

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

**RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS
COMMITTEE**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the decisions of the Transport & Highways Committee on issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 20 September 2012. The petitions were considered and agreed by the Transport and Highways Committee at their meeting on 22 November 2012.
 - A. Petition requesting a pedestrian crossing on Toton Lane, Stapleford
 - B. Petition regarding road resurfacing at Chancery Close and Courtfield Road
 - C. Petition requesting a bus shelter on Beacon Hill Road, Newark
 - D. Petition concerning highways issues in Huthwaite
 - E. Petition concerning parking issues in Huthwaite
 - F. Petition regarding cars 'rat running' through residential streets in Kirby
 - G. Petition requesting a Zebra crossing near Annesley Primary School
 - H. Petition regarding street lighting in Keyworth
 - I. Petition requesting speed cameras on the A60 between Church Warsop and Cuckney
 - J. Petition requesting street lighting on Blidworth Lane
 - K. Petition requesting a speed limit reduction on Blidworth Lane
 - L. Petition regarding changes to the Number 13 Bus timetable
 - M. Petition concerning a school crossing patrol on Davies Road, West Bridgford
 - N. Petition opposing the opening of a pathway at Sulis Gardens, Worksop
 - O. Petition concerning street lighting in Styrrup

- P. Petition concerning parking on residential areas in Littleworth
- Q. Petition opposing an LIS project in Forest Road, Mansfield
- R. Petition requesting a Residents' Parking Scheme for Redhill Road, Arnold
- S. Petition concerning grass cuttings in Windmill Lane, Worksop

A. Petition requesting a pedestrian crossing on Toton Lane, Stapleford

- 1. A petition with 725 signatures was presented to the County Council on 20th September by Councillors Stan Heptinstall and Brian Wombwell. The petition requests the provision of a light controlled crossing on Toton Lane Stapleford near to the junction of New Eaton Road.
- 2. A light controlled crossing on Toton Lane is in the provisional programme for 2013/14. Consultation has also already taken place with County Councillor Stan Heptinstall and local residents.
- 3. When the programme is confirmed and a start date has been agreed there will be further consultations and the petition organisers informed accordingly.

B. Petition regarding road resurfacing at Chancery Close and Courtfield Road

- 4. An 88 signature petition was presented to the 20 September 2012 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Jason Zadrozny. The petition is from residents of Courtfield Road and Chancery Court, Sutton in Ashfield and requests that the roads be resurfaced.
- 5. Transport and Highways Committee had already approved on 13th September the inclusion of Chancery Court and Courtfield Road in the 2013/2014 resurfacing/repair programme.
- 6. This site has also been inspected by the highways inspector and found to be safe although in a state of deterioration requiring future resurfacing. The highways inspectors will continue to monitor Chancery Court and Courtfield Road in order to maintain safety and the petitioners be informed accordingly.

C. Petition requesting a bus shelter on Beacon Hill Road, Newark

- 7. A 140 signature petition was presented by Councillor Stuart Wallace to the 20th September meeting of the County Council. The petition was requesting the installation of a bus shelter on Beacon Hill Road, Newark.
- 8. Previously a request had been considered seeking the relocation of the shelter from the Wharf in Newark if it were no longer required in that location to avoid the expense of purchasing a new shelter. This did not prove possible as the specification of the shelter at the Wharf was designed for that precise location owing to the historic

conservation area of the Wharf. The request for a new shelter at Beacon Hill Road was therefore moved to the waiting list for works.

9. In September 2011 the request reached the top of the waiting list. With the assistance of Councillor Wallace providing some funding from his Councillor Divisional Fund for the works the shelter had already been ordered. Installation of the shelter is due to take place in December 2012.

D. Petition concerning highways issues in Huthwaite

10. A 104 signature petition was presented to the 20 September 2012 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Fiona Asbury. The petition is from residents of Huthwaite and requests an investigation into traffic flows and parking issues in Huthwaite.
11. At present, Highways Officers are working with developers to review parking restrictions and carry out junction improvement works at Skegby Lane. Any proposals for double yellow lines will be discussed with residents and Councillor Asbury at the appropriate time.
12. There have been no previous requests for Mill Close to be considered for parking restrictions. Investigations have revealed that there are no obstructions on a regular, frequent and extremely severe basis. As such the site should not be prioritised for double yellow lines. However, further investigations will be carried out to determine if there are specific vehicles causing obstructions and if this is the case they will be reported to the police for possible action and the petitioners be informed accordingly.

