



12 November 2015

Agenda Item: 12

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee the responses to the issues raised in petitions to the County Council on 14th May 2015 and 17th September 2015

A. Petition requesting reduction in speed on B6325 (Ref 2015/0124)

2. A 118 signature petition was presented to County Council on 17th September 2015 by Councillor Sue Saddington on behalf of residents of South Muskham. The petition requested a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the B6325 through the village in the interest of road safety and noise reduction. In addition, the petition requested consideration of traffic slowing measures on all approaches.
3. The requested speed limit reduction on the B6325 will be incorporated into the proposed speed limit reduction on the A616 Ollerton Road (Debdale Hill to South Muskham island) that was included in the draft 2016/17 integrated transport capital programme approved by Transport and Highways Committee on 8th October 2015. The speed limit alterations are subject to statutory process. It is not considered appropriate to introduce traffic calming features along this route.
4. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

B. Petition requesting all night operation lighting is returned in Radcliffe-on-Trent (Ref 2015/0125)

5. A 25 signature petition from the residents of Orford Avenue, Water Lane, Hogg Lane & Hall Close, Radcliffe-on-Trent was presented by Cllr Kay Cutts to the County Council on the 17th September 2015.
6. Residents have concerns about the part night lighting on these roads and are requesting that the lighting is returned to full night operation.

7. There are plans to address the lighting in the whole of the Rushcliffe area in 2016. Works will involve a bulk clean and change to existing newer equipment and replacement of older lanterns with LED's alternatives. The LED's will dim at night rather than switch off and are more efficient than the old part night lit lanterns.
8. In response to the petition, Radcliffe-on-Trent will be programmed first to address the concerns raised by residents. Works are hoped to start in January 2016

C. Petition opposing the proposed parking restrictions at St Peter's School Bellamy Road, Mansfield (Ref 2015/0126)

9. A 29 signature petition was presented to County Council on 17th September 2015 by Councillor Colleen Harwood. The petition is a result of consultation undertaken proposing the introduction of parking restrictions in the vicinity of St Peter's School at Bellamy Road Mansfield. The parking restrictions are being proposed to enhance pedestrian safety outside the School. The proposed improvements include double yellow lines along sections of Bellamy Road and double yellow lines to protect the junctions of Bellamy Road/Thorpe Road and Bellamy Road/School Car Park. It is also proposed to make the existing Bus Stop marking a Bus Stop Clearway.
10. The petition opposes the proposed parking restrictions. The petition raises concern that the reduction in on-street parking will cause displacement of parents' vehicles into Thorney Court which provides parking for Thorney Court residents only.
11. The consultation on the changes to the Traffic Regulation Orders ended on Wednesday 6th May 2015 and the petition will be considered as an objection to the scheme. The outcome of the consultation, including the objections contained in the petition (and any other comments/objections received), will be considered and is reported to this meeting of the Transport and Highways Committee. It is proposed that the restriction be implemented as advertised.
12. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed.

D. Petition requesting Residents' Parking on Tudor Road, West Bridgford (Ref 2015/0127)

13. A 44 signature petition was presented to County Council on 17th September 2015 by Councillor Liz Plant on behalf of residents of Tudor Road, West Bridgford and three residents of other nearby roads. The petition requests that a residents' parking scheme is introduced on this road.
14. The road is a residential street located near to the town centre. The adjacent junior school has a pedestrian access from Tudor Road. Residents complain that commuter parking and parents waiting at dropping off and collection time make it difficult to park near their properties.

15. Several properties within the area already have the benefit of an existing residents' parking scheme and properties on the remainder of the road have off-street parking either in the form of garages to the rear served by shared driveways or a row of garages with forecourts along the western side of the road.
16. Given that most properties that would benefit from a residents' parking scheme have off-street parking, it is not considered that a residents' parking scheme on Tudor Road would be considered a priority and so no further action is intended at this time.
17. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

