

Agenda Item No. 4(b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

28 January 2021

Report of the Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PETITION – WHITWELL WOOD - REQUEST FOR IMPROVED ACCESS AND
SAFETY AT THE CROSSING POINT ON THE A619 CLINTHILL LANE**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of a petition requesting that the Council investigates how the crossing point on the A619 to access Whitwell Wood can be made safer to pedestrians when accessing from the main village of Whitwell.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

Background

At the meeting on 16 March 2020, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition (Minute No. 16/20 refers). It contained 156 signatures requesting that the Council investigates pedestrians crossing warning signage where Old Hall Lane meets the A619 Clinthill Lane.

A plan showing details of the crossing point on the A619 Clinthill Lane, when walking from Old Hall Lane to Whitwell Wood, is included as Appendix 1.

Officer Comment

Whitwell Wood is accessed from Whitwell village on foot by walking along Old Hall Lane which also has a footpath designation of Whitwell B14/54/1. An additional route to Whitwell Wood from Whitwell village exists by walking along footpath Whitwell B14/24/1 from the B6043. Both of these routes converge at the same crossing point of the A619 opposite the access to Whitwell Wood.

The A619 is subject to a 50mph speed limit which is signed accordingly. Pedestrian crossing warning signs mounted on yellow backing boards are present, together with three 'SLOW' road markings which are located on either side of the crossing point on the A619. To better highlight the lettering, three of the 'SLOW' markings heading in an easterly direction on the A619 have been installed on a bed of buff coloured antiskid material.

Having studied the Council's collision database, it shows that no reported injury collisions have taken place at the crossing point on the A619 in the last three year period up to 31 July 2020. Three years being the standard test period used by local authorities when comparing the reported injury collision record of a road or junction. Updates to the collision database are received on a periodic basis from Derbyshire Constabulary and, for this reason, are only current up to 31 July 2020.

To improve the awareness of the crossing point to motorists, officers recommend that two additional pedestrian crossing warning signs, on yellow backing boards with distance to the hazard, are erected on either side of the A619 at each side of the crossing point. The three 'SLOW' markings heading in a westerly direction prior to the crossing are provided with an antiskid strip either side to better highlight the 'SLOW' lettering.

The issue of reduced visibility due to seasonal vegetation growth is a problem that is experienced throughout the County. The Council does carry out maintenance work to grass verges and tree foliage but must work outside of the bird nesting season which is officially between March and August wherever possible. The visibility issue caused by foliage will be raised with the County's Maintenance Team with a view to improving pedestrian visibility at the crossing point.

Local Member Comment

Councillor Duncan McGregor was consulted and fully supports any safety measures that the Highways Department can introduce which allow safe crossing by walkers who wish to enter the wood. He stated that "*we should encourage as many people/residents to experience the value that this wood brings to all who utilise its pathways*".

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of the work is estimated to be in the region of £5,000 and will be met from the 2020 - 2021 Capital Works Programme for minor signing and lining improvements.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Any signage to be erected within the extent of the public highway would be in accordance with the permitted variants within the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

(5) **Other Considerations**

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

(6) **Key Decision** No.

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

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

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

9.1 The Cabinet Member approves improvements to the advanced warning signage and road markings on approach to the crossing point on the A619 Clinthill Lane.

9.2 A request be made to the Council's Maintenance Team to remove foliage prior to the crossing point.

9.2 The Local Member and lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Tim Gregory
Director – Economy, Transport and Environment



© Crown copyright and database rights 2020.
Ordnance Survey 100023251.
You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



TIM GREGORY
Strategic Director
Economy, Transport and Environment



AMENDMENT DETAILS

NO.	DATE	APVD	CHKD	BY

PROJECT TITLE
A619 CLINTHILL LANE , WHITWELL
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CONCERNS TO
WHITWELL WOOD

DRAWING TITLE
APPENDIX 1

DRAWN B.GOULD	CHECKED S.STRANTER	APPROVED S.STRANTER
Date NOV.2020	Date NOV.2020	Date NOV.2020
Project / Confirm Reference No.	PROJECT/CONFIRM_REF	SCALE N.T.S.
Drawing Number HMT/BG/513/20		

ORIGINAL DRAWING SIZE 297 x 210 (A4)