



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 18th July 2024

## **PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 10.30am**

### **Present**

Councillor S Swinburn (in the Chair)

### **Officers in Attendance:**

- Paul Evans (Assistant Director – Infrastructure, Housing, Highways and Transport)
- Paul Thorpe (Operations Director, Equans)
- Anthony Snell (Transport and Traffic Manager, Equans)
- Eve Richardson-Smith (Service Manager – Consultancy)
- Sophie Pickerden (Committee Support Officer)

### **Also in attendance:**

- Councillor Hasthorpe (Wolds Ward Councillor)

There were 6 members of the public and no members of the press in attendance at the meeting.

### **PH.ETE.44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

### **PH.ETE.45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from the portfolio holder in respect of any items on the agenda for this meeting.

## **PH.ETE.46 PETITION – REQUESTING ACTION BE TAKEN TO SOLVE PARKING ISSUES IN LACEBY**

The portfolio holder received a petition asking for the Council to take action to address resident's concerns in relation to parking in Laceby Village. The portfolio holder stated that he was aware of the issues and had visited the area.

Ms Horsley, spoke on behalf of petitioners. She said that the petition had been signed by over sixty residents. The portfolio holder asked Ms Horsley if she could send over the extra signatures to Miss Pickerden as the petition he had received, had 28 signatures. Ms Horsley confirmed she would send over the additional sheets of the petition to Miss Pickerden.

Ms Horsley stated that there were two points to the petition which had been signed by concerned residents. She said that point one was the issues and concerns residents had regarding road safety and point two was the issue of all day parking from the BMW garage and Laceby Business Park. Ms Horsley explained that since 2019, there had been road safety issues on the main artery of Laceby Village caused by inconsiderate parking and parking for convenience from employees at Marshall BMW and Laceby Business Park in Grimsby Road and the neighbouring streets. She stated that during the pandemic the situation had improved. Ms Horsley said that in 2010 the Laceby Parish Council had raised concerns regarding the lack of car parking for employees and that BMW had reached capacity but planning permission was still granted in 2018 for both BMW and the Laceby Business Park premises to be expanded. She stated that throughout the consultation period for the BMW planning application, DBC House had informed the Council that the short-term agreement between the two businesses to allow BMW employees to park at the business park would cease and that parking for fifty plus cars would be required. Ms Horsley said that BMW had a 'park and ride' service for their employees, but the majority don't use the service. Ms Horsley stated that this has led to pedestrians feeling unsafe when using the pathways on Grimsby Road as vehicles mount the pavement to try to get through. She said that residents struggle to get out of their driveways and have had to at times contact the BMW garage to ask them if the owner of the vehicle blocking them can move their vehicle so they can get out. Ms Horsley stated that there had been a near head on crash last week where halfway down a line of parked cars on Grimsby Road a driver had been approaching the Grange Avenue junction and another car was being driven towards them and had not allowed them to finish their manoeuvre, resulting in the driver having to do an emergency stop. Ms Horsley said that the driver closed their eyes in fear that the other car was going to hit them head on. She said that the driver believed that the other driver must have driven onto the pavement as when they opened their eyes, the

vehicle was gone. Ms Horsley stated that it was a blind corner and the point in which you manoeuvre to overtake the traffic was also blind. She said that the issue was leading to people not being able to use the nearby doctors as there was nowhere to park. Ms Horsley said that the parking issues were also affecting resident's wellbeing. She said that the statement on the planning approval for the premises expansions was that the development would not result in adverse harm to highway safety, visual amenity or neighbouring amenity. Ms Horsley said that, that statement might be true near to the site but inadequate parking at the site had resulted in adverse harm to the community and highway safety. She said that whilst a Traffic Regulation Order in September 2023 had stopped dangerous parking on corners, the blind curve remained unsafe with daily near misses. Ms Horsley said that the parking restrictions introduced for George Butler Close had been a success, but no forethought was given as to the displacement of those cars which had now moved onto other streets. Ms Horsley stated that the employees of both BMW and Laceby Business Park needed to be encouraged to use the available 'park and ride' service. She said that petitioners would like to propose that a single yellow line restriction be in place from Monday – Friday on Grimsby Road during the hours of 8:00am – 6:00pm allowing people to park there for two hours giving them time to use the doctors and other local amenities. She said that petitioners would also like to propose that a single yellow line restriction be put in place from Monday – Friday on Grange Avenue, Whitgift and Trevor Close during the hours of 9:00am – 11:00am and 1:00pm – 2:00pm. Ms Horsley said that this would be the same as what was currently in place on George Butler Close and would allow a safe approach to the junction. Ms Horsley concluded that if the additional homes were built in Laceby as indicated in the local plan, the traffic would increase and therefore a solution needed to be in place.

Councillor Hasthorpe spoke as the Ward Councillor for the Wolds Ward. He said that he supported the residents who had signed the petition. Councillor Hasthorpe stated that the situation around the junction on Grange Avenue had become a nightmare. He said that if restrictions were going to be introduced, then they may as well cover the full stretch.

The portfolio holder stated that he had been to the area, and it was clear there was issues that needed addressing. He asked whether officers had attempted to communicate the issues to those at the BMW garage. Mr Thorpe stated that officers had written and visited the garage previously on this matter. Mr Thorpe explained that the existing Traffic Regulation Orders had led to some improvement in the area.

The portfolio holder queried the restrictions on George Butler Close. Mr Snell responded that the restrictions on George Butler Close were introduced as part of the wider project on Grimsby Road. Mr Snell explained that officers had written to residents in that area who subsequently asked for restrictions to be introduced. Mr Snell stated that

single yellow line timed restrictions were then put in place. The portfolio holder asked why the same could not be done on Grimsby Road on the other side. Mr Snell said that that was something officers could look at. Mr Thorpe said that officers had visited the area, but it was important to look at the parking issues in a wider context. Mr Thorpe explained that if officers come up with a solution for one area, it could lead to a migration effect. The portfolio holder asked whether it would be possible to introduce emergency Traffic Regulation Orders whilst officers considered the wider issues. The portfolio holder queried whether an experimental Traffic Regulation Order could be implemented. Mr Snell stated that he would have to consult with legal officers as he was not sure an experimental Traffic Regulation Order would be appropriate on the end of Grange Avenue as it wouldn't be considered experimental if officers knew what would happen if it was implemented. Mr Thorpe stated that officers would have a report ready for the next meeting outlining recommendations to solve the issues.

The portfolio holder stated that he understood implementing Traffic Regulation Orders was not an overnight process, but the issues needed addressing. Ms Horsley asked whether something could be done in the interim period with the next meeting not being until June. Mr Snell said that emergency Traffic Regulation Orders could only be implemented in certain situations where the likelihood of danger to the public or damage to the highway was high. Ms Horsley asked whether the existing Traffic Regulation Order could be amended. Mr Thorpe stated that the report in June would recommend a solution to solving the issues and the solution, if approved would be implemented following 21 days of consultation. Ms Richardson Smith stated that she understood it might feel like a long time for residents to have to wait until June, but there was a legal process that needed to be followed. The portfolio holder asked that a special meeting be set up if the report was ready prior to the next scheduled meeting in June. Miss Pickerden confirmed that she would organise a special meeting if the report was ready. The portfolio holder stated that he was on the residents side and wanted to see the issues solved.

Mr Ward, one of the petitioners stated that he had been informed by an ambulance worker that they were going to contact the Council as they had also had problems in the area when trying to park outside people's houses in order to take them to the hospital. The portfolio holder asked officers to update him if they receive correspondence from any emergency service workers.

RESOLVED –

1. That the petition be received.
2. That a report outlining recommendations to address the parking issues in Laceby be brought back to a future meeting of this portfolio holder.

There being no further business, the Portfolio Holder closed the meeting at 10.55am.