
Meeting of Executive Members for City Strategy and Advisory Panel

29 October 2007

Report of the Director of City Strategy

Petitions concerning the junction of Main Street, Knapton with the A1237

Summary

1. This report advises Members of the receipt of two petitions, one requesting the closure of Main Street, Knapton at its junction with the A1237, and one opposing this idea. The report also refers to additional consultation on this issue carried out by the Parish Council.

Background

2. A map of the area is included in **Annex A**.
3. A copy of the petition requesting the closure of Main Street is provided as **Annex B**, and a copy of the petition opposing the idea is provided as **Annex C**.
4. A plan showing the distribution of households represented by the petitions is provided as **Annex D**.
5. Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council are known to have concerns about speeding on Main Street, which they feel is being used as a rat run when the A1237 is congested. They also have safety concerns over right turn manoeuvres at the junction. The Parish Council initially supported the petition requesting the closure of Main Street. However, in view of the other petition, which suggests many local people would find the closure an inconvenience, and the fact that most households in the village were not represented within either petition, the Parish Council has subsequently decided to carry out further consultation with local residents on the matter.
6. It is understood that the Parish Council has recently distributed a questionnaire to all households in the village seeking views on three options. These are:
 - Close Main Street at its junction with the A1237.
 - Prohibit the rights turns in and out of the junction.
 - Leave the junction as it is now.

At the time of writing this report, the results of this consultation and the Parish Council's current views on the preferred way forward, are unknown. Therefore a verbal update will be given at the EMAP meeting.

7. According to Police records, the junction of Main Street with the A1237 has only experienced one injury accident over the last five years. This accident resulted in a slight casualty to a motorcyclist. Hence the junction does not qualify as a potential Local Safety Scheme within the Transport Capital Programme (usually at least four accidents over three years are need to justify possible inclusion).

Consultation

8. The Ward Councillors have been made aware of the situation, but none have chosen to put forward any views on the issue at this stage. It is intended to make the Councillors aware of the outcome of the latest Parish Council consultation as soon as possible, and invite comments again. A verbal update on any feedback from the Ward Councillors will be presented at the meeting.
9. No other consultation has been carried out at this stage.

Options & Analysis

10. Depending on the outcome of the Parish Council consultation and any subsequent views put forward by the Parish Council and Ward Members, the following two options are likely to be available for Members to consider:

Option One - To leave the junction as it is.

Option Two - To ask Officers to carry out a feasibility study on either closing the road or prohibiting the right turns in and out of the junction. This study would involve gathering traffic survey information to help assess the likely impact on the local road network of altering the way this junction currently operates. The outcome of such a study would then be reported back to enable Members to decide if a scheme should be put forward for possible inclusion in the Transport Capital Programme for 08/09.

Corporate Priorities

11. The proposals within this report are not specifically related to any of the corporate priorities. In the event of any subsequent action we would seek to align that action with the corporate priorities.

Implications

12. **Financial** – The staff costs linked to a feasibility study can be met from the Reactive Danger Reduction allocation within the 07/08 Capital Programme. However, any subsequent detailed design and delivery of a scheme would need to have a funding allocation made within the 08/09 Transport Capital programme.

12. **Human Resources (HR)** - No implications.
13. **Equalities** – No implications
14. **Legal** - no implications.
15. **Crime and Disorder** – no implications.
16. **Information Technology (IT)** - no implications.
17. **Property** – no implications.
18. **Transport** – no immediate transport implications, but this would be looked at in more detail as part of any subsequent feasibility study.

Risk Management

19. In compliance with the Council's Risk Management Strategy, there are not thought to be any risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

20. That the Advisory Panel note the content of the two petitions, and any further consultation feedback presented at the meeting, and advise the Executive Member of a preferred way forward based on the options put forward in paragraph 10.

Reasons: To respond to local residents' concerns.

Contact Details

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Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial : Patrick Looker

Wards Affected: Rural West

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes A, B, C & D