

23rd September 2024

Agenda Item:

REPORT OF INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR (PLACE & COMMUNITIES)

**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 the Cabinet Member (Transport & Environment) the responses to the issues raised in petitions presented to the County Council at its 18 July 2024 meeting.

Information

A. Petition regarding Safer School Streets in Coddington (Ref: 2024/16)

2. A 234-signature petition was presented to the 18 July 2024 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Debbie Darby, on behalf of the District Councillor and local residents, calling for repairs to the footways on Newark Road and Beckingham Road, Coddington.
3. Concerns have been raised about the safety of the footways on Newark Road and Beckingham Road, leading to the Coddington Church of England Primary School. It has been reported that the pavements along this route have deteriorated significantly over time leading to concerns of safety, particularly for school children and the infirm.
4. Nottinghamshire County Council have, working through Via East Midlands Limited, invested significantly in Nottinghamshire's highways and have moved focus to large scale road surface repairs, following the Highways Services Review.
5. The County Council's policy requires that all actionable defects are attended to promptly on the grounds of safety.
6. The footways in question are both routinely inspected on an annual basis, with ad hoc inspections being undertaken between these scheduled visits to assess their condition in response to any enquiries that are submitted.
7. An engineering assessment of both locations took place on the 30 July 2024.
8. Newark Road – Works have been proposed for the footway on Newark Road, which will involve large scale patching. These works will be programmed in due course, once the scope

has been agreed. In the short term, several actionable defects were identified and works to address these were completed on 1 August 2024.

9. Beckingham Road – Based on the engineering assessment interim repairs to the cracks in the surface will be undertaken with a structural assessment to inform what further significant works may be necessary then also carried out.
10. As with all other highways in Nottinghamshire, Via East Midlands Limited will continue to act upon any highway defect reports on Newark Road and Beckingham Road in accordance with the County Council's Highway Inspection & Risk Manual (HIRM).

Other Options Considered

- a) Extensive works at both locations could have been included in a current programme for delivery, however, this would be at the expense of another site already in the programme that may be in a significantly worse condition, and would not have allowed for the structural investigation works for Beckingham Road to be undertaken first, so as to better inform as to the most appropriate works to undertake.
 - b) Taking no action at all is not considered to be an appropriate course of action as the highway authority is under a statutory duty to maintain 'adopted' public highways.
11. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be advised accordingly.

B. Petition requesting repairs to the road surface of Kilburn Close in Bramcote (Ref: 2024/15)

12. A 22-signature petition was presented to the 18 July 2024 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Steve Carr on behalf of local residents calling for more robust road surface repairs on Kilburn Close in Bramcote.
13. Nottinghamshire County Council have, working through Via East Midlands Limited, invested significantly in Nottinghamshire's highways and have moved focus to large scale road surface repairs, following the Highways Services Review.
14. Kilburn Close is a cul-de-sac consisting of approximately 28 residential properties. The road is routinely inspected on an annual basis, with ad hoc inspections being undertaken between these scheduled visits to assess its condition in response to any enquiries that are submitted.
15. The County Council's policy requires that all actionable defects are attended to promptly on the grounds of safety.
16. An engineering assessment took place on 30 July 2024, following which extensive hotbox patching works have been raised to address deterioration on Kilburn Close. These works will be programmed in at the start of the next financial year in April 2025, and will include the adjoining Wembley Gardens.
17. As with all other highways in Nottinghamshire, Via East Midlands Limited will continue to act upon any highway defect reports on Kilburn Close in accordance with the County Council's Highway Inspection & Risk Manual (HIRM).

Other Options Considered

- a) A full resurfacing scheme and more extensive works were considered, however, the condition of Kilburn Close is not such as to warrant its inclusion in a future programme for this type of work; which inclusion would therefore be at the cost of another site which is already included on the basis that its condition warrants such works.
- b) Taking no action is not considered to be an option due to the highway authority's duty to maintain highways. As such, Via East Midlands Ltd has advised that the condition of the highway is such that the most appropriate intervention to address further deterioration is by the means described in paragraph 16 above.

18. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be advised accordingly.

