

Cllr Dermot Bambridge WNC Report to Silverstone Parish Council
9th September 2024

Double Yellow Lines on High Street

You are aware of the social media events related to the double yellow lines that were proposed by residents to be put on the High Street opposite the lane leading to the former Infants School site. These were due to be put down but have been delayed and the following is the reason for this.

On Tuesday, Robert James, WNC Highways Network Manager, wrote to me saying, "I was made aware by the Kier team a few days ago about this issue, but I have not received any details from them such as the petition etc. I understand from the conversation that the process for consultation etc. has been carried out and that no objections were received within the 21-day window. The issue we have is that there was an objection sent in before we had even been made aware of the request coming from the developer. Kier should have taken that into account and contacted them directly once the proposals were out for public consultation to ensure they had all the details and then decide if they wished to formally oppose it. I told Kier that I would get a legal view before moving forward as we may need to re-consult. I am waiting on the response back. As soon as I have anything I will be back in touch."

I will let you know when I know more.

Allotments

I wrote to Bovis on 8th August to ask what was happening about the allotments as they were supposed to be handed over in December or January. Clearly the dreadful weather has been a factor but absolutely nothing has happened. I wrote again today asking for an immediate response that I can bring to the PC meeting on Monday.

Bus service cuts

You will by now know that the X91 bus service to Milton Keynes had been changed to now start at Towcester and take in Deanshanger as well as Potterspurty.

My issues - which I have requested clarification on - are as follows –

1. Why has there been no communication with the local councils on cancelling the X91 route from Silverstone?
2. Why was there no public consultation?
3. I have been informed that a company called Zeelo runs a service from the circuit to Buckingham and Milton Keynes but have seen no information on it. I have been told that this is the result of an S106 agreement and therefore came under WNC and have requested more on how the services operate – e.g. routes, timings, use of bus passes, etc?
4. I have asked why some bus stops in Silverstone are no longer in use yet they are still physically there?
5. I want to know how a proposed bus link between a Northampton bound bus from Silverstone and the X91 from Towcester will and the timings.
6. You say that communications can be improved. That means improving something that does not exist – we must have clear communications please?

The local bus services serving Silverstone used to start in Brackley (and I think before this in Banbury or Bicester) with stops at villages including Syresham, Silverstone, Whittlebury and Towcester then on to Northampton or Milton Keynes. As larger housing developments were built, S106 agreements were undertaken, diverting the routes with extra stops, as each extended the route/timing villages were denied the service. This was so that one driver could run the route within his legal driving hours. No efforts seem to have been made to make these routes workable through having a hub at Towcester or employing extra drivers.

All the confusion that the changes mentioned have resulted in, have led to a total lack of confidence and trust in Stagecoach and residents and workers having to find alternatives at extra cost to their pockets and to the environment. Worse still, there have been several cases of Silverstone people having to find new employment when routes have been cut or amended and local employers losing good staff.

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Planning

The DHL application goes to Strategic Planning Committee on Tues 10th Sept at the Forum in Towcester at 2.00pm. The agenda is on the website. The recommendation is for approval, which is a huge disappointment to many residents and I am sure there will be a very heated debate on the day. This application is the only one listed for that meeting.

Anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to arrive from 1.30pm to ensure the meeting commences at 2pm. However as there may not be sufficient room for all wishing to attend, as the room capacity is limited to 120, the meeting will be live streamed on WNC's YouTube. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyc2cNcl19OvcGOCuZDTBQ>

If anyone wishes to speak at the meeting about the DHL application (application number WNS/2021/1819/EIA), they can register from Monday 3 September up to 12pm on Monday 9 September by emailing democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk or calling 07871 732320.

Consultation

Help shape the approach to tackling climate change in West Northants

West Northamptonshire Council wants hear residents' views to develop a climate change strategy for the area.

The strategy will detail the actions WNC will take to reduce locally produced greenhouse gas emissions and become better prepared for climate change.

The Council has already set the target of achieving Net Zero across West Northants by 2045, five years ahead of the Government's target.

Have your say by midnight on Sunday, 29 September by visiting WNC's consultation hub.

Responses from this engagement will be used to inform the development of the final strategy and there will be an opportunity to feedback on this when it is produced later this year. It will then be presented to Council in 2025.

Have your say on plans to manage and enhance trees and woodland in West Northants

Residents are being asked to share their views on a strategy that sets out a vision for the future 'treescape' of West Northamptonshire.

WNC is in the final stages of developing the tree and woods strategy that will help to manage trees across the area more effectively for the next twenty years.

The Council recognises that well planted, managed and enhanced tree and woodland cover can deliver vital environmental, social and economic benefits now and into the future.

This consultation follows initial work carried out by the Council's Scrutiny Committee, as well as the results of a consultation that took place over winter 2023/24. This background ensures that local issues and priorities that were highlighted are at the heart of the strategy.

The consultation closes on Sunday 13th October and the final strategy will be published early 2025, supported by an action plan that will be reviewed every five years.

Dermot Bambridge 4th September 2024