E. Petition concerning parking issues in Huthwaite

13. A 129 signature petition was presented to the County Council meeting on 20th September by Councillor Fiona Asbury requesting parking restrictions at the junction of the B6027 Common Road and Mill Lane, Huthwaite due to business parking from premises on Common Road causing obstruction at this location.
14. There is no previous record of complaints regarding this issue at this junction. The accident record shows there has been only one accident in the period between January 2009 and 31st August 2012 but this did not cite parking as a contributing factor.
15. To overcome the parking problem discussions will be held with Councillor Asbury, residents and businesses to establish the extent of any possible parking restrictions or whether there is alternative business car parking that could be provided. If the introduction of double yellow lines is the best solution then public consultation will be undertaken over the next few months and the petitioners informed accordingly.

F. Petition regarding cars 'rat running' through residential streets in Kirby

16. An 81 signature petition was presented to the 20 September 2012 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Rachel Madden. The petition is from residents of Kirkby In Ashfield and is requesting a solution to 'rat running' to avoid Kirkby town centre.

17. There have been no reported injury accidents in the previous 3 year period and as such traffic calming measures cannot be justified. However, further investigations will be carried out, including traffic counts and discussions with Councillor Madden to assess the level of traffic and any possible solutions and the petitioners informed accordingly.

G. Petition requesting a Zebra crossing near Annesley Primary School

18. A 232 signature petition was presented to the 20 September 2012 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Rachel Madden. The petition is from residents of Annesley Woodhouse and Newstead Village and requests a Zebra crossing be installed on Forest Road.
19. As a result of previous representation from residents, this request has been considered in the past. However, due to the proximity of the A611 Derby Road and Forest Road junction (the Badger Box) where there are 'red and green man' pedestrian facilities, the preferred route for pedestrians is to use the existing crossing facilities. There have been no reported injury accidents at this location and as such another Zebra crossing near to the traffic signals cannot be justified. It is recommended that the petitioners be informed accordingly.

H. Petition regarding street lighting in Keyworth

20. A 543 signature petition was presented by Councillor Cottee to the Chairman of the County Council at its meeting on 20th September. The petition requested the return of night street lighting in Keyworth and other affected areas.
21. Councillor Cottee had already raised this issue following which it has already been agreed that lights along the late night bus route and at junctions or within 250m of a junction would be returned back to all night lighting. This has now been implemented and the petitioners would be informed accordingly.

I. Petition requesting speed cameras on the A60 between Church Warsop and Cuckney

22. A 1270 signature petition, in the form of a Chad campaign, was presented to the 20th September meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Allin. The petition requests the installation of speed cameras on the A60 Mansfield Road/Cuckney Hill between Cuckney and Church Warsop following a fatal road collision.
23. All fatal road collisions are investigated by the County Council and in this case arrangements have already been made for traffic speeds and flows along this length of road to be surveyed as a matter of priority. This information will be used to make a judgement on what sort of casualty reduction measures, if any, would be appropriate.
24. Once this work has been concluded the petitioners will be informed accordingly.

J/K Petitions requesting street lighting and a speed limit reduction on Blidworth Lane

25. Two petitions signed by 416 and 740 residents respectively were presented to the 20th September meeting of the County Council by Councillor Martin Wright. They are requesting that on Blidworth Lane both the speed limit is reduced and the road is street lit.
26. Blidworth Lane is mainly rural in character and links the B6020 at Blidworth to the B6020 to the east of Mansfield. It is de-restricted between these two points.
27. In the last 3 years there have been 5 injury accidents, 4 of those have been on the same bend south of Foulevil Brook. These are being investigated in detail and a remedial treatment will be considered. This will address the accident pattern on the bend by means of surfacing or signage. There is no justification for street lighting either on a section or the whole length on casualty reduction grounds.
28. National guidelines are followed when setting local speed limits so that there is consistency across the country. This means setting local speed limits that will be obeyed by the vast majority of drivers because they can see from the road conditions and environment that it would be too risky to travel any faster. Drivers are likely to expect and respect lower speed limits, and be influenced when deciding on what is an appropriate speed, where they can see there are potential hazards, for example outside schools, in residential areas or villages and in shopping streets.
29. It is good practice to site speed limits where the general characteristics of the road change from a rural environment to an urban environment. This reinforces the message provided by speed limit signs for drivers to reduce their speed when entering the built up area. Because this length of road has little or no frontage development it would be seen as unrealistic and in all likelihood be disrespected by a significant proportion of drivers.
30. Due to development on Blidworth Lane in Blidworth itself the village has expanded. A 40mph buffer zone between the de-restricted section and the village will therefore be considered to reduce the speed of traffic entering the village and reinforced by an interactive 'Your speed' sign and the petitioners will be informed accordingly.

