

# Petitions Panel

**Dorset County Council**



Date of Meeting	Friday 13 October 2017
Officer	Andrew Martin – Head of Highways.
Subject of Report	<b>Procedure for Petitions – Petition requesting double yellow lines along Milldown Road, Blandford to stop the unsafe, dangerous parking as a matter of urgency.</b>
Executive Summary	A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council's published petitions scheme) in relation to requesting double yellow lines along Milldown Road, Blandford to stop the unsafe, dangerous parking as a matter of urgency.
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: Not applicable
	Use of Evidence: Latest available five years worth of road traffic collision data (June 2012 to May 2017)
	Budget: The cost of introducing a Traffic Regulation Order covering double yellow lines would likely to be between £2500 and £3500 – costs are for context only and do not represent actual costs, they include officer time and costs of the lining as well as costs associated with the legal process.
	Risk Assessment: Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW
Other Implications: None	

## Procedure for Petitions – Petition entitled Parking on Milldown Road, Blandford

Recommendation	The Panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.
Reason for Recommendation	In order to comply with the County Council's published scheme for responding to petitions and so as to enable local people to connect with local elected decision makers.
Appendices	Appendix A – Location Plan Appendix B - Petition
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme
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## **1. Background to the Petition Scheme**

1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010. The Scheme was subsequently updated by the County Council on 21 July 2016.

1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be dealt with by a small customer focussed panel. If a petition is supported by 1,000 or more signatories it will be scheduled for a debate at the next meeting of the full County Council.

## **2. Petition – Parking on Milldown Road, Blandford**

2.1 The County Council received a petition organised by Mr Mark Bellman. This reads as follows:

*“The residents of Milldown Road, Blandford are becoming increasingly concerned about parking of cars between Jubilee Way and the gates to Milldown Primary School.*

*It is extremely dangerous for a number of residents to exit their driveways on to the road safely. Parking near to the pinch points makes it extremely difficult to see what is coming and when it is safe to go. There are accidents just waiting to happen”.*

2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Panel are invited to note and discuss this.

2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include one or more of the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's audit and governance committee
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition.

2.4 Alternatively, the Panel may determine a combination of the options above, or decide on another course of action as appropriate.

## **3. Context**

3.1 Milldown Road is a residential road with a speed limit of 30 mph which is by virtue of street lighting and has various traffic calming measures. There is a hospital close by and two schools. Parked cars on Milldown

Road act as a natural traffic calming measure to keep vehicle speeds lower but if parking restrictions were to be introduced it could lead to an increase in the speed of traffic.

3.2 Collision data available to the County Council is provided and validated by Dorset Police. It includes collisions that occurred on public highway reported to the police that resulted in personal injury to any person(s) involved.

It is accepted that this data is not the complete picture of collisions that have occurred however, it is the most robust and reliable data available to the County Council.

It is standard practice to assess the most recent five year period of collisions when considering/identify safety schemes.

Between June 2012 and May 2017 there have been 2 injury collisions recorded at the junction of Milldown Road and Jubilee Way. One was a rear end shunt collision in Jubilee Way and the other was a vehicle pulling out of Jubilee Way on to Milldown Road failing to look properly.

Blandford Town Council have asked for a review of parking restrictions in Milldown Road but it is important to consider that this parking restriction request is one of close to two hundred other requests for a new Traffic Regulation Order across the county and is unlikely to rank highly against other requests.

**Mike Harries**  
**Director for Environment and Economy**  
**October 2017**