
Report to
Cabinet Member (City Services)

20th January 2005

Report of
Director of City Services

Title
Petition : New Footway between 215 and 315 Lentons Lane

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Councillor Mrs Stone submitted a petition, bearing 89 signatures, from residents of Lentons Lane and adjoining streets requesting that a new footway be constructed between 215 and 315 Lentons Lane, including the provision of kerbs. The petition was considered by the Cabinet Member (City Services) at his meeting on 16th September, 2004.
- 1.2 This section of Lentons Lane is in the Henley Ward.
- 1.3 The petition was called in and considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on the 20th October. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee referred the report back to the Cabinet Member for him to reconsider and that he specifically be requested to:
 - i) establish why the Lentons Lane scheme was removed from the early draft of the 2003/04 Highways Maintenance Programme and provide information on how schemes are prioritised.
 - ii) be requested to consider those schemes that were included in the Highways Maintenance Programme for a particular year, but not carried out, as priority schemes when drawing up the programme for the following year; and, in the case of Lentons Lane, to take particular account of the fact that assurances had previously been given but the work had not been carried out.

This report addresses these issues.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-
- 2.2 Note the concerns raised by Members in relation to the programming of work and the completion of work within the informed timescales.
- 2.3 Consider when drawing up the annual programme of work schemes which were not completed the previous year as priority schemes.
- 2.4 Include these works within future Highway Maintenance Programmes.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 During a consultation exercise with local residents in 1991 regarding proposals to construct a new cemetery in Lentons Lane, representations were made regarding the possibility of improving footways adjacent to the site.
- 3.2 In response to these representations, an allocation of £15,000 (as part of the Cemetery development funding) was made to provide a gravel footway adjacent to the fields along Lentons Lane.
- 3.3 Financial constraints at the time prevented the construction of a more substantial footway of the type requested by the petitioners.
- 3.4 Councillor Patton presented a petition in 2001 in relation to resurfacing the road in Lentons Lane.
- 3.5 The draft Highways Maintenance Works programme for 2003/04 included both Lentons Lane and Deedmore Road in the Henley Ward. The final programme only included Deedmore Road and this scheme still has not commenced due to the new school works and drainage associated with this project and the original scheme.

This example, along with the maintenance and budgetary implications associated with Local and Perceived Safety schemes, are reasons why schemes which not only appear on the draft programme but on the final programme are deferred or delayed.

- 3.6 Work which has been completed at Lentons Lane over the previous twelve months include constructing passing places on the footway, levelling and grading the areas and installing reflective marker posts and associated drainage work for the ditch.
- 3.7 Officers have subsequently met with the petition spokesperson - Nobby Bourne, regarding the maintenance issues raised.

4 Proposal and Other Option(s) to be Considered

- 4.1 It is proposed that no adjustment is made to the current Highway Maintenance Programme to accommodate the works requested by the petitioners, unless additional funding is made available. The current estimate for the footway works is £40-£50k.

5 Other specific implications

5.1

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Area Co-ordination		✓
Best Value		✓
Children and Young People		✓
Comparable Benchmark Data		✓
Corporate Parenting		✓
Coventry Community Plan		✓
Crime and Disorder		✓

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Equal Opportunities		✓
Finance	✓	
Health and Safety		✓
Human Resources		✓
Human Rights Act		✓
Impact on Partner Organisations		✓
Information and Communications Technology		✓
Legal Implications	✓	
Property Implications		✓
Race Equality Scheme		✓
Risk Management	✓	
Sustainable Development		✓
Trade Union Consultation		✓
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact		✓

5.2 Finance Implications

As the Highways Maintenance budget has been allocated for 2004/05 and there are no proposals to carry out any additional works at this location, there are no financial implications in the current financial year unless the Cabinet Member (City Services) decides to make an appropriate adjustment.

5.3 Legal Implications

The City Council is obliged to provide footways in those roads it maintains, where to do so is necessary or desirable for the safety or accommodation of pedestrians. The City Council can take into account financial considerations when making that type of decision.

5.4 Risk Management

The implementation of the Highway Maintenance programme will reduce the risk of claims resulting from pavement related trip and damage claims.

6 Timescale and expected outcomes

6.1 As the Lentons Lane Cemetery is one of six in the City, and within the next ten years may be the only cemetery providing new graves, there is a possibility of the road becoming even busier. It is therefore recommended that the footway works be considered in future Highways Maintenance programmes, along with carriageway resurfacing.

This will increase the cost of the work to approximately £250k and the impact this would have on the whole of the Highway Maintenance work would also need to be considered.

As traffic flow increases in the area as Canley and St Paul's cemeteries become less used, we will have to re-evaluate the priority of the work.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Location

None