L. Petition regarding changes to the Number 13 Bus timetable

31. A 180 signature petition was presented to the Chairman at the 20th September 2012 County Council meeting by Councillor Steve Carr. The petition concerned changes that had been made to the timetable for the Number 13 bus to Beeston.
32. Service 13 is a wholly commercial service which runs from the City to Beeston via the QMC and the University of Nottingham campus.
33. This service was revised on Sunday 25th March 2012 when the route inbound to the City centre was changed to accommodate a new one way traffic flow introduced within the University campus.

34. The revised route takes longer to complete which means that the hourly frequency cannot be maintained without additional vehicle resources and ensuing extra costs.
35. The evening and Sunday services to Brook Road were withdrawn due to low passenger take up.
36. The County Council has discussed the possible reinstatement of the full service with Nottingham City Transport (NCT) but NCT has clarified that it has no intention of doing so at present.
37. NCT are, however, considering options for their services in the Beeston area in connection with the impending new tram services and there will be a review of bus services in the area as part of the County Council's TITAN (Towards Integrated Transport across Nottinghamshire) project.
38. It is recommended that the petitioners be informed accordingly.

M. Petition concerning a school patrol crossing on Davies Road, West Bridgford

39. A 42 signature petition was presented by Councillor Cooper to the meeting of the County Council on 20th September 2012. The petition requested the reinstatement of the School Crossing patrol on Davies Road, West Bridgford.
40. The school crossing patrol site on Abbey Road has been vacant since the patrol resigned in June 2011.
41. No recruitment to the school crossing patrol site has been undertaken since the site was vacated due to insufficient numbers of children crossing to make it sustainable as a school crossing patrol site.
43. Given the low numbers using the site it was deemed appropriate not to recruit and schools, parents and carers were informed of the intention to close the site.
45. Since the site closure 4 further site counts have been done covering both the morning and afternoon periods. A summary of the numbers crossing is attached in Appendix 1, Site Counts in School Year 2011/12.
46. A more recent site count taken a few weeks after the start of the new school year show an increase in the number of child pedestrians crossing (Appendix 1, Site Counts in School Year 2012/13). These counts show a total of 16 children in the morning and 21 in the afternoon. A further count will be undertaken within the next few weeks to confirm whether this increase is sustained and if so, recruitment to find another patrol can begin.
47. Following concerns from a parent regarding the difficulty she and other parents were experiencing when trying to cross the road during the absence of a patrol, site investigations were carried out to see if any improvements could be made to the site to support pedestrians as, even if a patrol is found, there will be occasions throughout the day when the patrol will not be present. These investigations are ongoing and the site has been included in the safer routes to school schemes for 2013/14.

N. Petition opposing the opening of a pathway at Sukis Gardens, Worksop

48. An 81 signature petition was presented to the 20th September meeting of the County Council by Councillor Sybil Fielding. The petitioners are objecting to the opening of a link footway by Barratt Homes.
49. The footpath link was part of a formal Planning requirement relating to the Barratt Homes development of which Sulis Gardens forms a part. It provides a short route for pedestrians, many of whom will be children, walking and cycling to the school and playing fields to the east. The link is located away from the highway, the alternative route being longer and adjacent to the B6041 Raymoth Lane.
50. The Committee agreed with the officer proposal not to close this link.

O. Petition concerning street lighting in Styrrup

51. A number of questionnaires were presented to the meeting of the County Council on 20th September 2012 by Councillor Sheila Place. They were in connection with night street lighting in Styrrup.
52. The questionnaires included a mixture of negative and positive comments.
53. The part night lighting scheme was introduced in April 2012, it is therefore still in its early stages. The Committee were advised that the six month crime data would not be available for several weeks. It is intended to wait until that data is available and if there has been a significant increase in night time crime then relevant action will be taken.

P. Petition concerning parking on residential areas in Littleworth

54. A petition of 56 signatures was presented to the County Council on 20th September 2012 by Councillor Stephen Garner requesting a parking strategy for the Council's Meadow House building to prevent parking by Council staff on adjacent roads causing obstruction and difficulties for residents and businesses.
55. There have been various complaints in the last 5 years regarding staff parking on the surrounding residential roads, specifically Baums Lane (7), Littleworth (2), Meadow Ave (2) and Park View Way (2).
56. Meadow House is situated on Littleworth in Mansfield. It accommodates roughly 500 staff and has 82 spaces in its car park with a further two spaces for loading only.
57. The Water Meadows pay and display car park is adjacent and all visitors to Meadow House are encouraged to use this facility.
58. The Council has made an agreement with the nearby local Sainsbury's and B&Q Stores for staff to park their vehicles, but this is limited to 10 spaces each. Staff are also encouraged to car share.

