

meeting	COUNTY COUNCIL		
date	9 December 2010	agenda item number	7a x.

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER- NOVEMBER 2010

Mansfield Bus Station

1. I am delighted that the Government has agreed to fund the Mansfield Bus Station. The County Council, along with our partners, has been actively lobbying for this scheme over recent months. The scheme is the key to unlocking major development plans for Mansfield town centre when the site of the current bus station becomes free, bringing in investment of up to £60 million and 950 jobs.
2. Provisional approval had already been received from the Government, but final approval was needed before any work could begin. Planning permission was granted in June 2009 and the final piece of land was acquired in April.
3. The new station will provide bus passengers with modern facilities, good information provision and convenient interchange onto the national rail network. It will be located on the Station Road Car Park, just 180 metres from the Market Square at the centre of the town. The new facility will be a huge benefit to the five million passengers who use the existing bus station every year and will, hopefully, encourage more people to travel by public transport. I hope work can commence on the new bus station by June 2011..

Improvements to Ollerton Roundabout

4. I was very please to open the first phase of the improvements to Ollerton Roundabout at the end of October. This first phase has increased capacity at the roundabout by adding an additional lane to Ollerton Road and making one lane left turn only. Pedestrians also benefit from a crossing point and an additional length of pavement on Ollerton Road.

5. At the time of writing, the second phase is due to be completed by the end of November and I should be able to provide Members with an update at the meeting. The second phase involves the widening of Wellow Road between Bescar Lane and Back Lane and installing a bus stop on Back Lane to create a new route for buses.
6. The aim of the scheme is to increase the capacity of the roundabout and cut traffic congestion at this busy junction. It will benefit not only drivers, but local residents and the town's economy. Work took place overnight to minimise disruption.

Street Lighting Energy Reduction Scheme

7. Members will recall that I took a report to Cabinet on 8 September outlining a project to save money, cut carbon emissions and light pollution by reducing the intensity, number and operational hours of our street lights. We have 93,245 street lights and, once the project is complete, we expect to save 26% of the energy currently used, 5,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and an estimated £1.25 million each year.
8. We will be looking at different options for each individual location, including turning street lights off for part of the night, dimming them and removing some. A risk assessment will need to be done for each light and we will be working closely with hospitals, the emergency services and our road safety and community safety teams. I have now agreed a programme to begin implementing these changes across the county.
9. A systematic approach has been planned using two teams, one in the north and one in the south, working concurrently and using locally based design and implementation teams. Each team will complete each parish or town within an electoral division, before moving on to the next electoral division and, in this way, eventually completing each district. Working in this way simplifies the task of consultation, involving a limited number of parish/town clerks, local members and district officers at any one time.
10. During the initial stages there will be an exception to this approach where a small number of proposals will be developed for villages that have expressed a special interest in the project.

A52 Trunk Road: Bramcote Roundabout to QMC Improvements

11. The A52 Derby Road corridor experiences extensive vehicle delays in both the morning and evening peak periods which significantly affects journey times and reliability. The Highways Agency (HA) is considering an improvement scheme, the key elements of which are:

- the A52/A6464 Priory Roundabout will be fully signalled with associated carriageway widening
 - the A52/QMC roundabout will be fully signalled with associated carriageway widening and a new experimental bus lane will be created on the south side of the roundabout
 - all the existing signal controlled pedestrian crossings will be upgraded
12. To ensure the maximum traffic capacity throughput at the Priory Roundabout the last 60m of the existing bus lane on the A52 eastbound approach will need to be removed. However, projections show that the scheme still provides significant journey time savings for public transport without compromising adjoining routes.
13. The County Council supports the improvement scheme and the modification to the bus lane on the approach to the Priory Roundabout. However, I have agreed that the following comments be made to the Highways Agency. We have concerns that car journey times could become shorter than travel times by bus. In order to encourage modal shift away from cars and for the balance to be redressed, we recommend that bus detection loops are installed on all approaches to the Priory Roundabout. We would also welcome a further phase of walking and cycling improvements in the A52 corridor, particularly at the Moor Lane puffin crossing which is an important route for cycling and horse-riding between Beeston and Long Eaton.

Motorcyclists' Forum

14. The Motorcyclists' Forum took place on 26 October at Highfields Fire Station in Beeston. This is an annual event organised by the County's Road Safety team and is one of several strategies used to tackle the number of vulnerable road users killed or seriously injured on the county's roads. Many motorcycle rider groups are regular attendees at the meetings and participants have the opportunity to submit questions in advance or at the meeting. There is ample opportunity to discuss road safety issues and other relevant topics with fellow riders and road safety officers.

Environmental Improvement Scheme: Bridgford Road/Stratford Road, West Bridgford

15. The County Council is in the process of installing an environmental improvement scheme along Bridgford Road and Stratford Road in West Bridgford. To complement the scheme it is proposed to amend the waiting restrictions along Stratford Road and the section of Bridgford Road which falls within the extent of the scheme.

16. Following public advertisement of the scheme one objection remains unresolved. This relates to the fact that there is little on-street, long stay parking for people who work in West Bridgford and removing some of the parking on Bridgford Road will lead to further parking on the surrounding streets. I have looked carefully at the facts in this particular case and accept that the scheme will reduce some of the current parking on Bridgford Road. However, parking will still be available on a large part of Bridgford Road and I believe the overall benefits of the scheme outweigh the objection.

Traffic Regulation Order: Nottingham Road, A610 Slip Road and Woodland Drive, Nuthall

17. The County Council has received a number of complaints from local residents and representations from the local member, Councillor Philip Owen, concerning inconsiderate parking on Nottingham Road in the vicinity of the A610 slip road and Woodland Drive. The problems are mainly experienced at the weekends with visitors to the childrens' indoor play area, "Jungletastic". To remove parked vehicles from the affected junctions and to allow turning vehicles a clear view of approaching traffic, it is proposed to introduce no waiting at any time restrictions in the vicinity.
18. Following public consultation, one objection remains from the owners of "Jungletastic" who feel that the restrictions will adversely affect their business. I have considered the objection, but, on balance, I believe that improving the safety of all road users should take precedence on this occasion.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways