



31st October 2013

Agenda Item: 14

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS

RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2013.

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Committee responses to the issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 26th September:

- A. Petition requesting a School Crossing Patrol outside Tuxford Primary Academy School (Ref:2013/033)
- B. Petition requesting an increase in provision of town centre parking in Sutton in Ashfield (Ref: 2013/035)
- C. Petition requesting traffic lights and 'children crossing' signs at the junction of Marlborough Road and Abbey Road, Beeston (Ref:2013/036)
- D. Petition requesting a residents' parking scheme in Glebe Street area of Beeston (Ref: 2013/037)

A. Petition requesting a School Crossing Patrol outside Tuxford Primary Academy School (Ref:2013/033)

1. A 403 signature petition was presented by County Councillor John Ogle, at a meeting of the County Council on 26th September 2013 requesting the provision of a school crossing patrol on Newark Road outside Tuxford Primary Academy. This location had a school crossing patrol until 28 March 2013, when the patrol retired. When a site becomes vacant, a check is carried out to ensure the number of people crossing the road at the location warrants the provision of a crossing patrol. The count carried out on the 17th April 2013 showed 32 accompanied and 7 unaccompanied children crossed in the morning and 30 accompanied and 10 unaccompanied children crossed in the afternoon. A further count was carried out on the 12th September 2013 which showed 38

accompanied and 2 unaccompanied children crossed in the morning and 16 accompanied and 4 unaccompanied in the afternoon. Calculating the number of people crossing the road (P), in combination with the number of vehicles (V) travelling along the road (PV2) the national recommendation for a school crossing patrol site is 4×10^6 . In Nottinghamshire, we operate a more relaxed criterion and consider patrols that reach 1.3×10^6 . At the Tuxford site the highest PV2 count reached was less than half of the Nottinghamshire criterion.

2. Following concern raised by parents regarding the lack of school crossing patrol, advisory 20mph signs were erected in June to encourage drivers to pass the school at a slower speed. The 85th percentile speed in the morning (8am-9am) is 31mph and the afternoon (15.00-16.00pm) is 33mph. To further assist, the School Keep Clear marking will be made legally enforceable as part of the county wide initiative to keep school frontages clear of parked vehicles, making it safer for children to cross the road.
3. As it is not viable to provide a school crossing patrol at this site from County Council funds, discussions have been had with the school with a view to them sponsoring a patrol. Costs, which include engineering, equipment, employment, management and administration costs are currently being prepared.
4. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is advised that the County Council will continue to work with the school to consider options to provide a school crossing patrol.

B. Petition requesting an increase in provision of town centre parking in Sutton in Ashfield (Ref: 2013/035)

5. An 87 signature petition was presented to the 26th September 2013 meeting of the County Council by Councillor David Kirkham. The petition is from traders of the Idlewells Market, Sutton In Ashfield.
6. In January 2013, a Traffic Regulation Order was passed to prevent non-residential parking in the Church Street area of Sutton In Ashfield. This was preceded by public consultation and was carried out with the support of the local members. The Traffic Regulation Order also allows for a 2 hour limited waiting facility, to enable short stay car parking.
7. At present, Nottinghamshire County Council is working, in conjunction with Ashfield District Council and local businesses (Idlewells Centre, ASDA), to investigate parking solutions in Sutton In Ashfield.
8. The existing Traffic Regulation Order is to remain while investigations into other parking solutions are carried out, either on private land (with Nottinghamshire County Council lending transport planning expertise), or on District Council off-street parking.

C. Petition requesting traffic lights and ‘children crossing’ signs at the junction of Marlborough Road and Abbey Road, Beeston (Ref:2013/036)

9. A petition was presented by County Councillor Steve Carr on behalf of 330 people at a meeting of the County Council on 26th September 2013. The petition requests the installation of traffic signals at the junction of Marlborough Road and Abbey Road, Beeston and the erection of ‘children crossing’ signs.
10. There have been three slight injury accidents at the site since January 2010, an average of less than one a year. It is a significant concern that this accident level is lower than the average experienced at a typical set of traffic signals in Nottinghamshire, so installing traffic signals could therefore potentially increase the number of injury accidents at this location. Also the constricted nature of the site and available highway space would need substantial works to accommodate traffic signals, including a significant loss of on-street parking and highway features, such as trees. It is therefore not currently proposed to install traffic signals at this junction.
11. However the signs and lining at the junction have recently been repaired and refreshed and no injury accidents have been recorded since this work was done. Erection of ‘children crossing’ signs at the junction will also be arranged.
12. It is recommended that the lead petitioner is advised the outcome of this investigation.

D. Petition requesting a residents’ parking scheme in Glebe Street area of Beeston (Ref: 2013/037)

13. A petition of 113 signatures from employees of Broxtowe Borough Council was presented to the Chairman and the meeting of the County Council on 26th September 2013 by Councillor Steve Carr. Concerns raised by the petitioners including displacing parking onto other local streets, further restrictions discouraging shoppers from the area due to costs in off-street car parks and also the potential effect of empty streets as residents in the area already have driveways.
14. At this stage an initial consultation has been carried out with comments and objections being considered as part of the scheme proposals. The next stage is to carry out the legal statutory consultation and public advert. It is recommended that when this next stage is completed the petition is treated as an objection and reported to a future Transport and Highways Committee along with any other objections.
15. The petition organiser will be informed.

Reason for Recommendation

16. To recommend responses to issues raised in petitions presented to the County Council on 26TH September 2013.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. 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/S

It is RECOMMENDED that the proposed actions be approved, the petitioners be informed accordingly and a report be presented to Full Council for the actions to be noted.

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Peter Barker

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s)

Newark & Sherwood, Sutton in Ashfield Central, Beeston North.