

**North Yorkshire County Council**  
**Skipton and Ripon Constituency Committee – 16 December 2021**  
**Sutton Lane, Petition for Footway and Road Safety Measures**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make the Committee aware of a petition submitted to the County Council requesting the installation of a footway and road safety measures on Sutton Lane, between Sutton in Craven and Eastburn.
- 1.2 It is also to advise the Committee of the process for dealing with the petition and of partnership working with Bradford Metropolitan District Council to prepare and deliver a road safety scheme for Sutton Lane.

**2.0 Update**

- 2.1 Sutton Lane is a cross boundary route linking the villages of Sutton in Craven in North Yorkshire (NYCC) and Eastburn in the Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) authority area. Footways extend for short distances only from the respective villages, leaving a central section of approximately 400m without footway or verge and has walls abutting the carriageway.
- 2.2 Tragically, in September this year a child was killed when walking along Sutton Lane and was struck by a vehicle. In response to this tragic event and on-going community concerns about pedestrian safety, a petition has been raised calling for a footway and other road safety measures to be installed. The petition has been submitted to both NYCC and BMDC.
- 2.3 The petition comprises of 745 signatures collected online and on paper. The NYCC petition scheme applies a minimum threshold of 500 signatures of persons who live, work or study in North Yorkshire, for it to be considered formally at the next available Area Constituency Committee. On review, the majority of signatories live outside the county, most being in Keighley or there is no address to determine residency. Based on what has been submitted, there is no way to ascertain whether the 332 with non-North Yorkshire addresses (not including those signed without address or provided in part only) work or study in the county.
- 2.4 Nevertheless, it is important for the County Council to publically demonstrate its commitment to addressing community concerns given this tragic incident, and hence the reason this briefing note is being presented. It should also be noted that regardless of process in dealing with the petition, the same course of practical action is being taken.

- 2.5 County Council Traffic and Road Safety Engineers have attended meetings in October and November with BMDC engineering colleagues along with Elected Members from NYCC, BMDC, Craven District Council, Parish Councils and North Yorkshire Police, to discuss community concerns and potential engineering options.
- 2.6 County Council and BMDC engineers are working together to develop a comprehensive and whole route proposal. Whilst the petition and local demand is for the construction of a footway, that requires the purchase or release of privately owned land. Previous attempts to acquire the land for this purpose have been made however, unsuccessfully. Notwithstanding the land requirements, there are also engineering challenges due to significant level differences between the carriageway and adjoining fields that also flood during periods of heavy rain.
- 2.7 Nevertheless, it is important to make progress and it remains for both authorities to work quickly to deliver a road safety scheme within the existing highway extents to achieve road safety improvements at the earliest opportunity. As this work progresses, renewed efforts to engage with land owners and understand the respective engineering challenges and cost will continue in parallel. It is proposed that officers bring a further update report to the Area Constituency Committee once a scheme has been developed.

### **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Committee acknowledges the receipt of the petition and that a further update report will be provided once a scheme has been developed.
- 3.2 NYCC in partnership with BMDC continues to develop road safety scheme proposals for Sutton Lane.

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Background Documents: County Council Petitions Scheme - [Petitions information and advice | North Yorkshire County Council](#)