



Northumberland

County Council

ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL
13 NOVEMBER 2019

**Report of the Interim Executive Director of Regeneration, Commercial and Economy,
Rick O'Farrell**

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle, Planning Housing and Resilience

Purpose of note

To respond to the petition received by Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council regarding a request for improvements to the Seaton Vale roundabout forming the junction with Harrington Way, Ashington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the content of this report be noted,

Link to Corporate Plan

How - "We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone"

Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

Success Measures - "We want to make a difference"

Key Issues

A petition has been received requesting improvements to the roundabout forming the junction of Harrington Way, Ashington.

Introduction

The County Council has received a petition of 98 signatures requesting improvements to the roundabout forming the junction of Harrington Way, Ashington.

The petition states “As residents of Seaton Vale we are disgusted by the appearance of the roundabout at the junction of Harrington Way as you come to enter the estate. Ashington has some beautiful roundabouts but this one is not only unsightly, it is dangerous and overgrown. We have discussed this issue with Persimmon and I know our local councillor Jim Lang was trying to resolve this for us.

We are proud of our community and as residents we have purchased planters to sit under our street signs and as a community we come together to try and make the estate a better and prettier place to live.

We would love some support to help develop our roundabout, to make it look more inviting and in keeping with others in Ashington. We do feel it is a health and safety hazard. It is overgrown and we have seen children playing in it. It is also overgrown it is difficult to see what is coming.

Many thanks for your help.”

Background

The roundabout, subject of the petition, forms the junction of the Seaton Vale link road and Harrington Way. The latter is an access route into a residential area being developed by Persimmon Homes.

The roundabout and the link road serving the residential development are subject to an Agreement between the County Council and the developer under Section 38 of the 1980 Highways Act which provides for the infrastructure being adopted as highway maintainable at public expense when satisfactorily completed. It is unlikely that the County Council would be able to seek to adopt the works until construction traffic has significantly reduced or ceased. Until that time the maintenance responsibility remains, legally, with the developer.

For information, the plan forming part of the Section 38 Agreement indicates that the area within the roundabout island will be landscaped as verge. Once adoption takes place the County Council will be responsible for the future maintenance of the land, funded from the highways maintenance budget.

The petition, as set out above, raises issues relating to the overgrown nature of the land within the roundabout island and that this is untidy and also restricts visibility for drivers. The Council sympathises with the need for petitioners to have raised this matter.

As indicated above the maintenance responsibility is with the developer and the County Council would not be in a position to carry out works on what is essentially private land. However, in anticipation of the need to prepare this report in response to receipt of the petition an inspection of the roundabout has been carried out by officers. This has revealed that works have already been carried out by the developer in response to concerns by the Residents' Association. Issues with untidiness and adverse effects on driver visibility are considered to have been suitably addressed.

On the basis of the above there is considered to be no currently action required, or within the powers, of the Council with regard to the matters raised in the petition. The situation

can however be monitored at the time of future inspections of streetworks by officers pursuant to the Section 38 Agreement.

Implications

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	At this stage there are no financial implications for the County Council.
Legal	The roundabout is subject to an Agreement under Section 38 of the 1980 Highways Act.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	N/A
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report.
Risk Assessment	N/A
Crime & Disorder	N/A
Customer Consideration	The petitioners views have been carefully considered in preparing the response to this petition.
Carbon reduction	N/A
Wards	Seaton with Newbiggin West

Background papers:

None

Report sign off.

	Name
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Liam Henry
Service Director Finance & Interim S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	Rick O'Farrell
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr J.Riddle

Author and Contact Details

Graham Fairs, Highways Development Manager

graham.fairs@northumberland.gov.uk

01670 624101