

report



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 15 APRIL 2010 agenda item number **5b**

RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON 28 JANUARY AND 25 FEBRUARY 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 meetings on 28 January and 25 February 2010.
 - A. Woodborough Woods School, Two – Metre security fence
 - B. Speed on road between East Leake and Costock
 - C. Objection to proposed sale of all Council Residential Homes for Older People
 - D. Petition to keep open the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Gedling Colliery site

A. Woodborough Woods School, Two – Metre security fence

Response of the Cabinet Member without Portfolio

2. A 51 signature petition was presented to the 15th April meeting of the County Council by Councillor Mark Spencer. The petitioners indicated their support of Woodborough Wood's Foundation Primary School's decision to build a two-metre security fence around the school site that includes the playing field.
3. In response, the County Council can confirm that it accepts as necessary the measures taken to safeguard the children attending the school and in protecting the school site. The County Council is sensitive to the value placed on the amenity afforded by the school playing field to the community in Woodborough and as such supports the licensed agreement for wider access to the school's grassed area during the out of school hours period.
4. The terms of the licence are currently the subject of discussion between the School and the Parish Council who will jointly implement and monitor the agreed use of the space.

COUNCILLOR MARK SPENCER

B. Speed on road between East Leake and Costock

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

3. A 215 signature petition was presented to the Chairman at the 25 February 2010 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Reg Adair. The petitioners wished to draw the Council's attention to the speed of traffic using Leake Road, ask for an extension to the 30 mph speed limit at Costock Village and for interactive speed signs.

Traffic speeds

4. It is good practice to site speed limits at village locations 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.
5. Costock and East Leake have 30mph speed limits at the edge of the villages where the built up areas begin. The section of road in between the two villages is derestricted. Because this length of road has little or no frontage development it is doubtful the Police, being the authority for speed enforcement, would support lowering the existing limit as it would be unrealistic and in all likelihood be disrespected by a significant proportion of drivers.
6. Unfortunately given the above there would be no justification for moving the speed limit further out at this current time.

Permanent Interactive Speed Limit signs

7. The policy relating to these signs is they should normally only be used on roads subject to a 30mph speed limit and it would not be appropriate to introduce such signs on Leake Road because it is derestricted i.e subject to the national speed limit of 60mph. However, the approaches to East Leake and Costock within the 30mph speed limit will be assessed for interactive speed signs under the recently revised policy.

Accident history

8. The County Council's Accident Investigation Unit investigated all accidents on the road between the villages since 1 January 2005. Following this study, a remedial scheme has been installed which comprised improvements to the road markings and the introduction of marker posts to define the bends. Furthermore, the street lighting is due to be upgraded on Costock Road at East Leake which will define the road layout at night more strongly than at present. I am

pleased to be able to report that there have been no further injury accidents at this location since the fatalities in 2009 and as a consequence no further accident remedial measures are planned at this time.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

C. Objection to proposed sale of all Council Residential Homes for Older People

Response of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

9. A petition of 121 names objecting to the sale of Nottinghamshire County Council Residential Homes for Older People was presented to the Council on 25th February 2010. The petition consisted of signatures and address details.

10. The wording of the petition is as follows:

'We, the undersigned, strongly object to the proposed sale of all Nottinghamshire County Council residential homes for older people.'

11. At its meeting on 18 November 2009, Cabinet accepted a report to go out to consultation on the sale of residential homes as a continuing residential service. The purpose of the formal consultation period, which ran from, 18 November 2009 – 22 January 2010, was to inform the final decision making by the County Council on 25 February 2010.

12. In response, the County Council has confirmed that the sale, as a continuing residential service of the Residential Homes for Older People, has been considered as part of the County Council's budget proposals for 2010/11. The homes were identified for sale in order to safeguard other essential services and to enable investment in new extra care facilities.

13. The petition to save the homes arrived too late to be considered as part of the County Council's budget meeting on 25 February with other petitions and representations that had been received prior to the end of the consultation period.

COUNCILLOR MEL SHEPHERD
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

D. Petition to keep open the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Gedling Colliery site

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability

14. A 81 signature petition was presented to the 25 February 2010 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Darrell Pulk. The petitioners want the Council to keep Gedling Household Waste and Recycling Centre open.
15. The County Council is facing major budget pressures and is having to make difficult decisions in response to a number of issues including the current and on-going economic crisis; an anticipated reduction in the amount of Government funding; and a growing demand for our services.
16. The closure of the Gedling HWRC was approved by Full Council on 25 February 2010 and is one of three HWRCs that will close during 2010/11 in order to help safeguard other essential services. The Gedling HWRC was specifically identified for closure because:
 - The land on which the site is located will be required for the proposed Gedling Colliery housing development.
 - The site has poor drainage and requires quite a lot of fencing work to make it functionally safe; the estimated cost of this is in the order of £200,000.
 - The nearby HWRC at Calverton site is a modern state-of-the art HWRC which has the capacity to cope with the extra waste volumes and vehicle throughput. It is acknowledged that this would entail a longer journey, of approximately ten minutes, however, this length of travel-time is the norm elsewhere in the County and indeed elsewhere nationally.
17. Furthermore, even with the reduced number of HWRCs (14), provision will still exceed national averages for a County with the population the size of Nottinghamshire (12); and will be in line with our neighbouring authority Leicestershire (14), and higher than levels of provision in Lincolnshire (12) and Derbyshire (8).

COUNCILLOR RICHARD BUTLER
Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION

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