

## TOWNSEND WAY, NORTHWOOD – PETITION REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

Cabinet Member	Cllr Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio	Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Report Author	Hayley Thomas, Planning, Environment, Education & Community Services
Papers with report	Appendix A

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been submitted from residents requesting traffic calming measures be introduced in Townsend Way, Northwood.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's strategy for road safety.
Financial Cost	There is none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Northwood & Northwood Hills

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:-

1. Meets and discusses with the petitioners their concerns in detail and explores potential options to address the issues that would be acceptable to local residents.
2. Subject to above asks officers to conduct further investigations into possible traffic calming measures under the Road Safety Programme.
3. Asks officers to undertake traffic surveys to establish the volumes and speeds of traffic in Townsend Way.
4. Asks officers to liaise with the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

### INFORMATION

#### PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cabinet Member meeting with petitioners – 12 October 2011

## **Reasons for recommendation**

Traffic calming measures are largely successful if they are acceptable to local residents and businesses. These can be identified with petitioners for further detailed investigation by officers within the Road Safety Programme.

## **Alternative options considered**

These will be discussed with petitioners.

## **Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)**

None at this stage

## **Supporting Information**

1. The Council has received a petition containing 20 signatures from residents requesting traffic calming measures in Townsend Way, Northwood. The signatures collected represent 37% of the households in Townsend Way.
2. Townsend Way runs parallel to Emmanuel Road, Northwood and has a junction at its northwestern end with High Street, Northwood and at its southeastern end with Emmanuel Road. The road is in close proximity to the parade of shops located on High Street. Hillside Infant & Junior School and Emmanuel Church are also a short walk away. The location of Townsend Way is indicated on Appendix A.
3. A total of 2 Police recorded accidents have occurred on Townsend Way in the three years to December 2010. The first was a shunt type accident and the second involved a pedestrian crossing close to the junction with High Street.
4. The Council has not previously received any requests from residents for traffic calming measures in Townsend Way and the petitioners have not indicated their specific concerns or suggested any measures which they would like to see implemented. It is therefore suggested that the Cabinet Member discusses with the petitioners their specific concerns with regard to road safety and determines with them acceptable options that officers could investigate in detail as part of the Road Safety Programme. Whatever measures can be developed would require the support of local residents who would be most affected.
5. Subject to the evidence heard at the petition hearing meeting, the Cabinet Member may wish to have an independent 24 hour full week speed and volume survey in Townsend Way as part of the Road Safety Programme.
6. The Cabinet Member will also be aware that officers are in regular communication with counterparts within the Police 'Safer Neighbourhoods Team' (SNT) who are able to investigate issues of community concern and share their findings with the Council. This will be shared with the Northwood Hills SNT and their input will be further sought in the development of any measure.

## **PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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## **Financial Implications**

There are none associated with recommendations in this report. However, if the Cabinet Member approves the inclusion of the request in the Council's Road Safety Programme a subsequent bid would be required. At this stage the estimated cost for these measures is unknown and will only be determined following investigation and consultation with residents.

## **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

### **What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

To allow the Cabinet Member to consider the petitioners request and possible options to address their concerns.

### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

Consultation with local residents would be carried out if suitable traffic measures could be identified to address the petitioners concerns

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Legal**

There are no special legal implications for the proposal, which amounts to an informal consultation. A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise, especially where consideration of the policy, factual and engineering issues are still at a formative stage. Fairness and natural justice requires that there must be no predetermination of a decision in advance of any wider non-statutory consultation.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered.

In considering any informal consultation responses, decision makers must ensure there is a full consideration of all representations arising including those which do not accord with the officer recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

### **Corporate Landlord**

No comment

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petition dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010

## **PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Cabinet Member meeting with petitioners – 12 October 2011