

# Report

Report to:	<b>Petitions Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>22 November 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Petition Requesting Remedial Works to the Footpaths and Roads on Willow Drive Bardykes Road, Larch Court and Sycamore Drive, Blantyre</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ allow the Petitions Committee to consider a petition lodged by Mary Bennett (Lead Petitioner)

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Petitions Committee is asked to:-

- (1) give due consideration to the petition lodged requesting remedial works to the footpaths and roads on Willow Drive, Bardykes Road, Larch Court and Sycamore Drive, Blantyre.

## 3. Background

3.1. A petition has been lodged with the Council which meets the Guidelines as:-

- ◆ the matter has been raised with the Council prior to submission and relates to issues that affect the community
- ◆ the number of petitioners exceeds the minimum limit of 50

## 4. Petition Details

4.1. The petition requests significant remedial works to be undertaken to improve the footpaths and roads on Willow Drive, Bardykes Road, Larch Court and Sycamore Drive, Blantyre and the statement by the lead petitioner states that:-

"I write on behalf of the residents of this estate who have individually and collectively expressed concern about the condition of the pavements and roads in the area, the main issue being the pavements. A number of residents have contacted the Roads Department outlining the issues but, to date, there has not been a satisfactory outcome.

From the 54 residents who have signed the petition, 47 are over 60 and 15 have impaired mobility. With this in mind, we believe that it is imperative that significant remedial work is carried out to improve the situation.

The conditions are bad in good weather but are absolutely treacherous over the winter period.

Photographs of the condition of some of the pavements are attached as Appendix 1.

## **5. Support for Petition**

5.1. The petition contains 54 names, all from Willow Drive, Bardykes Road, Larch Court and Sycamore Drive, Blantyre.

## **6. Comments from Roads and Transportation Services**

6.1. As further background on the terms of the petition, Roads and Transportation Services have provided the following comments:-

- ◆ The Council operates a maintenance and repair policy in accordance with that recommended by the publication “Well-managed Highway Infrastructure” Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management. As part of this, road safety Inspections are carried out in accordance with the recommended frequencies therein, and repairs carried out are aimed at keeping the network in a safe and serviceable condition until more significant resurfacing or reconstruction works can be undertaken.
- ◆ The establishment of an effective regime of safety inspections is a crucial component of road maintenance and seeks to apply best practice in terms of risk management and fiscal accountability. Our procedure aims to provide a consistent and methodical approach for the management of the road and footway network that focuses on delivering a programme of permanent repairs to improve the condition and safety of the network.
- ◆ I can advise you that improving the road and footway network is one of the Council’s priorities and as a result significant capital investment has been targeted towards our roads investment programme. This investment has been sustained over recent years to ensure that we are funding at steady state levels to maintain the condition of our road network.
- ◆ In terms of our decision making process, I can advise you that roads and footways are resurfaced only if they meet the assessment criteria which is based upon several factors, which collectively contribute towards an overall score to enable us to prioritise our resources. It should be noted that this is carried out on a council wide basis to ensure that our funds are targeted at those roads and footways that are in most need of repair.
- ◆ For roads the system takes account of road condition and maintenance category to allow the service to create a Council wide scheme priority list. Those schemes with the highest score (maximum 100 points) will be delivered on a priority basis subject to available funding. Any schemes that fall out with our available budget for that particular financial year will be rolled over into the following years programme subject to available funding. It must be noted that the scoring system takes account of risk to ensure that the most strategic routes receive higher priority.
- ◆ The tables below provide details of our scoring system as well as explanation of score allocation.

◆ **ROAD MAINTENANCE CATEGORY GUIDANCE**

Road Type 1 (strategic carriageway)	30 points
Road Type 2 (district distributor)	24 points
Road Type 3 (local distributor) -	18 points
Road Type 4 (Housing / Low Volume)	12 points

◆ **CONDITION RANKING GUIDANCE**

<u>Points</u>	<u>Description</u>
60-70	Road condition represents a significant danger to road users. Significant and substantial deterioration is evident and continuing and road condition is such that temporary repairs will not hold.
50-60	Road condition is generally very poor. Significant safety defects are recurring frequently and the rapid emergence of such defects present significant road safety risks.
40-50	Road condition is generally poor. Deterioration is widespread but while safety defects are occurring they are being repaired and road safety is generally manageable at present.
30-40	Overall condition is considered to be fair to moderately poor. Permanent patching and perhaps a preventative maintenance treatment may be a viable option.
20-30	Overall condition is considered to be fair.
10-20	Overall condition is considered to be very good.
0-10	Overall condition is almost pristine.

- ◆ The assessment criteria for footways are as follows:-

<u>Footway/Footpath Scoring System</u>				
	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Max Score</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Score</u>
1	Condition	10	5	50
2	Importance/Accessibility	5	2	10
3	Claims/Defect Reports	10	2	20
4	Assistance to Other Priorities	10	2	20
Maximum Total				100

- ◆ The locations referred to were inspected on 27 August 2021 and while no safety defects were present that required immediate repair, the footway was showing signs of natural wear and tear deterioration.
- ◆ Arrangements have been made for these roads and footways to be “scored” for potential inclusion in a future resurfacing programme. However, no firm commitments can be given as to when this would be likely to happen as it is “scored” and considered against other competing priorities.

- ◆ Any footway resurfacing works will be dependent on other priorities and funding allocated to the service in future years.
- ◆ In the meantime, the roads and footways will continue to be monitored as part of the scheduled inspection regime and any further safety defects will be identified and instructed for repair. Willow Drive, Larch Grove and Sycamore Grove are on a driven yearly inspection route and Bardkyes Road is on a monthly driven inspection route.
- ◆ The Service requires to adopt a strict assessment process to ensure that funding is allocated to those roads and footways based on our scoring system and the professional engineering judgment of our team.

## **7. Options open to the Committee**

7.1. In terms of the approved guidance, the Petitions Committee can:-

- ◆ agree that the issues raised deserve further action and agree to refer the petition to another Council Committee, officer or other organisation with recommendations
- ◆ agree that the issue raised does not merit further action
- ◆ refer back to the Resource with recommendations for further action

## **8. Employee Implications**

8.1 There are no employee implications as a result of this report.

## **9. Financial Implications**

9.1. There are no financial implications at this time.

## **10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

10.1 There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

## **11. Other Implications**

11.1 There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained in this report.

## **12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

12.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

12.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in the report.

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

29 October 2021

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

## **Previous References**

- ◆ None

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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