

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the decisions made by the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment concerning issues raised in petitions presented to the County Council at its 13 July 2023 meeting.

Information

A. Request for parking restrictions on The Crescent, Toton (Ref:2023/9)

2. A 12-signature petition was presented to the 13 July 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Eric Kerry. The petitioners requested a review of the parking at the junction of The Crescent and Chetwynd Road, Toton.
3. The Crescent is a narrow residential street with dropped pedestrian kerbs at its junction with Chetwynd Road. It is located directly opposite the entrance to Chetwynd Spencer Academy.
4. In the last three and a half years there have been no injury accidents recorded at this junction or in the vicinity of the Academy.
5. When the new school year starts, the site will be inspected, and an assessment made during and outside of school times to determine if parking restrictions should be considered for inclusion in a future year's programme.
6. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

B. Request for the resurfacing of footpaths and upgrades to dropped kerbs to allow wheelchair users safe access from The Broadleaves facility, Boughton (Ref:2023/13)

7. A petition containing 40 signatures was presented to the 13 July 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Mike Pringle. The petition is from residents of The Broadleaves facility, Boughton, requesting the resurfacing of footpaths and upgrades to dropped kerbs, to allow wheelchair users safe access from The Broadleaves facility onto the main shopping and local areas.
8. A site meeting, attended by Councillor Pringle and Via EM Ltd highways liaison officers, was conducted on the 25 July 2023 to discuss and assess the issues raised within the petition. During the meeting it was identified that wheelchair and pushchair users would have difficulty using two of the dropped kerbs located on Holles Close and the entrance to St Joseph's

School. Therefore, the necessary works have been ordered to address the accessibility issues at these two dropped kerbs.

9. The surrounding footways were also inspected, and no safety defects were identified at this time. The condition of the footway will, however, continue to be monitored by routine highway inspections.

10. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

C. Request for traffic calming on Moorbridge Lane, Stapleford (Ref:2023/14)

11. A 316-signature petition was presented to the 13 July 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John McGrath. The petitioners are requesting speed deterrent measures on Moorbridge Lane, Stapleford.

12. Historically, in order to mitigate any environmental impact and noise that may be created by physical traffic calming features, and to ensure that any impediment to the flow of traffic is proportionate, traffic calming schemes have typically been introduced only where there has been an identified injury accident pattern involving vulnerable roads users where the cause of the incidents is treatable by such measures.

13. There have been three injury accidents in the period February 2020 provisionally to March 2023 along the length of Moorbridge Lane. Investigation into these indicates, however, that speeding was not a contributory factor and as such a traffic calming scheme cannot be justified on accident reduction grounds.

14. There is already an interactive speed sign in the area. A speed survey is planned during school term time at a location chosen by the lead petitioner to help investigate the reported issues.

15. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

D. Request for road safety improvements to street crossings in Netherfield and a new zebra crossing on Burton Road, Gedling (Ref:2023/16)

16. A 323-signature petition was presented to the 13 July 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Jim Creamer on behalf of residents of Netherfield.

17. Nottinghamshire County Council recognise that there are large numbers of vulnerable young people outside schools at start and finish times and where it is feasible to do so advisory 20mph speed limits have been implemented outside schools.

18. The crossings in Netherfield already have hi-visibility beacons and raised plateaus. Additional signing would be physically difficult to add as the footways are quite narrow. Between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2023 there have been two reported injury accidents, albeit of a slight nature. Accordingly, at present, there is insufficient data to suggest that an improvement on accident reduction grounds is needed, noting the physical limitations in seeking to incorporate any additional measures. The crossings have been recently assessed, and the beacons, pedestrian guardrail and carriageway markings are all in good order.

19. Apollo Fish Bar is on Burton Road at the junction with Ouse Bridge Drive. On Burton Road, between Manor Road and the Colwick Loop Road, in the last 3+ years there have been 3 slight injury collisions, none of which involved pedestrians. However, a survey will be carried

out on Burton Road at the most appropriate location to determine vehicle and pedestrian numbers to help determine if a formal crossing should be considered at this location.

20. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

E. Request for a pedestrian crossing on Pasture Road, Stapleford (Ref:2023/8)

21. A 451-signature petition was presented to the 13 July 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Doddy requesting a pedestrian crossing on Pasture Road be considered as part of the 'many schemes currently being considered for Stapleford'.

22. The scheme proposals currently being considered for Pasture Road, Stapleford are being developed by Broxtowe Borough Council, and funded through the Town Deal. As such, as requested by the petitioners, the request to include a crossing on Pasture Road will be referred to (and discussed with) Broxtowe Borough Council so that it can be considered as part of their Town Deal proposals currently being developed.

