

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 28 JUNE 2017

PETITION REQUESTING A ROUNDABOUT AT THE WESTMORLAND
WAY/FORUM WAY/MELLING ROAD JUNCTION, CRAMLINGTON.

Report of the Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery, Paul Jones

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment and Local Services

Purpose of report

To acknowledge the petition recently received in relation to the request for a roundabout at the Westmorland Way/Forum Way/Melling Road junction in Cramlington and to propose the next steps.

Background

- 1) A petition of 601 signatures has been received requesting a roundabout be provided at the Westmorland Way/Forum Way/Melling Road junction in Cramlington.
- 2) The petition states: "*We petition the Council for the installation of a roundabout and linked road safety measures at the junction of Westmorland Way with Forum Way/Melling Road, to resolve longstanding safety and traffic congestion issues here.*"
- 3) Westmorland Way is an 'A' class road and forms two 'T' junctions, one with Forum Way, a distributor road leading to the Manor Walks shopping centre and Retail Park to the north, the other with Melling Road, an access road leading into the Whitelea Dale Estate to the south. A location Plan is attached in Appendix A.
- 4) Safety concerns have been raised at this junction in the past, and a Local Safety Scheme was introduced in 2015 after the site was identified as one with 3 or more recorded injury accidents in the preceding 3 year period. This scheme took the form of upgraded signs and road markings.

- 5) A further issue at the junction concerns traffic on Westmorland Way queuing to turn into the Forum Way junction and restricting through traffic. This queuing leads to driver frustration and it is reported that westbound traffic has been observed “undertaking” stationary vehicles, resulting in the potential for a side impact collision with those vehicles stationary at or approaching the junction give way line on the egress from Melling Road.
- 6) In order to address this problem the road layout was altered in 2016 to provide a ghost right-turn island, however, the recent expansion of the Retail Park has exacerbated the problems at this junction.
- 7) In recognition of continued concerns regarding this junction, an allocation was made in the 2017-18 Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme for junction improvements, including a possible roundabout.
- 8) Shortly after the LTP Programme was approved, proposals were also announced for potential redevelopment of the Forum Way area of the Manor Walks shopping centre. The potential implications of this redevelopment on the road layout need to be considered alongside the LTP proposals.

Recommendations

- 1) Further discussions be held with Arch to identify the potential implications, impacts and opportunities on the junction of the Manor Walks redevelopment proposals and the timescales associated with them.
- 2) Depending on the above, the County Council consider the appropriate options for the improvement of the junction, including a potential roundabout solution, in consultation with the local ward member and the Town Council.

Implications

Policy	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
Finance and value for money	To be confirmed
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	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	None
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Cramlington Village

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	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

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Appendix A Location Plan

