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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting  
**Date:** 27 March 2012  
**Subject:** Petition Requesting Highway works in the vicinity of Station Road/New Road Sandy  
**Report of:** Basil Jackson  
**Summary:** The report considers the requests made within the petition and offers individual responses to the points raised for consideration.

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**Contact Officer:** Nick Chapman  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** Sandy  
**Function of:** Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

**Council Priorities:**

(How do the recommendations contribute to achieving CBC's policy aims and objectives?)

**Financial:**

None as a result of this report

**Legal:**

None as a result of this report

**Risk Management:**

None as a result of this report

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None as a result of this report

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

None as a result of this report

**Community Safety:**

None as a result of this report

**Sustainability:**

None as a result of this report

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**that the petition be noted and the lead petitioner be informed that further actions are as set out in the report**

**Background**

1. 62 identical letters have been received from residents of Sandy requesting 11 highway related matters in the Station Road/New Road Sandy area. The Council has accepted this as a petition and intends that it be dealt with under it's policy for petitions. A lead petitioner has been identified.
2. The items requested on the petition are shown on a copy of the petition letter at Appendix A.
3. The lead petitioner has been in correspondence with Central Bedfordshire Council over some time in respect of these matters.
4. The matters fall into three general headings and these are
  - Matters relating to the junction of New Road with the A1
  - Matters relating to the construction of two developments one by Tesco and a housing development.
  - Other highway matters
5. There is currently no traffic speed or volume data on file for this road.
6. There has been one slight injury collision in the entire length of New Road/Station Road in the last three years
7. The matters raised on the petition are hereby addressed in the order that they appear:
  - a) Station Rd/High Street. The negotiation of the Station Road/High Street junction by large vehicles has been previously raised as a concern by Sandy members and currently appears in the Local Area Transport Plan for Sandy as an item of priority for Sandy. As such Amey are currently undertaking a study of then junction that will make recommendations for future amendments to make access and egress by larger vehicles easier. The options for this will be presented back to Sandy members and the Town Council shortly for consideration in the near future.
  - b) Pelican Crossing at the Station. This has not been deemed a priority for developer funding by Central Bedfordshire Highways Development Control officers consequent upon the developments and therefore is not included as a requirement of either of the S106 highway agreements. Neither was it proposed as a priority item during the Local Area Transport Plan consultations. There is therefore no current consideration of a crossing at this location.

- c) Upgrading road surfaces. There are no current plans to undertake any structural maintenance works on either New Road or Station Road other than normal reactive maintenance. New Road is scheduled to be surface dressed but not for four years. It is understood that there will be some road works required by Tesco under their Section 278 highways agreement.
- d) Widening the road for HGV's. The existing carriageway is considered to be sufficient to accommodate the traffic that uses it. The wholesale widening of roads is expensive and would have to be prioritised against a whole spectrum of road maintenance and improvements for the whole of Central Bedfordshire. This would require prioritisation by members in a future Local area Transport Plan for Sandy.
- e) New Footways.  
  
Station side. There is currently appears to be insufficient highway land to accommodate this. Once again it was not considered either as a priority for developer funding or for inclusion in the LATP and cannot therefore be considered a high local priority. There is an adequate footway on the opposite side of the road.  
  
Upgrading of existing footways. None planned
- f) Provision of upgraded lighting. None planned
- g) Mini Roundabout, Willow Road. This is something that may possibly be considered necessary as a result of proposed development at the station for access purposes but is not currently planned or likely to be justified from highway funds.
- h) Entrance to Tesco Development. The entrance to the Tesco was considered by the Council's Highways Development Control engineers at the planning stage and it was not considered necessary to require a roundabout to be constructed. This remains the position.
- i) Level junction at A1. This matter has been considered by the Highways Agency who are responsible for the trunk road and has not been considered necessary.
- j) A1 Slip Roads. As above.

## Conclusions

8. It can be noted that some of the matters will be, at least in part, addressed by the highway works associated with the Tesco and Housing developments. These will include some footway improvements, cycleway works and an amount of carriageway works commensurate with the provision of access to the developments.

The remainder of the requests fall broadly into the categories of other highway works and works that affect the A1 trunk road.

9. With the exception of the Station Road/High Street Junction none of the other highway works requested currently appear in the Sandy Local Area Transport Plan. This plan was prepared in consultation with elected members and the Town Council and highlighted those things that were considered the highest priorities for highway expenditure in Sandy. For new or different works to appear as priorities for future funding through this process it will therefore be necessary for those works to be adopted by members as revised priorities or for them to be adopted for a future iteration of the Local Area Transport Plan. The Local Transport Plan funding is currently the only vehicle for undertaking capital highway works and is allocated across the whole administrative area thus the finance available for individual sub areas is limited and schemes that have been submitted as local priorities must be prioritised via a robust framework.
10. Station Road/High Street junction and routing of HGV's in Sandy generally were considered a high priority however and as previously mentioned a feasibility report on possible solutions is currently being prepared and will be presented to members as soon as it is finalised. It is likely that this will suggest some measures at either end of this road although anything affecting the A1 will, of course only be implemented with the approval of the Highways Agency.
11. Works to the A1 junction can only be carried out at by the Highways Agency. From the responses received the Agency does not consider the currently requested works to be necessary.
12. It is therefore considered that the lead petitioner be advised that whilst any or all of the works may offer some potential benefit to the network they have not been considered as high local priorities with the exceptions mentioned. To change this status would require the agreement of both local CBC elected members for Sandy and the Town Council.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – petition letter



**NEW ROAD/STATION ROAD SANDY - INCLUDING JUNCTION WITH THE A1**  
Minimum standard required to suit developments for which full or outline  
planning permission has been granted.

602  
Letters  
Dec'd  
24/1/12

A Burt Esq; J Jamieson Esq; R Carr Esq and D Gingell Esq

Gentlemen

You are, I am sure, fully aware of the unsatisfactory state of this road and  
the adverse effect that the developments proposed off it will have on the  
traffic using it, with particular reference to the junction with the A1. I  
write in support of the following minimum improvements required:

- 1 The junction with the High Street needs improving to cope with  
the volume of traffic and it's safe negotiation by HGVs.
- 2 Installation of a pelican crossing for the safety of pedestrians  
going to the station.
- 3 Upgrading of the road surface currently breaking up including  
improved kerbs and drainage along its full length.
- 4 Widening the road for HGVs to pass each other safely, without  
pulling over, and allow for the installation of a proper cycle lane.
- 5 Installation of a new pavement along the station side of the road  
from the current station artwork to the existing 30 mph sign.  
Upgrading of the existing pavement to include widening and re-  
surfacing so that mobility scooters, prams and so forth can use it  
and pass each other safely. Necessary drops to kerb throughout.
- 6 Provision of upgraded lighting.
- 7 Construction of new mini roundabout at Willow Rise for the  
entrance/exit to the station car park overflow.
- 8 At the entrance to Tesco, construction of a mini roundabout or a  
central lane where traffic from the High Street can wait, safely  
and without obstructing other traffic, to turn right.
- 9 Improve the approach to the A1 including re-alignment for a  
level, not uphill, junction.
- 10 Widen the splay of the junction with the A1 so the slip roads can  
perform their function of allowing HGVs to enter and exit New  
Road/Station Road without affecting other traffic using the road.
- 11 Improvements to be done 'in one' and not piecemeal.

Yours faithfully

Name:

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Address:

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Signature:

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