23. Should it not be possible to deliver a pedestrian crossing on Pasture Road as part of the Town Deal proposals, the County Council will consider the request as part of a future integrated transport programme. This would, however, be after the Town Deal proposals have been determined as the crossing would need to be considered in the context of any proposed wider Town Deal funded active travel improvements.

24. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

F. Request for a Residents' Parking Scheme and additional parking restrictions on Coventry Road, Beeston (Ref:2023/11)

25. A 38-signature petition was presented to the 13 July 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Kate Foale on behalf of residents of Coventry Road, Beeston.

26. Coventry Road is a residential road comprising a mix of detached and semi-detached properties located to the east of Beeston town centre. All properties have the benefit of off-street parking.

27. While the County Council is sympathetic to the frustrations caused by intrusive parking, permit schemes are intended to prevent or limit the loss of on-street parking for residents and are, therefore, prioritised in locations where residents do not have access to off-street parking. As a result, it would not be appropriate to consider this for inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme and it is therefore proposed that no further assessment be undertaken.

28. The petition also refers to concerns about parking on pavements. Any concerns about obstruction of the pavement should be referred to the Police as the enforcing authority with appropriate powers in relation to such obstructions of the footway.

29. Problems with pavement parking are acknowledged however, and the Department for Transport (DfT) consulted with all local authorities, in August 2020, about potential options to reduce and prevent footway parking. Further to the Resolution of Communities & Place Committee of 5 November 2020, the County Council responded to the consultation, supporting the principle of extending the powers of civil enforcement officers to be able to enforce footway parking. However, there has been no further announcement from the DfT on this issue since then.

30. The petition also highlights difficulties entering or leaving driveways resulting from vehicles blocking access to a property, and if residents' ability to access the highway is being obstructed, this should also be reported to the Police. Where such issues occur, residents are, with the Council's permission, able to fund the installation of 'H-bar' markings to help deter obstruction of an existing driveway by other vehicles. The current cost for the installation of such markings is £244 (which covers design, health and safety, administration, works, and renewal costs). If a resident wishes to apply to install 'H-bar' markings, they are able to do so online through the Council's 'Make a new highways request' webpage or by contacting the Council's customer service team.
31. The petition also highlights concerns about safety caused by parking near the junction with Humber Road. Review of this location does not indicate that the on-street parking here presents any risk at this location such as would justify installing measures. Parking restrictions have already, however, been introduced at junctions to help ensure visibility for drivers and keep them clear so that people can cross. As the junction already benefits from parking restrictions to ensure that drivers do not park too close to it is not considered appropriate to consider installing additional parking restrictions at this time.

32. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

G. Request for a Residents' Parking Scheme on Albert Avenue, Stapleford (Ref:2023/15)

33. A 44-signature petition was presented to the 13 July 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John McGrath requesting a residents' parking scheme be introduced on Albert Avenue, Stapleford.
34. Albert Avenue is a residential street off Stapleford Town Centre high street, Derby Road. At the southern end of Albert Avenue near Derby Road, there is a salvation army premises and club, which hold events, and a soft furnishing shop. The rest of the road is residential and there is currently no residents parking scheme. Resident parking schemes are in place on the other residential roads in the vicinity; Horace Avenue, William Road, Warren Avenue, Cyril Avenue and Victoria Street, and Eatons Road.
35. The petition raises issues with residents being unable to park on Albert Avenue, near their homes, due to cars being parked by people going to nearby shops or their place of work, as well as by residents of adjacent roads that have permit schemes in place.
36. Requests for residents' parking schemes are prioritised in locations where residents do not have off-street parking and where a scheme wouldn't negatively affect nearby streets and town centres. The majority of properties on Albert Avenue do have off-street parking. As a result, and balancing the safe, convenient, and expeditious movement of traffic and access to premises, it would not be appropriate to consider this as a priority for inclusion in a future year's integrated transport programme and it is therefore proposed that no further assessment be undertaken at this moment in time.
37. The petition highlights difficulties entering or leaving driveways resulting from vehicles blocking access to a property, and if residents' ability to access the highway is being obstructed, this should be reported to the Police. Where such issues occur, residents are, with the Council's permission, able to fund the installation of 'H-bar' markings to help deter obstruction of an existing driveway by other vehicles. The current cost for the installation of such markings is £244 (which covers design, health and safety, administration, works, and

renewal costs). If a resident wishes to apply to install ‘H-bar’ markings, they are able to do so online through the Council’s ‘Make a new highways request’ webpage or by contacting the Council’s customer service team.

38. The petition also refers to disabled residents being unable to park outside their properties. In such cases, residents can apply to the Council to have an advisory disabled parking bay installed outside their property free of charge. However, residents must meet certain eligibility criteria, this includes having no access to off-street parking and being in receipt of Personal Independence Payments (PIP). If a resident wishes to apply to have a disabled parking bay installed, they are able to do so online through the Council’s ‘Make a new highways request’ webpage or by contacting the Council’s customer service team.

39. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

H. Request for a reduction to the speed limit and the installation of traffic calming on Shireoaks Common, Shireoaks (Ref:2023/17)

40. A 152-signature petition was presented to the 13 July 2023 meeting of the County Council by Councillor Sybil Fielding on behalf of residents of Shireoaks, requesting a reduction to the speed limit and the installation of traffic calming on Shireoaks Common.

41. Although the County Council is responsible for setting local speed limits, it is obliged to follow statutory national guidance. Amongst other things, this guidance advises that limits should be set in line with the character of the road because this is a key determinant of driver behaviour, and therefore compliance is not likely to be achieved where limits are too low for the character of the road.

42. The guidance requires that councils should assess the following factors:

- collision and casualty savings
- conditions and facilities for vulnerable road users
- impacts on walking and cycling and other mode shift
- congestion and journey time reliability
- environmental, community and quality of life impact, such as emissions, severance of local communities, visual impact, noise, and vibration, and
- costs, including of engineering and other physical measures including signing, maintenance, and cost of enforcement.

43. In reviewing the request to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph, it is noted that:

- there have been two reported collisions resulting in injury on this section of road in the last three years but neither involved speed as a contributory factor. As a result, there are no collision or casualty savings to be achieved
- conditions and facilities for vulnerable road users are good
- the current limit does not adversely impact walking, cycling or other mode shift
- there would be no positive or negative impact on congestion and journey time reliability
- the present speed limit has no adverse impacts on environmental, community or quality of life issues: there are no property frontages on the section of road in question and so a reduction in speed limit would offer no air quality, noise, vibration, or visual benefits.

44. The road is constructed to a high standard with appropriate width and visibility. It functions as a through route, having no frontage development. As a result, compliance with a 30mph limit is likely to be poor and regular enforcement would be needed in order to achieve this. Therefore, a 30mph speed limit is not considered appropriate on this section of road.

45. Traffic calming schemes are generally introduced only where there has been an identified injury accident pattern involving vulnerable roads users treatable by such measures. While there have been two reported collisions resulting in injury on this section of road in the last three years, investigation suggested, however, that speed was not a contributory factor. As such a traffic calming scheme cannot be justified on accident reduction grounds at this location.

46. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

I. Request for the removal of the bus plug / signals on Burton Road in Gedling (Ref: 2023/10)

47. A 650-signature petition was presented to the 13 July meeting of the County Council by Councillor Mike Adams. The petition requests the removal of the Burton Road bus plug as it causes tailbacks which both delay journeys and cause additional carbon to be emitted close to a school location. The bus plug is located within a close proximity to the now new junction with the Gedling Access Road.

48. A requirement of the funding received to deliver the Gedling Access Road (GAR) is to undertake both one and five-year post completion monitoring reports that are submitted to the funders. The modelling justification for the GAR was based on the facility on Burton Road remaining to act as a traffic calming feature to encourage through traffic to utilise the GAR and to not utilise the more sensitive and residential area along Burton Road. The GAR was completed in August last year and hence the surveys to establish how the scheme is working as against the bid objectives are scheduled for post summer – to ensure they are undertaken in a recognised survey neutral period.

49. A review of how the GAR is delivering as against the specified objectives of the scheme (namely to both enable growth and to provide traffic relief to Gedling village) will be undertaken once this survey data is available with current indicative information positive on both counts. In the meantime, officers will investigate any wider implications of removing the existing signals and bring a further report to a future T&E meeting for consideration. These will need to include:

- Potential journey time benefits
- Impacts of changes to school access off Burton Road
- Increase to flows on Burton Road and if this would open Council to additional GAR compensation claims
- Need for and type of any alternative traffic calming options for Burton Road
- Review of conditions of approved planning for the GAR
- Review of the conditions of the grant funding utilised to deliver the GAR

50. It was agreed that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Other Options Considered

51. There are no other options to consider as this report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

52. The Constitution requires that Full Council receive a report on the outcome of consideration of the petitions.

Statutory and Policy Implications

53. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

**Councillor Neil Clarke MBE
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment**

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Higton, Interim Corporate Director Place
derek.higton@nottscgov.uk

Background Papers and Published Documents

- Responses to Petitions Presented to the Chairman of the County Council – Delegated Decision (Reference 429) by Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Beeston and Central Rylands – Councillor Kate Foale
- Carlton East – Councillor Mike Adams
- Carlton West – Councillor Jim Creamer and Councillor Errol Henry
- Ollerton – Councillor Mike Pringle
- Stapleford and Broxtowe Central – Councillor John Doddy and Councillor John McGrath
- Toton, Chilwell and Attenborough – Councillor Eric Kerry and Councillor Richard Jackson
- Worksop West – Councillor Sybil Fielding