

Agenda Item No. 4(a)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

18 April 2019

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

PETITION REGARDING ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS – GREEN LANE,
CHINLEY

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of investigations undertaken following the receipt of a petition requesting measures to improve road safety on Green Lane, Chinley.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 9 September 2018, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition containing 253 signatures (Minute No. 81/18 refers) which reads as follows:

“Make Green Lane Safe to Walk!

We, the undersigned, demand that action be taken to provide a safe walking route for pedestrians up Green Lane Chinley.

The housing developments and Children’s Nursery in the area mean many more people up here, and bring major increases in the volume of traffic.”

Background

Green Lane runs from the rail bridge junction of Stubbins Lane and Maynestone Road through the centre of Chinley and in a southerly direction towards Whitehough to the junction with Forge Road. It slopes downwards to the Forge Road junction with a river bridge crossing Black Brook. There is no footway on the southern section of the road.

This road is subject to a 7.5T Environmental Weight Limit so, primarily, carries local traffic. The Police’s injury collision database shows no recorded incidents in the latest five year period (31 November 2013 to 1 December 2018) over the whole length of road.

Officer Comment

The original planning application for the Forge Works site was refused by the Local Planning Authority, however, the developer exercised its right to appeal the decision. An independent Planning Inspector subsequently considered proposals and allowed the development, which is now under construction.

As part of the planning consent, some associated highway works were agreed on Green Lane to help to improve the safety of pedestrians accessing the site. These works include additional road humps and some white lining indicating where pedestrians may walk in the absence of a dedicated footway, these measures should be complete in the near future. These works should help to some degree to regulate vehicle speeds and highlight an area for pedestrians to walk safely.

The provision of a footpath to the rear of the development, to provide a pedestrian link to Buxton Road, was included in the original planning application for the Forge site. This would have formed a useful link to the schools on Buxton Road. However, during the appeal, the Planning Inspector ruled that this was not necessary. The Inspector considered the pedestrian movements associated with the development (up to 182 dwellings), together with the highway improvements were satisfactory reasonable and proportionate in the context of the size of this particular development site. Unfortunately, whilst this is disappointing, these are considerations which must be taken into account by the Planning Inspectorate.

Bearing this in mind, any funding for a pedestrian link would have to be provided by the County Council. Following discussions with the Local County Councillor, Alison Fox, it is felt that funding should be sought when any opportunities arise, but as there are a large number of schemes competing for capital funding from across the County, this will mean that many of these will not be successful. This proposal will, of course, remain recorded as one suitable for attention even in the absence of funding from this year's programme.

It is also suggested that a separate pedestrian footbridge at the bridge on Green Lane could also contribute towards pedestrian safety. However, the land to provide is not within public ownership. The highway extents show that the land to the north of the river is not part of the adopted highway. There would, therefore, be land and issues associated with the river to overcome, both of which may have additional complications and financial implications. The Environment Agency is responsible for this watercourse and has confirmed that various permits would be required because of the flood risk issues. Its response also requested that the whole bridge is rebuilt to improve water flow but this is not feasible at this time.

Local Member Comments

Councillor Alison Fox is making every effort to address the issues, and has been in liaison with the Developer and Parish Council investigating alternative funding streams for such works.

(3) Financial Considerations There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

Other Considerations

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

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-in** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Held on File within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details - Isobel Mulligan, extension 38677.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

7.1 The proposed highway works are noted which should lead to a safer environment for pedestrians using Green Lane, Chinley.

7.2 The County Council presents bids for funds when funding opportunities arise for an alternative pedestrian link to Buxton Road.

7.3 The Local Member and lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment