

# Cavendish Way Accident Update

## Background

On 14 September 2022 Cavendish Way was blocked by an accident causing access issues for local residents, the impact of having one road into/out of Cavendish Estate. On the day of the accident a public footpath alongside Clipstone Cemetery from Highfield Road through to the Cavendish Estate was used by members of the public in their cars, in both directions, while others were walking on the footpath. This caused congestion and unsafe conditions for pedestrian and drivers alike. It is anecdotal that members of the public had been advised to use the route by the Police.

## Parish Council meeting

The accident was discussed during the Parish council meeting of 28 September 2022. It was RESOLVED that:

- a) Correspondence should be sent to expressing concerns about members of the public's use of the emergency vehicle access route. Whether there is a safety requirement for additional signage to denote that the footpath will become an emergency vehicle access route. Given housing growth why is there only one road into/out of the Cavendish Estate. Nottinghamshire County Council
- b) Correspondence should be sent to the local Policing team, seeking clarity on the use of the emergency vehicle access route. Should authorisation for members of the public to use when there is an ongoing emergency, then an assurance needs to be sought that the Police will provide a presence to direct safe passage for pedestrians and traffic in the vicinity of the emergency vehicle access route.
- c) To take up the outstanding designated footpath though the allotments running parallel with the Cavendish Estate.

## Responses

The Clerk contacted Nottinghamshire Police, the cabinet member for Transport and Environment at Nottinghamshire County Council and spoke with County Councillor Scott Carlton in respect of the designated footpath at the allotments. The following responses were received:

### Nottinghamshire Police

Regarding the car accident on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, it was unfortunate that the accident was at the entrance to the Cavendish Estate. I have asked the attending

officers if they advised any drivers to use this footpath. I can confirm that none of the attending officers told the residents to use the footpath as a cut through. They were made aware that some drivers had used the footpath, but due to dealing the accident, they were unable to Police it.

#### VIA on behalf of Councillor Neil Clarke, Nottinghamshire County Council

I hope you are well, Councillor Clarke has asked that I look into this for you. I am sorry to hear of the incident on September 13<sup>th</sup> and the use of the emergency access by vehicles. Sometimes on such occasions drivers can take actions that can adversely affect other road users which is certainly regrettable.

With regard to the Estate layout the initial development application came in 1999. Unfortunately, given the length of time which has passed, there are limited records available both at Nottinghamshire county Council and Newark & Sherwood District. They have confirmed that the footpath off Portland Way onto Highfield Road was intended to provide emergency access (supported by it measuring 3.7 m wide). The single point of access was historically accepted on the basis of an overwide road, Cavendish Way is 7.3m with 3m footways with the intention of vehicles being able to pass obstructions, either on the wide carriageway or footways in an emergency.

It would be difficult due to physical constraints to upgrade the infrastructure at this point but certainly should further development be proposed where a feasible second access point can be included these issues will help support another access and defend against further development without one.

### Recommendation

Council is asked to consider how it wishes to proceed. If the Council wishes to pursue, it should bear in mind that it can only lobby for change. Therefore, the question is whether this is a productive use of the Clerk's time when the Council has other priorities and perhaps should consider whether two Councillors could be delegated to take on this task, keeping the Clerk updated.