59. In addition, all staff are notified by email when complaints are received and are asked to be considerate to the needs of the local residents.
60. Other options using available land around the area to accommodate further parking have been explored, but have not been successful.
61. A petition was received last year from local businesses on Littleworth who said their customers were struggling to park and they could not carry out loading operations due to the all-day parking outside their premises.
62. Subsequently, a scheme has been devised consisting of two hour limited waiting bays on Littleworth between the Cromwell Street and Great Central Road junctions with double yellow lines to protect the junctions in this area.
63. This scheme will solve some of the parking problems in the area and will be subject to public consultation before Christmas and the petitioners will be informed of the consultation accordingly.

Q. Petition opposing an LIS project in Forest Road, Mansfield

64. A petition was presented to the County Council meeting on 20th September 2012 by Councillor Stephen Garner. The petition concerns an application received under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) for improved safety measures on Forest Road, Mansfield through the installation of physical traffic calming features.
65. The information supplied with the petition will be added to the application and considered accordingly when the application is assessed. Officers are currently evaluating applications received for the 2013/14 programme for which this scheme has been put forward.
66. Decisions on which schemes may be included in next year's programme will happen in the New Year and are based on the assessment of the benefits each individual scheme will bring. In particular considering levels of community support, quality of the local environment, what improvements the proposal will bring, deliverability and risk, how the project will be maintained and how much funding is available. The scheme applicant will be advised of the outcome of the submission in April 2013.

R. Petition requesting a Residents' Parking Scheme for Redhill Road, Arnold

67. A 10 signature petition was presented to the County Council meeting on 20th September 2012 by Councillor Ged Clarke. The petition requests that a residents' parking scheme be implemented on Redhill Road, Arnold near its junction with Cross Street.
68. With the introduction of car parking charges in Gedling, it was anticipated that some parking may have been displaced onto nearby residential streets such as Redhill Road. It is also a no through road and the turning circle is protected by double yellow lines.

- 69. The majority of properties are semi-detached with an even mix of on/off-street parking. A recent inspection revealed a low number of parked cars, possibly belonging to shoppers using the town centre.
- 70. The petitioners expressed concerns relating to the street being used by a large number of employees from a business called 'All Answers' on Cross Street, which has no off street parking facility and where staff often work evenings until 9.30pm, including weekends.
- 71. In light of the request the residents will be consulted to determine whether there is sufficient support for a residents' parking scheme and if so a scheme will be included in the programme for 2013/14 and the petitioners informed accordingly.

S. Petition concerning grass cuttings in Windmill Lane, Worksop

72. A 31 signature petition was presented to the 20th September 2012 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle. The petition related to the frequency of grass cutting on Windmill Lane, Worksop and also requested the answers to several questions:-

Q1. How come Bassetlaw Council can keep up with their grass cutting all year looking really good?

A1. Bassetlaw District Council cuts grass for amenity purposes and this can be up to 15 times per year.

Q2. Why is it that Bassetlaw Council don't cut the grass on Windmill Lane when it's a residential area?

A2. Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible for maintaining highway grassed areas on Windmill Lane. These areas will be maintained to our grass cutting frequency as stated in the Nottinghamshire Highway Network Management Plan and are cut for safety reasons.

Q3 Why is it that the grass only gets cut every two to three months?

A3. Frequencies for grass cutting vary depending on whether the area is classified as rural or urban. For grass cutting purposes an urban road is classified as a section of road subject to a speed limit of 40mph or less and a rural road is classified as having a speed limit exceeding 40mph. Windmill Lane is in an urban area and is cut five times per year.

Q4. How is it that all golf courses in Bassetlaw can keep up with their grass cutting and NCC can not?

A4. A golf course will be run as a business and will have different needs, requirements and responsibilities for grass cutting.

Q5. Why is it that Bassetlaw cut part of Windmill Lane and NCC cut the other part?

A5. As per Question 2 - Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible for maintaining highway grassed areas on Windmill Lane. These areas will be maintained to our grass cutting frequency as stated above. We are not aware that Bassetlaw District Council cut any grass on Windmill Lane.

73. The concerns and questions raised will be passed on to the grass cutting team and every effort will be made to maintain the highway verges/areas along Windmill Lane to an acceptable standard. The petitioners are to be informed accordingly.

Reason for Recommendation

74. To update Members on the petitions presented to the meeting of Full Council on 20th September 2012.

Statutory and Policy Implications

75. 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

- 1) It is RECOMMENDED that the contents and actions be noted.

Report of the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Peter Barker

Business Support Manager

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Bramcote & Stapleford, Sutton in Ashfield North, Newark East, Sutton in Ashfield West, Kirkby in Ashfield South, Keyworth, Warsop, Mansfield East, Sutton in Ashfield East, West Bridgford Central & South, Worksop North, Blyth & Harworth, Mansfield South, Arnold North, Worksop East.