visitors and town's residents would like a public toilet in Hucknall library.'
3. The Committee were advised that the County Council had a statutory duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service which is discharged through a network of 60 static libraries and three mobile libraries. The Library Service estate, where affordable and feasible, provides toilets designed for customers to use. The provision of customer toilets is discretionary service provided for library users. Where customer toilets are not provided due to space or cost, access to staff facilities will be provided at the discretion of staff to help those customers who require use of toilet facilities, especially those with disabilities and the more elderly. Staff toilets are often not suitable for general open access public use. Access to staff toilets often requires staff to escort customers through non-public areas which can place staffing levels under pressure and have a negative impact on the delivery of the core library service.
4. Hucknall Library is a listed building and on a site that is limited in space. The building has limited capacity and would require significant re-modelling and investment to provide customer toilets without detriment to service delivery. The staff toilets are within a secure staff area and were not designed for open public use. Staff often allow library customers to use facilities, but this does require escorting customers and can distract from the core service delivery. Public toilets have never been provided in Hucknall by the County Council,

either at the library or in any other facility. Public toilets historically have been provided by district and/or parish/town councils. Facilities in Hucknall in the past have been provided by Ashfield District Council.

5. Culture Committee confirmed that the Authority will not provide a public toilet in Hucknall Library for the reasons contained in the report and that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

B. Petition objecting to the inclusion of the proposed Flash Farm quarry in the Minerals Local Plan (Ref 2015/0135)

6. At the County Council meeting on 26th November 2015 a petition was presented by County Councillor Roger Jackson. The petition of 269 signatures stated:-

'We, as residents of Kirklington, object to the inclusion of Flash Farm, Averham in the Minerals Local plan (NCC). The village has many blind junctions entering onto the A617, including a main road from Southwell, a school, and properties as well as narrow pavements. HGV's negotiating the very steep hill approaching the village also gives great cause for concern as does noise and pollution. As there are other sites being considered, we ask that Flash Farm is removed from the list.'

7. At Environment and Sustainability Committee it was agreed to send the following response to the petition organiser:-

'As the Minerals Planning Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to produce a Minerals Local Plan that sets out expected demand over the plan period, site specific allocations to meet identified need and policies against which future minerals development will be assessed. The Flash Farm proposal was assessed and included in the Preferred Approach consultation document as it was considered suitable in principle for future minerals extraction.

The petition has been received outside a period of public consultation and therefore cannot be formally logged as a representation to a consultation. However the issues highlighted by the petition have been raised as part of earlier consultation stages and have been considered as part of the plan preparation process.

Members of the public will have further opportunity to comment on the minerals plan at the Submission Draft consultation stage expected in February 2016 and the lead petitioner will be invited to take part in that process.'

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

C. Petition regarding speed limit at Norwell Woodhouse (Ref 2015/0132)

8. At the County Council meeting on 26th November 2015 a petition was presented by County Councillor Bruce Laughton. The petition of 102 signatures from residents and road users from Norwell and Norwell Woodhouse requested that a speed limit of 40mph be imposed on the road through Norwell Woodhouse Village.
9. The rural road is currently de-restricted and fronted by numerous properties including several farms. It is regularly and increasingly used for leisure activities such as cycling and horse riding, both of which would be encouraged by a lower limit.

10. To consider this request it was agreed that an assessment would be carried out including a visual survey, an actual speed evaluation, which had already been completed and an investigation of the speed related injury accident data. Once this was available the request would be considered in line with guidelines for setting speed limits.

11. If appropriate the scheme would be considered for inclusion in a future programme.

D. Petition requesting change of use of grassed area, Derwent Way (Ref 2015/0133)

12. At the County Council meeting on 26th November 2015 a petition of 47 signatures was presented by County Councillor Maureen Dobson. The petition, predominantly signed by residents, requested that Nottinghamshire County Council “change the use of the grass raised area on Derwent Way leading to Maun Green and in its place create off road parking”

13. Most of the properties in this area have off-street parking and it was not considered that the area suffered from intrusive parking by non-residents. Soft landscaping areas can enhance the local environment and it is accepted that on occasion residents are not able to park directly outside their properties but can park within a reasonable distance. The Committee agreed that the creation of parking areas was not warranted.

E. Petition requesting installation of speed cameras on Mansfield Road, Skegby (Ref 2015/0134)

14. A 274 signature petition was presented to Nottinghamshire County Council by County Councillor Jason Zadrozny on the 26th November 2015. The petition expressed concern about the speed of traffic on Mansfield Road Skegby, in excess of the speed limit of 30mph and requests the installation of speed cameras in this location.

