



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## **SPECIAL PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 11.00 a.m.**

### **Present**

Councillor S Swinburn (in the Chair)

### **Officers in Attendance:**

- Paul Thorpe (Operations Director, Equans)
- Paul Evans (Assistant Director for Infrastructure)
- Hannah Steer (Solicitor)
- Sophie Pickerden (Committee Support Officer)

### **Also in attendance:**

- Councillor Shutt (Heneage Ward Councillor)

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

### **PH.HIT.17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence for this meeting.

### **PH.HIT.18 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.HIT.19      PETITION – REQUESTING THE PROVISION OF A PEGASUS CROSSING**

The Portfolio Holder considered a petition requesting the provision of a Pegasus crossing for horses and riders to be able to access bridleways to and from the Ashby Cum Fenby, crossing the A18 to join the bridleway to Ravendale in both directions.

Ms Brown spoke on behalf of petitioners. She explained that she was a retired British Horse Society Instructor, Riding and Road Safety Officer and Examiner and Bridleways Officer. Ms Brown said that whilst there were many wonderful rights of way in the area, there was one very dangerous black spot where Bridleway 91 from Ashby Cum Fenby crosses over the A18 to Bridleway 138 to Ravendale. Ms Brown stated that the A18 was notoriously dangerous and there had been several close encounters, one of which involved her granddaughter whilst trying to cross on her horse. Ms Brown said that, that close encounter had brought to her attention the poor visibility when trying to negotiate the manoeuvre. She said that when crossing from Ravendale to Ashby Cum Fenby, it was a blind opening, and you could not see down the road in either direction without going to the middle of the road. Ms Brown said that there was a huge hedge and a blind bend in the road and with traffic travelling at 50mph, there was little time to brake effectively. She said that many were travelling much faster. Ms Brown said that in 2022, she began lobbying the Public Rights of Way Mapping Officer in order for something to be done to make the crossing safer. She said that in June 2024, the Traffic Department acknowledged the gravity of the situation and erected Horse Warning Triangles. Ms Brown said that the ideal scenario would be that a Pegasus crossing be erected but the Traffic Department had said that due to the low numbers crossing, it wouldn't be viable. Ms Brown stated that, that led her to start a petition and obtain signatures from horse riders, walkers and cyclists who use the route frequently. She said that she had got 109 signatures on her petition and had only covered half of the local Livery Yards and the odd cyclist and walker that she came across. Ms Brown said that she was sure that more people used the crossing or would do so if it were safer. She said that she hoped a Pegasus Crossing would be considered as it would require the least maintenance or at least a compromise, such as a mirror being put in opposite the opening. Ms Brown said that she had previously suggested a mirror but was told they could not be used on trunk roads due to the lorries. She said that other ideas were for the speed to be reduced to 30mph from the Ashby Hill roundabout to the bend in the road, large markings on the road, slow down signage, hedges cut back to help with visibility and speed cameras. Ms Brown said that whilst she understood that there would be cost implications, safety should take precedent. She said that she had serious concerns that there would be an accident one day as the situation was

getting worse. Ms Brown said that she had a video of her walking with cars going past her very fast.

The portfolio holder said that the issue did need looking at and he was fully supportive of the efforts made by Ms Brown. Mr Thorpe said that officers had, had an initial conversation with Ms Brown and would investigate the issue further. Mr Thorpe suggested that officers bring a report back to a future meeting. Ms Brown said that she would be happy to meet officers near the crossing to provide any more information. Mr Thorpe said that he would look to organise a site visit.

The portfolio holder asked Mr Thorpe when the report would be completed. Mr Thorpe responded that he didn't want to put an exact timescale on that, but officers would commit to doing the investigation as quickly as possible. The portfolio holder said that the authority was a listening authority and would listen to the concerns raised by Ms Brown and respond to them as best as they could.

RESOLVED –

1. That the petition be received.
2. That a report outlining recommendations to address the issues be brought back to a future meeting.

There being no further business, the Portfolio Holder closed the meeting at 11.15am.