

Below are the answers received on 8th June 2022 from Staffordshire County Council in response to URPC Extraordinary Meeting that took place on 14.10.2021.

The below responses from Staffordshire County Council relate to the Agenda item E21.10.004
To view the full agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting please visit the Parish Council website <https://utttoxeterruralparishcouncil.org.uk/parish-council/meetings> or see the end of this document, which provides a copy of the Agenda.

E21.10.004 - BENNETTS LANE, BRAMSHALL – CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE AND APPROVE REQUESTS

a) Consider a request that the speed limit of 30mph to be extended from the junction of the Stafford Road and cover the whole of Loxley Lane and Bennetts Lane.

Councillors voted unanimously for Clerk to contact Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to make the request for the 30mph limit be extended from approx. 160yds below the junction with Stone Road, for the remainder of Bennetts Lane and to continue along the length of Loxley Lane, as far as the junction with Stafford Road (A518). RESOLVED
Council requested that SCC cover the cost.

Answer: In order to deliver an effective service, Staffordshire Highways must ensure that limited resources are used robustly so that the highway network is maintained to suitable and safe standards and is fit for modern day traffic needs.

Every year the County Council receives huge numbers of correspondence requesting improvements to the highway infrastructure. With the aim to implement as many improvements as possible, each traffic management issue and concern raised with Staffordshire Highways will be prioritised and subsequently assessed for inclusion in the local Divisional Highway Programme.

The issue that you have raised will be prioritised by community representatives, led by your locally elected **County Councillor Atkins**. This review of highway and transportation issues in your area will be conducted on a bi-annual basis in order to establish an agreed work programme which will be widely publicised within the local community.

For further information please refer to our website at:-
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways

b) Consider a request for a review of possible traffic calming measures to slow the traffic down in both directions.

Councillors voted unanimously for Clerk to contact Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to make the request. RESOLVED

Answer: A review of the area was carried out when the Bramshall Chicane was installed. However, as stated above, this will be brought to Councillor Atkins attention and if deemed necessary, a traffic count or feasibility study will be put against the DHP funding.

c) Consider a request re: a suitable Speed Watch location in order Community Speed Watch

can be carried out.

Councillors voted unanimously for Clerk to contact Speed Watch Co-ordinator, Stafford to make the request. RESOLVED

Answer: This request will need to be brought to the attention of the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator at Staffordshire Police. You can contact the person in question on michelle.shaker@staffordshire.police.uk. You may wish to consider the advice and guidance available on the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership website at www.staffssaferrroads.co.uk which aims to provide support to tackle anti-social driving in our communities if you have further concerns.

d) Consider a request to review of the weight limit on the bridge and railway crossing and how to enforce.

Councillors discussed current weight limit and voted unanimously for Clerk to contact Staffordshire County Council to request a review for limit. Councillors discussed enforcement and voted unanimously for Clerk to contact Staffordshire County Council and Police regarding how to enforce current weight limit. RESOLVED.

Answer: The current weight limit is appropriate for the railway crossing. SCC and National Rail work closely together to ensure all rail/road intersections comply to the correct standards. Staffordshire County Council acknowledges that residents in some parts of Staffordshire are concerned about heavy commercial vehicle (HCV) movements through the places where they live. Whilst a traffic regulation order such as vehicular weight restriction can help reduce numbers of HCVs, any weight restriction that we implement would always have to be 'except for access'.

The enforcement of vehicular weight restrictions is a resource-intensive operation that has to be undertaken by police. They have powers available to them to stop drivers and question them regarding the purpose of their journey and their destination.

e) Consider a request for a survey of Bennetts Lane regarding adequate passing places along the length of Bennetts Lane.

Councillors voted unanimously for Clerk to contact Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to make the request for a survey of the lane regarding passing places. RESOLVED

Answer: The lane is bordered by hedging and has raised curbing installed along one side. Currently the lane has no suitable area for a passing place.

The Community Highways Engagement Officer will review the area and provide a response and any possible solutions.

f) Consider a request for a survey to consider 2 or 3 Chicanes as effective management of speed and to increase safety.

Councillors voted unanimously for Clerk to contact Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to make the request for a feasibility study for chicanes on the lane. RESOLVED

Answer: The issue that you have raised will be prioritised by community representatives, led by your locally elected **County Councillor Atkins**. This would require a feasibility study put

against the cost of the DHP funding.

g) Consider a request for a survey of Bennetts Lane with respect to installation of a footpath or cycle lane.

Councillors voted unanimously for Clerk to contact Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to make the request for a footpath or cycle lane on Bennetts Lane. RESOLVED

Answer: The issue that you have raised again, will be prioritised by community representatives, led by your locally elected **County Councillor Atkins**. Again, this would require a feasibility study and the funding would need to be put against the DHP funding.

Further information provided by Staffordshire County Council

Each county councillor is allocated approximately £7,000 (correct in 2022/23) per annum from the Integrated Transport budget to deliver these locally important issues. Delivery may include the construction/implementation of small engineering works or feasibility studies into potential solutions to the concerns raised.

The Member led **Divisional Highway Programmes (DHP)** are regularly reviewed and updated and the Local Community Highway Liaison teams are dedicated to supporting local Members and their communities in identifying, prioritising and commissioning the delivery of improvements to their local built environment.

Members and officers also work closely with parish councils and other local bodies, to make sure that local concerns are identified that could potentially be actioned through DHP funding.

County Councillor Atkins has allocated the DHP budget for 2022/23, so any areas identified will be presented and put forward for allocation of the budget year of 2023/24.

END OF STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Copy of Agenda:

AGENDA

E21.10.001 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

E21.10.002 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

E21.10.003 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

E21.10.004 BENNETTS LANE, BRAMSHALL – CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE AND APPROVE REQUESTS

The Council will consider correspondence from residents of Bramshall regarding Bennetts Lane and approve any requests to be made by the Parish Council to Staffordshire County Council for the following improvements:

a) Consider a request that the speed limit of 30mph to be extended from the junction of the Stafford Road and cover the whole of Loxley Lane and Bennetts Lane.

b) Consider a request for a review of possible traffic calming measures to slow the traffic down in both directions.

- c) Consider a request re: a suitable Speed Watch location in order Community Speed Watch can be carried out.
- d) Consider a request to review of the weight limit on the bridge and railway crossing and how to enforce.
- e) Consider a request for a survey of Bennetts Lane regarding adequate passing places along the length of Bennetts Lane.
- f) Consider a request for a survey to consider 2 or 3 Chicanes as effective management of speed and to increase safety.
- g) Consider a request for a survey of Bennetts Lane with respect to installation of a footpath or cycle lane.

E21.10.005 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION*