

**Agenda Item No.4(a)**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**23 January 2020**

Report of the Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PETITION – HIGH STREET, APPERKNOWLE - REQUEST FOR THE  
INSTALLATION OF A FOOTWAY AND BUS STOP HARDSTANDING**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To update the Cabinet Member of investigations subsequent to a petition requesting the installation of a surfaced footway and a bus stop hardstanding on High Street, Apperknowle, and to advise on recommendations.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

**Background**

At the meeting on 19 June 2019, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition containing 394 signatures requesting that a surfaced footway and a bus stop hardstanding be provided on High Street, Apperknowle (Minute No. 35/19 refers). A plan detailing the site is attached.

**Officer Comment**

Apperknowle is a village between the towns of Dronfield, Coal Aston, Eckington and Chesterfield. High Street is a classified road which forms a link from the residential area of Apperknowle to a local public house and a bus stop. The bus stop is situated in a location that serves the public house and a nearby cricket ground. The speed limit of the road from the village is 30mph up to the public house, at which point it changes to the national speed limit. The width of the carriageway varies between 5.7m and 6.1m and has an existing footway over part of its length on its north-eastern side and a system of street lighting is present over this length of the footway. There is no footway for approximately 60m of the road leading to the public house and bus stop. A further street light is located opposite the public house.

Connecting the public house to existing pedestrian facilities in Apperknowle could be best achieved by providing a new footway on the south-west side of High Street which would start at New Road and finish opposite Moor Top Road approximately 20m past the bus stop. The length of the new footway would be approximately 145m. It is noted that there is also evidence of a

trodden path over the length of the existing grass verge. An extension to the existing footway on the north-east side, whilst meaning the construction of a much shorter length of footway, would be unachievable without the acquisition of land and, therefore, a footway on the south-west side of High Street would be the only viable option.

Following the receipt of the petition, the Council commissioned a survey of both the pedestrian usage of the link between Apperknowle and the public house and the vehicular usage on High Street. The pedestrian count survey was taken between Thursday 11 July to Saturday 13 July 2019 inclusive, with the vehicle count and speed survey taking place over a six day period between 11 July to 17 July 2019. This has demonstrated extremely low flows of pedestrians and vehicles using High Street, together with an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile vehicle speed of 26mph. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed defines the speed that 85 percent of drivers will drive at or below under free-flowing conditions. According to the Council's reported injury collision database, there have been no incidents on High Street at the location of the requested footpath in the last 15 year period. The Council's collision data is current up to 31 June 2019.

The estimated cost of such an improvement that includes kerbing and a system of drainage would be in excess of £50,000. Due to the significant funding required, any improvement must be weighed against other Council priorities. At this time, funds are concentrated upon the maintenance of existing infrastructure or road safety improvements to address recorded casualties. It is therefore difficult to give priority to an accessibility improvement, such as this, unless there are other funding opportunities available.

Bearing the above in mind, even though it is a low priority, it is recommended that the request be added to the future schemes list to attract funding either through future development or through the Local Transport Plan Capital Schemes.

### **Local Member Comment**

Councillor Alex Dale was consulted and had the following comment to make:

*"I am strongly in support of the petitioners' request for a pedestrian footway to provide a better and safer link between the public house and the rest of the village. The Traveller's Rest is a popular pub both among Apperknowle residents and the wider community. Presently, the lack of a footway means that most pedestrian visitors have to walk along the southern verge and then cross over the road to access the pub. The verge is extremely bumpy and often adjacent to large puddles during periods of wet weather. I therefore believe that the existing situation poses a significant hazard to pedestrians trying to access the pub, and in particular I'm concerned about their safety when travelling back home on an evening, when the lighting is poor."*

*Apperknowle is home to a significant elderly population and the only other pub in the village (Barrack Hotel) recently closed, meaning that the Traveller's Rest is the last remaining public house in the village. We know that public houses are often meeting places and can help to alleviate the problems of social isolation within communities. I am concerned that the perceived lack of a "safe passage" to the Traveller's Rest is deterring some older residents from visiting and therefore further exacerbating the problems of social isolation."*

(3) **Financial Considerations**      There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

### **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision**      No

(5) **Call-In**      Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

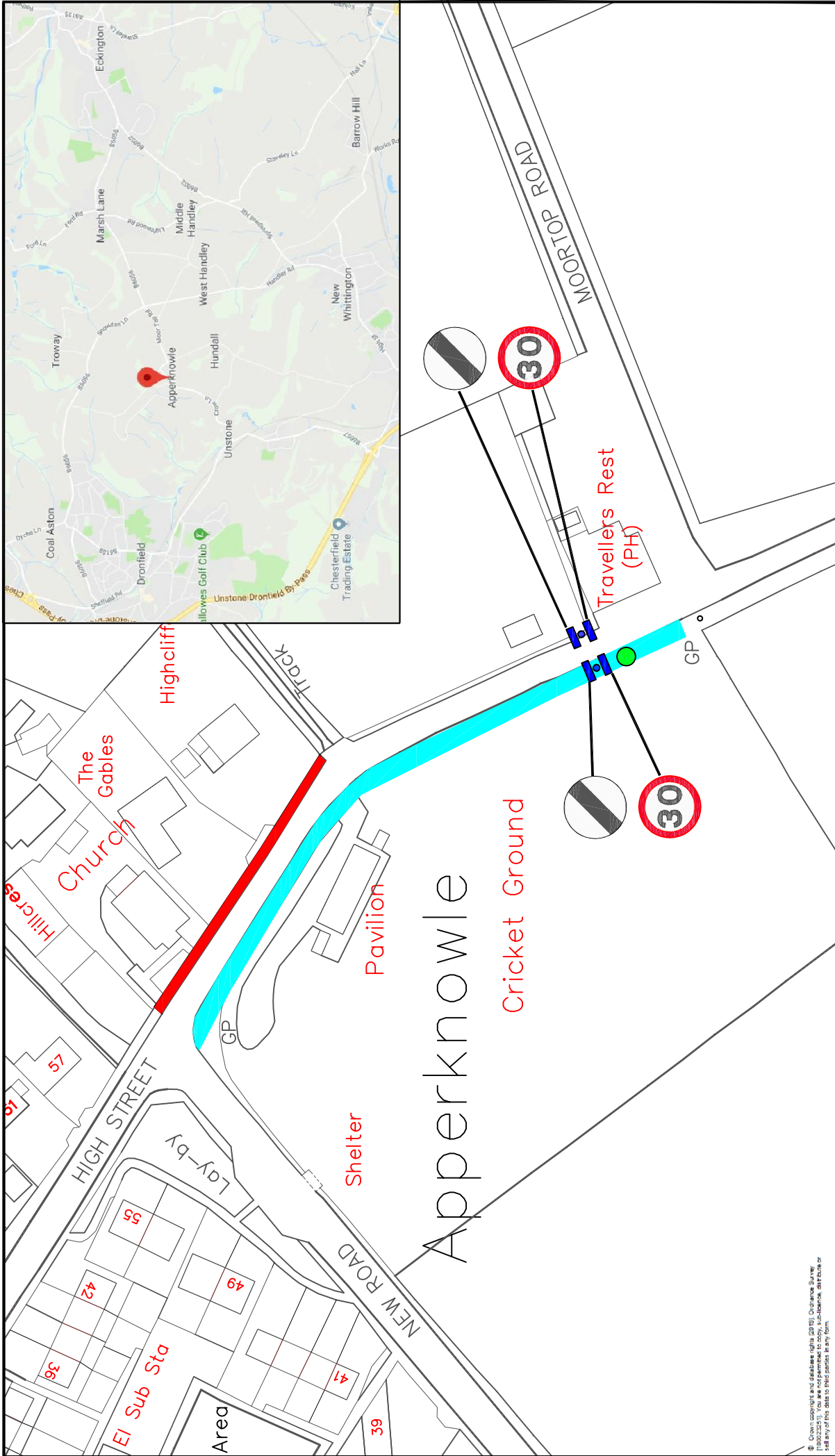
(6) **Background Papers**      Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS**      That:

7.1      The request for the provision of a footway and a bus stop hardstanding on High Street, Apperknowle be added to the future schemes list with the view to attracting funding sometime in the future; and

7.2      The Local Member and lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**



<div><div><div></div><div>EXISTING FOOTWAY</div></div><div><div></div><div>REQUESTED LOCATION OF NEW FOOTWAY</div></div><div><div></div><div>EXISTING SPEED LIMIT SIGNS</div></div><div><div></div><div>EXISTING BUS STOP</div></div></div>	PROJECT TITLE  HIGH STREET, APPERKNOWLE  DRAWING TITLE  APPENDIX 1	DRAWN PHIL BRAISBY Date 24/07/19	CHECKED STEVE DUNGWORTH Date 24/07/19	APPROVED STEVE DUNGWORTH Date 24/07/19	SCALE NTS



MIKE ASHWORTH  
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