

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 13 November 2024

AGENDA ITEM 7 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

1	<p>Question from Angela Nicholls to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed (Referred to Councillor Crook)</p> <p>“When will the Council work with local residents to improve the safety of pedestrians, road users, and horse riders on Wyke Lane which has 3 access points on to Spen Valley Greenway and is a rat run to avoid Chain Bar? A 20 mph speed limit is needed.”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>Wyke Lane is a semi-rural route, partly within Kirklees and partly within Bradford Councils administrative area. It has a concentration of residential properties at either end, with additional residential, farming and industrial premises in between. It is subject to a 30mph restriction, and a 7.5T weight restriction.</p> <p>The road is relatively narrow, at an average 5.5m wide, with narrow footways to one or both sides of the road at various points along its length. On street parking occurs periodically, particularly where there are residential properties.</p> <p>Whilst we absolutely recognise the importance of all road users feeling safe, there have been no reported injury collision’s on Wyke Lane in the previous 10 years, suggesting that all road users are travelling along this route in relative safety.</p> <p>Currently the limited funding available to Highways Safety is prioritised to those locations where there is an evidenced high risk of personal injury collisions occurring. This requires that the focus has to be on those areas where collisions have occurred in the past, with the aim of preventing further incidents in the future.</p> <p>As a result, Wyke Lane is not currently a priority for investigation or action for engineering measures, including the implementation of 20mph limits. Unfortunately, officers will currently be unable to engage with local residents to improve the perception of safety on this route.</p>
2	<p>Question from Angela Nicholls to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways – Councillor Ahmed (Referred to Councillor Crook)</p> <p>“Will the Council review the wording and poor positioning of the road signs at the entrance to Wyke Lane from Bradford Road to include length restriction as 16.5 metre articulated vehicles cannot negotiate a heritage site without damage to the site or neighbouring properties? This will necessitate liaison with Bradford Council for similar from the Wyke end of the lane.”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p>

	<p>Wyke Lane is a semi-rural route, partly within Kirklees and partly within Bradford Councils administrative area.</p> <p>This route has an existing 7.5T weight restriction along it, and vehicles of this weight are, on average 6m – 9m in length, no vehicle longer than that should be attempting to travel this route, except for those vehicles that require access to the farm and industrial premises along it.</p> <p>The council does not have the powers to prevent access to those properties / businesses along this route that require vehicles larger than 7.5T to operate.</p> <p>The signs to inform of and support prosecution of the weight restriction, are those that are legally required. They are positioned and orientated to be visible to vehicles entering Wyke Lane and Cross Street, from their junctions with Bradford Road, Oakenshaw. There are also advanced signs on Wyke Lane, at its junction with Westfield Lane in Bradford.</p> <p>Wyke Lane, junction with Bradford Rd is a wide bell mouth junction and signs are situated on both sides of Wyke Lane and orientated so as to ensure drivers travelling in either direction can see them. The junction with Cross Street is a much smaller junction, with the signage to one side only.</p> <p>There are no advance warning signs indicating the restrictions on Bradford Rd.</p> <p>When resources permit, Officers will review the current position of all the legally required signs, and assess if improvements can be made, within the constraints of the existing highway geometry, to improve the visibility of the signs at these locations.</p>
3	<p>Question from Christopher Ellis to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration - Councillor Turner</p> <p>“How was the cut to the Libraries budget of 912K calculated and agreed at Cabinet, whilst maintaining a comprehensive and efficient library service?”</p> <p><i>Cabinet Member Response</i></p> <p>As part of the budget setting for 24/25 budget savings had to be found across all services and the library service had to provide its share of savings if the council was to deliver a balanced budget</p> <p>The library savings for 2025/26 of £912K were identified through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A desktop analysis of potential reductions in service, staffing, and management costs we anticipate can be achieved whilst still delivering a comprehensive and efficient library service. • Informed by professional insight and extensive experience of delivering the library service across Kirklees • Understanding of accompanying community need. <p>The £912K savings calculation was then used to inform the feasibility of models presented to cabinet who agreed for consultation to commence following approval in September this year.</p>

	It will still leave us with a network of 24 branches at a time when many Councils have substantially fewer branches and are looking to make further closures.
--	---