
**Meeting of Executive Members for City
Strategy and Advisory Panel**

2 June 2008

Report of the Director of City Strategy

**PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF HOWE HILL ROAD AND
POPPLETON ROAD ASKING FOR RESURFACING AND LIGHTING
OF THE ALLEYWAY BEHIND THEIR HOMES**

Summary

1. This report is in response to a petition presented to Full Council by Councillor Bowgett on 24 January 2008 signed by 31 residents of the Howe Hill Road and Poppleton Road area, representing 17 properties, from a total of 31, that have direct access to the alleyway.
2. The petition calls on the Council to resurface and provide lighting on the alleyway which leads behind their homes onto Poppleton Road.
3. A copy of the petition and a location plan are attached as Annex 1 and 2 respectively.

Background

4. Members will be aware that officers undertake a variety of highway inspections, including an annual inspection of all the roads, footways and back lanes within the Council's area.
5. These inspections, together with all the safety inspection reports and other Council inspection records are used as a database which shows the general condition of the Council's highway network.
6. All the roads, footways and back lanes determined to be in a poor condition from these inspection reports are subsequently reassessed to prioritise our planned programmes of work for the forthcoming financial year.
7. The annual condition survey for 2007 identified the condition of the rear lane to both Howe Hill Road and Poppleton Road as being in an average to poor condition (2/3).
8. Back lanes are assessed with a walked inspection and are generally rated with the emphasis given to its condition and safety.

9. Whilst back lanes to properties are part of the highway network, they can be classified as a secondary means of access, with the primary access being to the front of the properties.
10. The lane to the rear of the properties in Poppleton Road is used as a cut through to gain access onto Poppleton Road.
11. When preparing our programmes for resurfacing and reconstruction priority is given to maintenance of the primary means of access and a separate budget is available for the maintenance of back lanes.
12. The street lighting budget is for the maintenance of the existing street lighting stock and any new lighting schemes are funded by the local ward committee.
13. The Ward Committee have already committed funding to provide 3 lighting columns to the rear of the properties in Poppleton Road and the works will be completed out in 2008/09.
14. Additional lighting to the rear of the properties in Howe Hill Road, although part of the original design will need to be supported by the Ward Committee for additional funding.

Consultation

15. As this report is to advise the Advisory Panel of the receipt of the petition no external consultation has taken place. The Holgate Ward members have been appraised of the Advisory Panel meeting and are fully supportive of the views of the residents.
16. The street environment officer has advised that in the past the lane was an area where anti social behaviour was an issue and hence the Ward Committee funding for lighting units.
17. At the last Holgate Ward Committee meeting one of the local policing team indicated that they were no longer receiving complaints.

Options

18. Option 1 – Members may ask officers to carry out a resurfacing/reconstruction scheme from within our approved programme of works for 2008/09 (Emap 17th March 2008) which would require removing a scheme, of equivalent value, from the approved programme.
19. Option 2 – Members may note and agreed that officers arrange to make safe any defects that breach the Council's intervention levels, monitor the condition of the alleyway and assess it later in the year, along with all the other rear lanes, for a possible inclusion within the budget allocation.

Analysis

20. Members shall be aware that with both options 1 and 2, any improvements to provide additional street lighting should be carried out prior to any resurfacing to avoid reinstatements in the new surfacing.
21. The cost to resurface the alleyway is estimated to cost £15,000.
22. In order to complete the approved programme, as approved by EMAP on 17 March 2008. Option 1 is not recommended for approval.
23. Members may choose to note and approve the actions contained in Option 2 and any necessary repairs to be carried out will be financed from the existing maintenance budget for day to day repairs.

Corporate Priorities

24. As both options would ultimately have the same outcome, both link in to the Council's Corporate Strategy (2007-2011) Priority for Improvement Statement.
 - No.3 "increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport".
 - No.4 "Improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the city's streets, housing estates and publicly accessible areas" and
 - No.8 "Improvement of the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest".

Implications

Financial

25. The cost of any repairs and any future resurfacing will be attended to from within existing maintenance budgets.

Legal

26. The City of York Council in its capacity as the local highway authority, has a duty under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the public highway network.

Crime and Disorder

27. Whilst the petitioners mention being intimidated when using the rear lane, no recent complaints have been received by the local policing team.
28. There are no implications for the following:
 - **Human Resources (HR)**

- Equalities
- Information Technology (IT)
- Property
- Other

Risk Management

29. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

30. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to approve Option 2 subject to the funding being made by the Ward Committee to complete the street lighting scheme.
31. The Ward committee are requested to fund the completion of the street lighting scheme.
32. The lead petitioner be notified of the decision of the Advisory Panel

Reason: To ensure works are carried out on a needs and worst first basis and to avoid any new works being damage by subsequent street lighting improvements.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 19/05/2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

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Wards Affected: Holgate

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

EMAP 17 March 2008 – Annual Highway Maintenance report

Annexes

Annex 1 – Petition

Annex 2 – Plan

14 May 2008

emap/citystrategy/020608 petition from residents of Howe Hill Rd & Poppleton Rd