C. Request to extend the Notts On Demand bus service to Walesby (Ref: 2024/14)

- 19. A 430-signature petition was presented to the 18 July 2024 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Pringle. The petition requests that the Council "Extend the on-demand bus service to Walesby".
- 20. The County Council introduced the Notts Bus On Demand pilot Z1, to replace a number of supported services (190,195 and 136) in the area to maintain connectivity for residents, including the ability to transfer to other services in Ollerton; to Mansfield, Retford, Worksop and Nottingham. The introduction of the South Ollerton Zone (Z2) also enabled residents to access Newark too.
- 21. Currently, residents from Walesby can use the Stagecoach 15 service, supported by the County Council, to connect with other services in Ollerton.
- 22. The Council has recently made changes to the operation of the Z1 and Z2 service and will consider Walesby being added to the Z1 zone once these changes have been reviewed in the Autumn. This review will also consider whether any expansion to Walesby can be accommodated, without compromising the existing services and can be achieved within existing vehicle resources.
- 23. It is recommended that the lead petitioner be advised accordingly.

Other options considered

- 24. Do nothing – This was considered but the review of the operational changes will indicate whether there is sufficient capacity to cater for an expansion of the zone to Walesby ; to facilitate those journeys not provided by the Stagecoach 15 service and other services.
- 25. Add Walesby to the zone – This was considered but without allowing the operational changes to settle, this expansion may require additional vehicle resource to meet demand and therefore increased budget.

Links to Nottinghamshire Plan/Annual Delivery Plan

- 26. Should the proposed actions be approved, they will help to deliver the following Nottinghamshire Plan ambitions/delivery plan priorities:

- *'Improving transport and digital connections'*; and more specifically:
 - responses to petitions labelled A and B will help in the delivery of the action: *'Invest in and improve the condition of the County's roads and pavements'*

Other Options Considered

27. The options currently being considered are set out within Sections A to C of this report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

28. The recommendations detailed within this report have been developed to help ensure delivery of the County Council's 'Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-31' priorities, national priorities, and local transport goals and objectives. Recommendations are based on their ability to deliver strategic objectives (including transport objectives), evidence of need (including technical analysis), feasibility, and value for money assessments.

Statutory and Policy Implications

29. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

30. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Consultation

31. The petitions have been considered. Where any scheme is proposed in this report to be taken forward, it would still be subject to the necessary consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from feasibility studies, detailed scheme investigation, and design; and value for money considerations. This would involve consultation and/or pro-active information provision on most schemes and the level of the public engagement will be determined/dependent on the improvements being considered. For most individual schemes statutory or non-statutory consultation would be undertaken with directly affected households and businesses only.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

32. An equality impact assessment was undertaken on the Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan 2011/12-2025/26 in March 2011 to ensure that the strategy and its capital programmes to deliver it met the duty. Were any of the schemes referred to above to be taken forward, equality impact assessments would be considered and undertaken as necessary on individual proposals by project managers as part of the scheme feasibility, design, and consultation carried out in the development of any highway improvements to demonstrate that they comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Implications for Residents

33. The implications for residents are set out above in each of the individual responses to the petitions presented to the County Council.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

34. Surveys undertaken with the public and local businesses identified reducing traffic congestion as the highest transport priority for both groups. Measures to help address congestion and address its impacts on the environment (such as improving walking facilities and bus services), and its impacts on local communities have therefore been considered as detailed within this report. The recycling of materials and aggregates is also considered when delivering highways schemes whenever possible.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) The proposed actions be approved, and the lead petitioners be informed accordingly.
- 2) The outcome of consideration by the Cabinet Member (Transport & Environment) be reported to Full Council.

Mark Walker, Interim Service Director (Place & Communities)

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

- Items A and B – Joanne Horton, Via EM Ltd Service Manager Highway Management, Tel: 0115 804 0123
- Item C – Pete Mathieson, Transport and Travel Services Team Manager, Tel: 0115 977 4760

Constitutional Comments (SJE 27/08/2024)

35. The Cabinet Member (Transport & Environment) is the appropriate portfolio holder to consider these petitions and to report back to Full Council in relation to the same, in accordance with Section 4, Part 2, Paragraph 38 of the Constitution.

Financial Comments (PA 20/08/2024)

36. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Bramcote and Beeston North – Councillor Steve Carr
- Collingham – Councillor Debbie Darby
- Ollerton – Councillor Mike Pringle