



# Northumberland

## County Council

CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL  
DATE: 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022

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### PETITION – REQUEST FOR FOOTPATH / CYCLEWAY CONNECTING RED ROW DRIVE TO BARRINGTON ROAD, BEDLINGTON STATION

**Report of: Service Director - Local Services, Paul Jones**

**Cabinet Member: John Riddle, Environment and Local Services**

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#### **Purpose of report**

To respond to the petition and e petition which was received by the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 regarding a request for a footpath / cycleway to connect Red Row Drive to Barrington Road in Bedlington Station.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Local Area Council note the content of this report and support the actions proposed.

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

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

Enjoying - “We want you to love where you live”

Connecting - “We want you to have access to the things you need”

#### **Key Issues**

1. A petition and e petition have been received requesting a footpath / cycleway to connect Red Row Drive to Barrington Road in Bedlington Station.
2. The e petition has been signed by 287 signatories, with the paper petition being signed by a further 33 signatories.
3. The petition requests a pavement/cycleway to connect Old Red Row to Barrington Road, along Red Row Drive, to give access to services at Bedlington Station, Bedlington and Barrington Industrial Estate.
4. The petition is supported by Choppington Parish Council.
5. At the Castle Morpeth LAC meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Councillor Foster gave her support to the petition and indicated that she may be willing to allocate some of her Members Small Scheme allowance towards a scheme.

## Background

### The Petition

The County Council has received a 320 name petition stating that :-

“This petition requests a pavement/cycleway to connect Old Red Row to Barrington Road to give access to services at Bedlington Station, Bedlington and Barrington Industrial Estate and is supported by Choppington Parish Council.

Currently pedestrians are forced to walk on the grassed verge along Red Row Drive. This is a difficult walk for those who are fully mobile but impossible for those with young children in pushchairs and wheelchair users, who resort to walking on this busy road. An alternative route to Bedlington Station, over the railway bridge is excluded for these users as it is steeply inclined and width restricted.

The new Northumberland Line will improve access for those living in this area, but only if they can safely access the rail link.”



### Plan showing Red Row Drive, Bedlington Station

### Initial Comments

Red Row Drive lies between Stakeford Road and Barrington Road in Bedlington Station and is governed by a 30mph speed limit.

Red Row Drive was constructed around 1978 and no footway was provided when the road was constructed. Although there is no footway on Red Row Drive, there is existing pedestrian access from Old Red Row (which lies at the north end of Red Row Drive) to Bedlington Station along the footway of Stakeford Road. This footway passes over the railway bridge that is mentioned in the petition. The footway varies in width between 1.3m and 1.75m along its length and is only at its most narrow due to the traffic light column. As noted the road and footway passes over the railway bridge and therefore has inclines on both sides, with a gradient of around 1 in 10 rising to 1 in 7 close to the bridge.

Whilst it is acknowledged that these footways on Stakeford Road are not fully to present day standards for footway width and that they do have a gradient due to the railway bridge, it should be noted that when school walking routes were assessed during the introduction of two-tier schools in the area a number of years ago this existing pedestrian route over the railway bridge was designated as a safe walking route. At that time the traffic lights were erected to restrict traffic flows to single way over the bridge itself, because of the limited forward visibility for vehicles due to the road alignment and to make the route safer for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.





### **Accident Data**

According to accident data from Northumbria Police, there have been no personal injury collisions on Red Row Drive in the previous five years.

There have been no personal injury accidents involving pedestrians or cyclists on Stakeford Road in the previous five years. Two slight personal injury collisions were recorded on Stakeford Road in 2018 / 2019, but these occurred a significant distance from the area of the railway bridge and its approaches. Neither collision injury involved pedestrians, one involved a car occupant and the other a motorcyclist.

### **Request for footpath**

A request for a footpath has previously been submitted by Councillor Foster and Choppington Parish Council as a Local Transport Plan (LTP) priority. However, given the existence of the pedestrian route via Stakeford Road and the competing demands of other requests across the County, the request for a footpath on Red Row Drive has never been prioritised for inclusion within LTP programmes. It should also be noted that that even if there was a footpath available for use on Red Row Drive, because the route to Bedlington Station via Stakeford Road is shorter, many pedestrians are likely to continue using the existing footpath over the railway bridge.

The cost of introducing a new footpath over a distance of approximately 500 metres in length could cost between £80,000 and £100,000, although a detailed design would be required to determine actual costs. The above assumes that there are no services in the verges that would require moving or protection as part of the works. A shared use footway / cycleway would need to be wider than a footway and would be more expensive and may be more difficult to accommodate within the constraints of the widths available on the route.



Whilst there are merits to provision of footway along Red Row Drive, it is felt that consideration of it's inclusion in a future LTP programme would need to be part of the Council's normal LTP process where it would be assessed and prioritised alongside other submissions across the county.

### Proposed Actions

A new footway/cycleway will be considered for inclusion in a future LTP programme and assessed and prioritised alongside similar requests across the county.

### Implications

<b>Policy</b>	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	n/a
<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached)	Wheelchair and motorised scooter users, as well as parents with pushchairs experience difficulties when using existing available routes.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	n/a
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	n/a
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Petition requests the introduction of a pavement/cycleway along Red Row Drive.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	The introduction of a new footway / cycleway would potentially encourage sustainable journeys, however there will be an impact on the carbon footprint during construction.
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Petition raises issues regarding the lack of a physical footpath on Red Row Drive
<b>Wards</b>	Stakeford

**Background papers:**

None

**Report sign off**

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	N/A
Relevant Executive Director	Rob Murfin
Chief Executive	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	John Riddle

**Author and Contact Details**

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