

Action on Petitions

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Members will recall that at its meeting in June the Council approved the Petitions Scheme and also agreed that the current practice of reporting to Council on the action taken in respect of those petitions submitted at full Council be continued. Accordingly, Members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the undermentioned petitions which were presented to Council:-

- (i) **Petition requesting that the Council takes action to deal with vehicles parked at the junction of Crow Lane and the A690 causing difficulty for drivers and pedestrians. Presented by Councillor Robert Oliver on 25th November 2009**

The former Development and Regeneration Directorate (D & R) received a request in relation to this matter from Councillor Robert Oliver on 8th February 2009. Records from the former D & R directorate indicate that following a meeting on site on the 10th February 2009 it was agreed with Councillor Oliver that a scheme to extend existing waiting restrictions on Durham Road for a distance of 10m into Crow Lane would be implemented, subject to satisfactory consultation regarding the proposed traffic regulation order. However the scheme as proposed was not progressed at that time.

Following receipt of the petition on 25 November 2009 the Executive Director of City Services, in consultation with local ward members and the portfolio holder for Attractive and Inclusive City, approved the petition request and instructed officers to take action to ensure that the scheme is delivered as part of this years (2010/11) Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital programme. It is anticipated that the scheme will be completed during the Autumn 2010.

Cllr Robert Oliver and the Lead Petitioner to be notified.

(ii) Petition from residents of Lakeside Towers requesting the provision of additional parking for residents. Presented by Councillor Alan Wright on 31st March 2010

The petition was signed by 291 residents.

The Executive Director of City Services considered the petition and following consultation with Councillor Blackburn, Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City, determined that the petitioners' request should be declined on the grounds that the Council has no duty or funding available, to provide residential parking facilities. Instead, the petitioners should be advised to approach Gentoo, directly, about their request for additional parking

Councillor Wright and the lead petitioner have been notified of the Executive Director's decision.

(iii) Petition requesting the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Silksworth Road in the vicinity of Oakfield Court. Presented by Councillor Alan Wright on 24th June 2009

The Executive Director of City Services considered the petition and following consultation with Councillor Blackburn, Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City, determined that the petitioners' request should be declined on the grounds that the location does not meet the required criteria in terms of pedestrian/vehicular conflict, the numbers of pedestrians wishing to cross and the accident history.

Councillor Wright and the Manager of Oakfield Court Retirement Housing have been notified of the Executive Director's decision.

(iv) Petition requesting Urgent Action to be taken to make improvements to Hetton Cemetery, in respect of repairs to roads, pathways and fencing, better maintenance of landscape and inclusion of floral displays to make the cemetery a better resting place and attractive to visitors. Presented by Councillor Tate on 27 January 2010

The petition contained 838 signatures.

Officers of the City Services Directorate inspected the cemetery and the action identified below was taken to make some immediate improvement:

- Footpaths were treated to limit growth of moss
- Railings received preparation work to enable paintwork to be carried out.
- The conifer hedge facing Houghton Road was reduced in height and trimmed.

In addition to this a technical survey of all pathways and roads in the cemetery is underway in order to identify necessary remedial works and funding implications.

Grounds maintenance standards will be monitored and grass cutting commenced in April 2010. The floral beds were replanted in early summer (May – June 2010) as part of the regular maintenance of the Cemetery and will continue to be maintained.

Further work on walls and footpaths will be progressed when resources become available.

Councillor Tate and the petitioners have been notified of the Executive Director's decision.

(v) Petition from local residents requesting the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Mill Hill Road. Presented by Councillor E. Gibson on 14 June 2010.

Officers of the City Services Directorate have met with local Ward Councillors to discuss the petition and a possible solution to resolve the issues raised. It was agreed that traffic refuges would be constructed along Mill Hill Road along with hatching to narrow the road to both provide a variety of safer places to cross the road and also to slow traffic down along it. The works would be funded using a mixture of Area Committee and Local Transport Plan funding. Local residents have been consulted and work is about to start on site to construct the scheme.

(vi) Petition from local residents requesting traffic calming in the area around Leafields and Faber Road and expressing concern over the lack of consultation on the play park and anti-social behaviour caused by this play park. Presented by Councillor R. Copeland on 14 June 2010.

Officers of the City Services Directorate have completed investigations into the issues raised in the petition. The area is undergoing a major transformation and as part of this the road network is being modified to deal with these changes. The local Ward Councillors have been consulted. A formal decision is anticipated to be made in week commencing 11th October 2010

(vii) Petition from local residents requesting the extension of parking restrictions in the Leazes. Presented by Councillor P. Dixon on 14 June 2010.

Officers of the City Services Directorate have inspected the site to determine the extent of the parking issues. At the time of the inspection soon after the petition was received there were no issues observed that warranted acceding to the request. However officers were mindful that the parking problems were dominated by students at the University parking their cars in the locality and at the time there were few students attending the university. Therefore surveys will be organised to be undertaken in late September and early October when the University is fully in session and will then prepare a fully considered response to the petition.