E. Petition requesting one way system at King Edward School, St Andrew's Street, Mansfield (Ref 2015/0128)

18. Councillor Andy Sissons presented a 30 signature petition to Full Council asking that a one way system be introduced around St Andrew St and St Catherine St in Mansfield to combat obstruction and safety issues due to high levels of parking for King Edward School.
19. This pattern of parking is commonplace outside all schools in the County and although it causes congestion, it also significantly slows vehicle speeds. The Police have stated that school parking acts as natural traffic calming in effect. One way systems have been shown to increase average vehicle speeds due to their being no opposing flow of traffic, so this would not improve safety. Accident records show that there have been no recorded accidents resulting in personal injury in the last three years on either road.
20. In recent years the County Council has introduced two ongoing Countywide Programmes to improve safety outside schools. The School Keep Clear Enforcement Programme will make all school entrance zig zag markings in the County legally enforceable by the end of March 2016 and this improvement has been completed at this location. From early 2016 the Council will be operating an enforcement vehicle which will target school zig zags in particular. In addition, the 20mph School Zones Programme will introduce 20mph speed limits around all schools and the specific scheme outside King Edward School was completed on 21/9/15. This 20mph zone covers a wide area around the school including parts of the two adjacent main roads, Littleworth and Baums Lane. These measures outline the Council's strategy to improve safety outside schools by reducing vehicle speeds and keeping the critical points where child pedestrians emerge onto the highway clear, whilst not attempting to displace parking unnecessarily which would lose the natural traffic calming effect and spread child pedestrian movements over a wider area.
21. It is recommended that this request be declined and the lead petitioner be informed of this decision.

F. Petition requesting resurfacing of Chapel Lane and Church Street Costock (Ref 2015/0129)

22. On 9/7/15 Councillor Reg Adair presented a petition of 89 signatures to Full Council asking that Chapel Lane and Church Lane in Costock be resurfaced as both are in poor condition and one resident had received injuries in a fall.
23. Church Lane and Chapel Lane are very narrow residential roads with no footways for the most part. Both are inspected annually as part of the Council's standard maintenance regime, but Chapel Lane has also had two adhoc inspections in the last 12 months following pothole reports from residents which were repaired. It is accepted that the condition of both roads is generally poor and both have been considered for previous annual maintenance Programmes accordingly. However, neither road has yet been prioritised.
24. It is recommended that both roads continue to be considered for future resurfacing Programmes.

G. Petition response for Riverside Road (Ref 2015/0130)

25. At the County Council meeting on 17th September 2015 a petition of 35 signatures was presented by County Councillor Tony Roberts. The petition predominantly from residents, requests that Nottinghamshire County Council "tarmac grass verges on Riverside Road" in order to create parking areas.
26. Most of the properties in this area have off-street parking and it is not considered that the area suffers from intrusive parking by non residents. Soft landscaping areas enhance the local environment. It is accepted that on occasion residents are not able to park directly outside their properties but can park within a reasonable distance. It is not considered that the creation of parking areas is warranted.
27. It is recommended that response to the petition should be noted and the lead petitioner be informed.

H. Parking Problems at Orchard Close, Sutton Bonington (Ref 2015/0117)

28. Councillor Andrew Brown presented a petition of 16 signatures to County Council on 14th May 2015 from residents of Orchard Close, Sutton Bonington who requested that the Doctors Surgery be relocated. This following an extension of the surgeries opening hours, increasing the volume of patients and staff, which is causing parking problems on the road. Parked vehicles were stated to be blocking accesses and making it difficult for residents to park on the road. Vehicles are also reported to be parking on pavements, causing a hazard to pedestrian who are forced into the road.
29. Rushcliffe Borough Council, the Planning Authority, reports that the Doctors Surgery has operated from 45 Orchard Close with Planning Permission since 1977. There were no restrictions put on the opening hours of the surgery and the extended opening hours do not require further planning permission. The County Council has no powers to relocate the

surgery and since the current Planning Permission is valid, Rushcliffe Borough Council cannot take any further action regarding this.

30. The County Council has no powers to control parking on the pavements as this is within the remit of the Police. In terms of a safety hazard, there have been no accidents resulting in injury reported within the lengths of Orchard Close in the three years leading up to 31/1/15. Generally traffic flows are low and travel at low speed.
31. The County Council has powers to restrict parking, but this small residential estate would not be a high priority for a residents' parking scheme and the surgery would be entitled to a number of parking permits as it is within the area. It may also be the case that visitors to the surgery would be less able to walk from further away and the Council has to consider impacts on the mobility impaired due to the Equality Act. Additionally, parking for the surgery would be likely to transfer onto surrounding roads. Double or single yellow lines would restrict parking for all parties and be likely to inconvenience residents as much as the surgery's visitors.
32. The Council offers the installation of white 'H-Bar' road markings to residents who wish to purchase them to deter obstructive parking across their accesses at a cost of £178 each. Application letters will be sent out to any residents who request them.
33. It is recommended the lead petitioner be advised accordingly.

Statutory and Policy Implications

34. 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 proposed actions be approved, the lead petitioners be informed accordingly and a report be presented to Full Council for the actions to be noted:

Neil Hodgson
Service Director Highways

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Farndon & Muskham, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Mansfield East, West Bridgford Central & South, Mansfield South, Ruddington, Newark West, Soar Valley