

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2004 AT 10.30 AM**

Agenda Item No:

**12**

**ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS PRESENTED TO FULL COUNCIL  
SINCE FEBRUARY 2003**

*Report of the County Secretary*

Report Author: Ron Coxall (Tel: 01992 555540)

The following report explains what action has been taken following the presentation of petitions to full Council since February 2003:-

**20 May 2003 - Mr Alec McInnes - Road Safety in Lt Ellis Way, Cheshunt**

Meeting held with Hertfordshire County Council and Broxbourne Borough Council Members on 23 July 2003 to discuss the issues raised by petition. 2003/04 Integrated Works Programme includes road safety improvements and negotiations with new school to fund more works ongoing.

**20 May 2003 - Mrs Carol Large - Bus Route 383 Potters Bar to Barnet**

This petition was signed off at Cases Briefing on 21 July 2003. Currently Sullivan run a commercial route 383 between Barnet Hill Police Station and Woodside.

**20 May 2003 - Mrs Sally Yates - Secondary School places in Redbourn**

Director wrote to the parent who presented the petition on 18 June 2003 explaining that although some pupils from Redbourn area did not obtain a school as initial allocation many would do so before the start of the school year in September. The Council negotiated an additional form of entry at Sir John Laws School which alleviated the position for Redbourn by freeing up places at Roundwood Park.

**15 July 2003 - Mrs Doreen Coburn - Requesting the County Council to maintain part of Mountfield Lane, Hemel Hempstead**

It was agreed by the Joint Member Panel on 20 October 2003 that further information should be sought as to the ownership of the road and any residual responsibilities of the owner and/or English Partnership.

**15 July 2003 - Mrs Karen Conlon - Requesting traffic calming measures in Cattsdell, Hemel Hempstead**

It was agreed by the Joint Member Panel on 20 October 2003 that a traffic count would be carried out near the school entrance. This would establish whether or not the criteria for a controlled crossing or a school crossing patrol were met. The figures would be used to update the Traffic & Environmental Ranking for Cattsdell itself.

**15 July 2003 - Mr David Babb - Opposing the closure of Leavesden Green JMI**

The petition was presented as part of the consultation process on the future of Leavesden Green and Alban Wood Infant and Junior Schools. The consultation was not reported to Schools' Resources Panel and Cabinet because the Director of Children, Schools and Families decided to go out to fresh consultation on a new set of options. This second consultation process was reported to Panel on 14 January and will have been considered by Cabinet on 26 January.

**16 Sept 2003 - Marion Baker - GM Crops**

The petition asked the County Council to request the Secretary of State for Agriculture and the EC to provide legal protection for Hertfordshire from specific GM crops, in line with Article 19 of 2001/18/EC; ensure that no GM crops are grown on Hertfordshire County Council land; and adopt a GM-free policy for all HCC goods and services. The Executive Member for Environment wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs asking for clarification on the application of the provisions of Article 19 to Hertfordshire on 29 September 2003 and received a reply on 27 October 2003. The Executive Member responded to Marion Baker on 7 November 2003 and repeated the Government's advice that Article 19 does not allow for the prohibition of GM crops. As part of the Council's commitment to reviewing progress on the GM debate, it is intended that under the auspices of the Environment Scrutiny Committee a public hearing should be held during March 2004 to review the issues and give an opportunity for the expression of local concerns and support with regard to GM crops.

**25 Nov 2003 - Mr Roy Oakley - Effect of the Home to School transport policy on Watton-at-Stone**

Director wrote to Mr Roy Oakley and Mrs Sarah Davies on 19 December 2003 explaining that there had been widespread consultation before the change in policy; that there was general support for the change; that the law was being followed and that after some time savings would be made. He also listed the transport options for pupils living in Watton-at-Stone who wished to attend school in Hertford or Ware.

(The Environment Department maintains a schedule of all petitions relevant to its services and these are regularly reviewed by members at the Concerns meeting attended by the Chairman of the Development Control Committee and Group Spokesmen, until such time as the issue is signed off.)