15. The Committee were advised Mansfield Road is set to become a core casualty reduction mobile camera site before the end of March 2016. The scheme is in the process of being designed and once the signs are in place the police will take routine enforcement action in this area.

F. Petition requesting pedestrian crossing outside Tuxford Primary Academy (Ref 2015/0136)

16. A 483 signature petition was presented to the Chairman at the 26th November 2015 County Council meeting by Councillor John Ogle. The petition, organised by the school principal, requested provision of a pedestrian crossing outside Tuxford Primary academy.

17. A school crossing patrol (SCP) operated at this location until 12th April 2013 when the SCP left. Whenever a SCP site becomes vacant a survey of children crossing the road and vehicles passing through the site is undertaken to determine if the site still meets the criteria for a SCP. Surveys showed that this site no longer met the criteria for the provision of a SCP. During the spring of 2013 surveys were carried out on 22 separate occasions and it remained the case that the criteria were not met. The school principal has subsequently requested on a number of occasions (including the submission of a petition) that a SCP be recruited at this location. A kerb build out has been introduced at the location to assist pedestrians crossing the road. The traffic and pedestrian flows have continued to be monitored, but to date the situation has not altered significantly, the latest count being carried out during October 2015.

18. The County Council receives far more requests for such crossings than it is able to fund. Requests for crossings are therefore prioritised based on the numbers of people crossing

and other relevant factors such as accident history and traffic volumes so that the available funding helps the greatest number of people. The Committee agreed that surveys would be undertaken to determine whether a crossing at this location should be prioritised for future funding.

19. The letter accompanying the petition also highlights that the school has submitted a planning application for extra classrooms. Highways impacts of the proposed development will be considered as part of the planning process.

G. Petition requesting a new footpath in Dunham on Trent (Ref 2015/0137)

20. A petition requesting a footpath on Cocketts Lane, Dunham on Trent was submitted by Councillor John Ogle to the meeting of the County Council on 26th November 2015. The petitioners requested that the scheme be considered for Supporting Local Communities funding in 2016/17. The application was made by Dunham on Trent with Ragnall, Darlton and Fledborough Parish Council.
21. The Supporting Local Communities Fund is a £500,000 capital fund which is used to help various groups, organisations and volunteers deliver community-based improvement schemes.
22. Applications for up to £50,000 funding towards the costs of a scheme are invited annually and the closing date for 2016/17 applications was 18th December 2015. Once the deadline for scheme suggestions has passed the County Council will evaluate each one against assessment criteria (which include local support for the proposed scheme which the petition demonstrates). Each scheme suggestion will then be ranked and the highest scoring schemes (within the available funding) will be awarded funding for delivery during 2016/17.
23. The County Council aims to inform applicants of the outcome of their bid by the end of April 2016 following approval of the Supporting Local Communities programme at the Environment & Sustainability Committee.

H. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme on Devonshire Street, Worksop (Ref 2015/0139)

24. A 25-signature petition was presented to the 26th November 2015 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Kevin Greaves on behalf of residents of Devonshire Street, Worksop. The petition requested that a residents' parking scheme be introduced on the road.
25. Devonshire Street is a residential road situated to the west of the town centre. At the northern (town centre) end the road consists of terraced properties with no off-street parking. Further south, near a school, the properties are detached with ample off-street parking. Traffic is generated both by the school and by those who work in the town and park in this area.
26. Petitioners complain that workers and shoppers regularly use the road to park for sustained periods of time making it difficult for residents to park within a reasonable distance of their properties.
27. Requests for residents' parking are considered against the current policy for new schemes which states that there should be :-

- a. significant levels of current requests from residents

b. non-resident parking which is detrimental to the vitality of the local centre or other Local Transport Plan objectives, and

c. a trip-attractor which causes non-resident intrusive parking.

28. It is considered that the northern end of the road meets at least one of these criteria and hence the county council will carry out an investigation to determine whether a residents' parking scheme could be considered for inclusion in a future year's programme.

I. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme on Eastgate and Godley Villas, Worksop (Ref 2015/0140)

29. A 14-signature petition was presented to the 26th November 2015 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Kevin Greaves from residents of Eastgate and Godley Villas, Worksop. The petition requests that a residents' parking scheme is introduced on the road.

30. Eastgate is a main route between the town centre and eastern side of Worksop to the north of the canal. The properties in the section that the petition refers to do not have off-street parking and the street has parking restrictions on the north side and limited waiting on the south side. There are industrial properties, a shop and a public house nearby, it is suggested that these are generating significant levels of parking by non-residents.

31. Requests for residents' parking are considered against the current policy for new schemes which states that there should be:

a. significant levels of current requests from residents

b. non-resident parking which is detrimental to the vitality of the local centre or other Local Transport Plan objectives, and

c. a trip-attractor which causes non-resident intrusive parking.

32. It is considered that this section of Eastgate meets at least one of these criteria hence the county council will carry out an investigation to determine whether a residents' parking scheme could be considered for inclusion in a future year's programme.

J. Petition regarding school crossing patrol on Moorgate, Retford (Ref 2015/0141)

33. A petition of 586 signatures was presented to the meeting of the County Council on 26th November 2015 by Councillor Ian Campbell and Councillor Pam Skelding regarding the School Crossing Patrol on Moorgate, Retford.

34. This site became vacant following the resignation of the previous Patrol at the end of January 2015. However the site remained operational, with the Patrol who works on Tiln Lane, moving to the busier site on a temporary basis. Following extensive efforts, which included working with the local school and newspaper, a new permanent Patrol was recruited and started on site on the 23rd September 2015. Both sites are now fully operational.

K. Petition requesting an hourly bus service at Cropwell Butler (Ref 2015/0143)

35. A petition with over 320 signatures was presented to the meeting of the County Council on 26th November 2015 by Councillor Richard Butler requesting that the County Council reverse its decision to remove the Rushcliffe Villager bus route from Cropwell Butler.
36. The decision to revise the Rushcliffe Villager service in September 2015 followed a lengthy period of consultation with local communities and the service operator. The revised route missing out Cropwell Butler was a commercial decision by Trentbarton which was made following the consultation process. The County Council has introduced a revised route (850/852) for Cropwell Butler which provides both peak and off peak services connecting passengers at Radcliffe on Trent with the high frequency commercial Rushcliffe Mainline service.
37. The Committee were advised that the local services in the Cropwell Butler area would be reviewed with all local stakeholders early in 2016.

J. Petition regarding traffic speeds on Beacon Hill Road (Ref 2015/0144)

38. At the County Council meeting on 26th November 2015 a petition of 187 signatures was presented by County Councillor Stuart Wallace. The petitioners were concerned about speeding traffic on Beacon Hill Road, especially in the vicinity of the shop, children's nursery and Business Centre. The speed limit on this length of road is currently 40mph. The petitioners were requesting that the Council provide larger and more visible signs and a speed indication device.
39. The existing speed limit is currently 40mph until it changes to 30mph at the junction of Beacon Hill Road and Northern Road. The Committee were advised that a speed survey had already been commissioned and once the results were analysed, if appropriate, an Interactive Speed Sign would be considered for Beacon Hill Road to be included in the programme for delivery during 2016/17.

K. Petition requesting relocation of bus shelter, Fox Covert Lane, Misterton (Ref 2015/0145)

40. At the County Council meeting on 26th November a petition of 31 signatures was presented by Councillor Liz Yates, requesting the relocation of a bus shelter on Fox Covert Lane.
41. A number of bus users had requested that a bus shelter on Fox Covert Lane be moved to reflect changing demand caused by the re-routing of local bus services.
42. The Committee was advised that the bus shelter had now been moved as requested.

Statutory and Policy Implications

43. 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

It is recommended that the contents of the report, and the actions approved, be noted.

Report of:-

Councillor John Knight
Chairman of the Culture Committee

Councillor Jim Creamer
Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

Councillor Kevin Greaves
Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Culture Committee:-

Peter Gaw, Group Manager, Libraries, Archives and Information
T: 0115 9774201

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Sally Gill, Group Manager, Planning
Tel 0115 9932608
Lisa Bell, Planning Policy Team Manager
Tel 0115 9774547

Transport & Highways Committee

Jas Hundal, Service Director – Transport, Property and Environment
Tel 0115 977 4257
Neil Hodgson, Service Director – Highways
Tel 0115 977 4681

Background Papers and Published Documents

- Minutes of the County Council meeting on 26th November 2015.
- Response to petition – Give us back our loos campaign – report to Culture Committee on 26 January 2016
- Environment and Sustainability Committee Report: 4th January 2016
- Transport and Highways Committee Report 7th January 2016

Electoral Division(s) Affected

Hucknall, Farnsfield and Lowdham, Southwell and Caunton, Collingham, Sutton in Ashfield North, Tuxford, Worksop West, Retford East and West, Cotgrave, Newark East, Misterton.