

# report



meeting      **COUNTY COUNCIL**

date            **28 JANUARY 2010**

agenda item number      **5b**

## **RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON 5 NOVEMBER AND 17 DECEMBER 2009**

### **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 5 November and 17 December 2009.
  - A. Speed / volume of traffic and quality of road surface on Woodthorpe Drive, Woodthorpe
  - B. Improved bus services for Retford and rural residents
  - C. Young People's Discount Transport Card
  - D. Save Stapleford Recycling Centre
- A. **Speed / volume of traffic and quality of road surface on Woodthorpe Drive, Woodthorpe**

### Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

2. A petition was presented to the Chairman at the 5 November 2009 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Mel Shepherd. The petitioners wished to draw the Council's attention to the volume and speed of traffic using Woodthorpe Drive and the condition of the road surface.

### Traffic Volume

3. Woodthorpe Drive is designated a category 2 local distributor road linking the B684 Woodborough Road and the A60 Mansfield Road with a traffic signal junction at each end. In terms of road status, traffic is therefore positively encouraged to use it.

### Traffic speeds

4. A Flashing interactive speed limit sign has recently been installed on Woodthorpe Drive for Mapperley bound traffic; the petitioners

acknowledge this but feel vehicle speeds in the opposite direction have not been addressed. Recently authorised revised policy states that:

*At locations where both directions meet the criteria it would be inequitable to introduce a sign in each direction when there are other sites with no sign at all. These locations will be kept on file but not given any priority.*

5. Consideration has been given to whether the new interactive sign can be turned round to face the other direction but the width of Woodthorpe Drive means that an offside sign would be ineffective. However, this location will be included as a site for a temporary interactive 'Your Speed' sign.
6. There have been no reported injury accidents on the stretch of road between the bottom of the bridge and the junction with Mansfield Road in the period 01/01/06 – 31/07.09.

#### Condition of road

7. This section of Woodthorpe Drive has been inspected and is not in need of full resurfacing. It will, however, be put forward for next years surface dressing programme; if successful this is considered the most appropriate form of action for this road at this current time.

### **B. Improved bus services for Retford and rural residents**

#### Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

8. A 224 signature petition was presented to the 17 December 2009 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Wendy Quigley. The petitioners request a re-evaluation on the provision of bus services to and from Retford Bus Station. Furthermore, they request that as part of that review, there is a public consultation so that their views are considered.
9. Many of the local bus services in the Retford area are provided on a commercial basis by Stagecoach East Midlands, consequently the County Council has no direct control over these services. However, the County Council has been working successfully in partnership with the bus company over several years to significantly improve bus services in the area. As part of this arrangement the content of the petition has been discussed with senior management at Stagecoach. In addition, the County Council has made substantial investment in the bus infrastructure, including the provision of a new bus station which has proved very successful.
10. A network of supporting services in the rural areas around Retford are provided by the County Council, currently operated under contract primarily by Veolia Transport. These contracts are scheduled to expire

within the next 18 months and, prior to any re-tendering of these services, the Council will conduct local consultations through Parish Councils to establish the priorities for these essential local services. However, it should be recognised that in view of the severe budget situation facing the County Council, it may not be possible to meet all aspirations and that changes to the network may be necessary.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON  
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

**C. Young People's Discount Transport Card**

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

11. A 1120 signature petition was presented to the 17 December 2009 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Philip Owen. The petitioners request the introduction of a discounted transport card for young people within Nottinghamshire.
12. In Nottinghamshire, young people under 16 years of age have a variety of discounts available on local bus services ranging from half to two-thirds fares and discounted network tickets. In addition the County Council provides a discounted pass for young people undertaking Post-16 learning. The bus fares are set by the bus operators and the County Council encourages these to be as low as possible. Student discount cards are not accepted on bus services operating in the County. If a young person has difficulty with drivers accepting their age, then it may help if they carry some form of identification which shows their age.
13. I have costed a Nottinghamshire-wide concessionary scheme similar to that in Derbyshire but this is not affordable in the current financial climate. I will continue to lobby the Government to provide a nationally funded concession for young people similar to that for the elderly and disabled.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON  
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

**D. Save Stapleford Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC)**

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability

14. A 1457 signature petition was presented to the 17 December 2009 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Brian Wombwell. The petitioners want to protest at the proposal to close the Stapleford HWRC as they feel it would cause considerable inconvenience and cost to residents with a 6 mile round trip to dispose of rubbish; lead to

other problems including fly-tipping, be a blight on the area and reduce recycling.

15. In response, the County Council can confirm that the closure of the Stapleford HWRC is being considered as part of the County Council's budget proposals for 2010/11. This site is one of three that have been identified for closure in order to help safeguard other essential services.
16. The petition to save the site will be considered as part of the County Council's budget meeting on 25 February 2010, although it is noted that a number of the signatories are actually from residents of neighbouring Authorities.
17. If closed, residents would be redirected to the nearest alternative sites at Beeston and Giltbrook, which have been recently redeveloped and are able to cope with the additional tonnage. It is understood that this would entail a three mile journey, however, this sort of distance is the norm elsewhere in the County and indeed elsewhere nationally. Any fly-tipping would be minimised through pro-active publicity, effective site management and enforcement; and recycling will continue to be maximised through the District Council collections and the wider network of HWRCs.

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.