

Agenda Item No. 4(b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

12 July 2016

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

PETITION – HEANOR, MANSFIELD ROAD – REQUEST FOR SAFE
PELICAN OR PUFFIN CROSSING

(1) **Purpose of Report** To consider the County Council's response to a petition of 144 signatures requesting a pedestrian crossing on A608 Mansfield Road, close to the junction with Watson Avenue, Heanor, and to recommend consideration of a pedestrian refuge in future work programmes.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The petition was received at the meeting on 19 January 2016, requesting a pedestrian crossing to be constructed on Mansfield Road, adjacent to its junction with Watson Avenue (Minute No. 1/16 refers). The two covering letters can be summarised in the following excerpts:

'...we still wish to keep physically and socially active for as long as possible and to take advantage of the excellent bus service which is available. Being able to cross the road 'SAFELY' would be of huge benefit to us and also to the many people we spoke to'.

'Please find enclosed a petition signed by 144 local people who feel very strongly that there is an urgent need for a safe pedestrian crossing close to the junction of Mansfield Road and Watson Avenue'.

'The majority of the signatures are of local residents and their relatives and friends who use the road regularly. The remainders are staff and visitors of the Ashfield Care Home'.

At a petitioners meeting: *'it was unanimously decided the 'Puffin' crossing would be most suitable, causing the least disruption to traffic flow, whilst being the most user friendly'.* In the second letter the petitioners *'request a site visit with cabinet members and site engineers to assess the feasibility of the project'.*

Background

The petitioners' area of concern is in the residential area along the busy A608 Mansfield Road, which links the town centre to the A610.

Watson Road is close to Heanor town centre and, along with three other side roads, provides access to over 800 properties. The residential home to which the petitioners refer to is located on Mansfield Road, opposite the Watson Avenue junction.

Mansfield Road itself is approximately 9m wide and, at its junction with Watson Avenue, benefits from the provision of a right turn harbourage and centre line carriageway hatching which helps narrow down lane widths to encourage lower traffic speeds. The A608 Mansfield Road is signed as a Police camera enforcement route and two speed cameras (one for each direction) are located near to this junction.

A check of the Police's database, which records all collisions resulting in personal injury, reveals that there has been one collision here in the last three years (standard test period for assessment). This involved a rear end shunt occurring while a vehicle waited at a red signal some 250m north-eastwards further along Mansfield Road.

Officer Comment

In the past, there have been similar requests to install a traffic signal controlled pedestrian crossing facilities in this area of Heanor. However, due to insufficient numbers of pedestrians observed crossing, previous requests have been unsuccessful. Observations also revealed that there were no particular pedestrian desire lines and pedestrians crossed at various points along Mansfield Road and Church Street. Existing signalised pedestrian crossings are located approximately 400m to the south, and 240m to the north-east of Watson Avenue.

As the petitioners state, the installation of a signalised crossing facility would be the most beneficial for pedestrians, as such crossings allow signal timings to be matched to the pedestrians' requirements. However, such facilities can cost in the region of £30,000 depending upon site constraints, suitable street lighting and an adequate power supply being accessible. They also put additional demand on maintenance revenue budgets.

As discussed with petitioners, local Member and highway officers at a site meeting held on 2 March 2016, given the low numbers of pedestrians observed crossing, such a facility cannot be justified at this location. However, due to the width of Mansfield Road, it is considered appropriate to construct a central pedestrian crossing refuge, subject to future funding being available. This would assist pedestrians to cross the wide carriageway in two stages. Such a facility may also help maintain considerate traffic speeds. Plan

HMT/DJO/88/16 attached to this report indicates the proposed location where a facility could be installed.

To install pedestrian refuges still incurs significant expense of up to £15,000 and such a scheme would still need to compete for funding with other locations.

Local Member Comment

Councillor Cox is fully supportive of the residents' request for a crossing facility in this location.

(3) **Financial Considerations** Implementing a central crossing refuge at this location would incur an expected expenditure of £15,000. Such a cost could only be allocated from a future year's capital budget allocation from the 2017-2018 Local Transport Plan, but is, of course, subject to competition and a successful bid for funding.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 states that it shall be the duty of every Local Authority exercising the functions in that Act (so far as practicable having regard to the matters listed below) to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. The matters referred to above are:

- 1) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;
- 2) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run; 2ii) the national air quality strategy prepared under Section 80 of the Environment Act 1995;
- 3) the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles; and
- 4) any other matters appearing to the Local Authority to be relevant.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

- (6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.
- (7) **Background Papers** Held on file in the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Mark Sloan, extension 38687.
- (8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:
- 8.1 The Cabinet Member approves a pedestrian crossing refuge on Mansfield Road, Heanor, subject to a successful bid for funding from the 2017-2018 Local Transport Plan.
- 8.2 The Local Member and main petitioner be informed accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

PETITION-LOCATION-PLAN
 REQUEST-FOR-PEDESTRIAN-CROSSING
 A608-MANSFIELD-ROAD-HEANOR

DRAWN	CHECKED	APPROVED
DJORTON	CHECKED NAME	APPROVED NAME
Date	DATE-C	DATE-A
8-MARCH-2016		
Project Confirm Reference No.	25000381	SCALE
Drawing Number	HMT/DJO/88/16	NTS

