



Northumberland

County Council

ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 11 JULY 2018

PETITION TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL PARKING AND ROAD SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS IN MOORLAND VILLAS, BEDLINGTON AND ITS NEIGHBOURING AREAS

Report of the Executive Director of Place, Paul Johnston

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment & Local Services

Purpose of report

To respond to the petition received by Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council requesting that consideration is given to the provision of additional parking and road surface improvements in Moorland Villas, Bedlington and its neighbouring areas.

Key Issues

On 16 May 2018 a petition titled "Support additional parking and road surface improvements in Moorland Villas, Bedlington and neighbouring areas" was received by the Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council. The petition then went on to state "We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our council to act now and consider for inclusion in the March/April 2018 Local Transport Plan programme, both priority and funding to provide much needed additional parking and road surface improvements."

The petition was signed by 55 people. A copy of the covering letter is attached as Appendix A.

It should be noted that the Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme is agreed before the financial year starts in April.

These requests will be included in the Database of Requests for the local councillor and parish council to consider when determining their priorities for the next LTP programme.

Background

On 16 May 2018 a petition titled "Support additional parking and road surface improvements in Moorland Villas, Bedlington and neighbouring areas" was received by the

Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council. The petition then went on to state “We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our council to act now and consider for inclusion in the March/April 2018 Local Transport Plan programme, both priority and funding to provide much needed additional parking and road surface improvements.”

The petition was signed by 55 people.

It should be noted that the Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme is agreed before the financial year starts in April.

Similar issues have been raised by residents previously and have been added to our Directory of Requests database so that they can be considered for inclusion in a future LTP programme.

Process for including schemes in the LTP programme

Each year priorities for the LTP programme are reviewed and the Directory of Requests database is the starting point for this review. There is a high demand for funding for minor improvements through the LTP process compared to the budgets available and therefore a strict prioritisation process has to be undertaken.

The prioritisation process for the LTP programme involves consultation with local County Councillors and Town and Parish Councils who use the Directory of Requests database alongside their local knowledge in order to determine their local priorities. The issues that they see as a priority are then scored against LTP criteria and the highest ‘scoring’ issues are recommended for inclusion in the programme. The final draft programme is consulted on at Local Area Council meetings in the first quarter of each year and the committee papers are publically available.

The petition makes requests for additional parking and road surface improvements. A discussion about each request is set out below.

Request for Additional Parking

Additional parking in this location was not included in the priorities to be considered for the 2018/19 LTP Programme.

Consultation letters for next year’s programme, 2019/20 were sent out at the end of June, and the local Councillor and Parish Council will be able to consider this request when they consider their local priorities later in the year.

It should be noted that this issue is unlikely to score highly against the LTP criteria compared to other schemes. In order for the County Council to justify funding a scheme it is necessary to demonstrate that the scheme benefits as many members of the public as possible and that it meets the following LTP criteria:-

- Supports Economic Growth
- Reduce Carbon Emissions
- Promote Equality of Opportunity
- Contribute to better Safety, Security and Health
- Improve Quality of Life and and a Healthy Natural Environment
- Part of a package of measures

- Community priority
- Attracts external funding or synergy with other projects.

Whilst we appreciate that parking in residential areas can be difficult, there are many similar residential streets across the county which have requested additional parking. Unfortunately, the majority of residential estates were constructed when car ownership wasn't as high as it is now. Today many properties can have two or more vehicles while there is often only provision for one car to be parked on driveways. Homeowners in some cases make alterations themselves to install or widen driveways to allow additional vehicles to be parked off street.

The petition notes that residents of Moorland Drive are not happy that the grass verge was not replaced with block paving, as it was on Moorland Villas at a previous time. This work was carried out many years ago by the former Wansbeck District Council and as explained above would not be seen as a strong LTP priority today.

The issue has also been forwarded to the local County Councillor and Parish Council in case there are any other sources of funding that could be considered to implement such a scheme.

Request for Road Surface Improvements

Improvement to the road surface in this location was not included in the priorities to be considered for the 2018/19 LTP Programme.

The council has a proactive process of measuring the condition of its highways and also carries out regular highway safety inspections. The results of these surveys and inspections are used to help determine priorities for future LTP programmes alongside issues raised by local communities.

Northumberland has a very extensive highway network covering over 5000 km and this inevitably means that decisions on relative priorities of the repairs needed have to be carefully prioritised to make the most effective use of the funds that are available. This is done objectively by taking into account the actual road condition, usage and importance, when determining the priorities of maintenance work to be undertaken.

The concerns about road condition have been forwarded to the Area Highway team who have carried out a recent inspection of this estate. The structure is a concrete road that has at some point been overlaid. There are currently no actionable defects which would require immediate repair. The road shows some deterioration as would be expected for a road of this type, age and usage but at the current time would not be prioritised above other competing schemes in the programme. The road will continue to be inspected and considered alongside other roads in the network for future inclusion in maintenance programmes.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the request for additional parking and improvements to the road condition be added to the Database of Requests and passed to the local councillor and

parish council for their consideration as priorities to be considered for inclusion in the next LTP programme.

Policy	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
Finance and value for money	Schemes funded through the LTP programme are subject to prioritisation processes to ensure value for money
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	n/a
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	None
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Sleekburn

Appendix A

Copy of Petition

Background papers:

None

Report sign off

	initials
Finance Officer	N/A
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Director	PJ
Portfolio Holder(s)	GS

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