

## Minutes

### PETITION HEARING - CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

17 October 2023

Meeting held at Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre,  
High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW



	<p><b>Committee Members Present:</b> Councillor Jonathan Bianco</p> <p><b>Officers Present:</b> David Knowles, Head of Transport and Town Centre Projects Rebecca Reid, Democratic Services Apprentice Ryan Dell, Democratic Services Officer</p> <p><b>Ward Councillors Present:</b> Councillor Scott Farley Councillor Mohammed Islam</p>
1.	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING</b> <i>(Agenda Item 1)</i></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
2.	<p><b>TO CONFIRM THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN PUBLIC</b> <i>(Agenda Item 2)</i></p> <p>It was confirmed that the business of the meeting would take place in public.</p>
3.	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE OFFICERS ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS RECEIVED:</b> <i>(Agenda Item 3)</i></p>
4.	<p><b>FERRERS AVENUE, WEST DRAYTON – REQUEST FOR A ZEBRA CROSSING TO WEST DRAYTON STATION FROM FERRERS AVENUE BUS STOP</b> <i>(Agenda Item 4)</i></p> <p>The Cabinet Member considered a petition requesting a zebra crossing to West Drayton Station from Ferrers Avenue Bus Stop.</p> <p>The lead petitioner put forward to the Cabinet Member some reasons to action the request for a zebra crossing. Key points raised by the petitioner included:</p> <p>West Drayton Station bus stop had remained closed for a considerable period due to delayed works being undertaken by Network Rail. This had created a hazard for residents travelling from Ferrers Avenue Bus Stop as they crossed the busy road, particularly during rush hour.</p> <p>Where pedestrians attempted to cross either in front of or behind the bus stop, oncoming cars could not see them attempting to cross. As a result, pedestrians found it increasingly difficult to cross the road safely.</p>

The lead petitioner noted that they had experienced trouble on the road, both as a pedestrian and as a driver. There was a particular risk that drivers could knock someone over unintentionally.

Although it was readily acknowledged that there was an existing pedestrian crossing in the area, this was not always used because it was in an inconvenient location. Suggestions were made to replace the underused pedestrian crossing with a zebra crossing, or to relocate the crossing to right next to Ferrers Avenue Bus Stop to enable users to cross the road safely.

Councillor Mohammed Islam, representing West Drayton Ward, expressed that without a pedestrian crossing to West Drayton Station from Ferrers Avenue Bus Stop, there was a high risk for accidents to take place, especially during rush hour, causing safety hazards for bus users and others making their way to the station. Pedestrians often used the Warwick Road entrance to the station.

Councillor Scott Farley, also representing West Drayton Ward, emphasised the issue of the delayed road works being carried out by Network Rail. It was highlighted that there was a significant walk to West Drayton Station from both south and north sides of the railway drop off points.

In a previous meeting with the Cabinet Member, Network Rail had given assurance that the survey of the sewer, which was the reason for the delay on Station Approach, was due to take place this month, and a copy of their report would be made available to the Council.

It was acknowledged that people did not always walk to zebra crossings as when investigations had been carried out into whether it was safe to install a zebra crossing, it was often not where people wanted it.

The Cabinet Member noted that they would instruct officers to undertake a survey of pedestrian activity.

Officers noted that Ferrers Avenue bus stop was on a junction, and so to put a zebra crossing here would require moving the bus stop, which may lead to a loss of parking. Officers noted the suggestion of converting the existing crossing into a zebra crossing and would investigate, although the Cabinet Member was concerned that if some pedestrians ignore the existing crossing point, there remained a fair likelihood that some of them would continue to ignore the crossing even if upgraded to a zebra crossing.

It was also acknowledged that part of the issue was due to the issues with Station Approach. As such, there was a dilemma as to what changes should be made to what may be a temporary issue with Station Approach. Officers noted that the Cabinet Member had, with officers, met with a Director from Network Rail and noted the need to try to accelerate the works to minimise the risk. Temporary measures could be investigated while works on Station Approach were finished.

The petitioner added that if the bus stop was moved and a zebra crossing installed, this may be a safer option for pedestrians.

A written statement from Councillor Jan Sweeting, as Ward Councillor, was read out:

*I respectfully ask that the Cabinet Member, Cllr Bianco to consider my comments in respect to this petition as I am not able to attend the petition hearing in person.*

*It has been three years since buses have not been able to access West Drayton Station due to a sunken sewer and still three years later and after numerous complaints from residents and local councillors, the extent of the problem is still being explored by Network Rail and others. In the meantime, residents of West Drayton and Yiewsley and others using West Drayton's new Elizabeth Line have been faced with a long trek from and to the station from the nearest bus stops at Ferrers Avenue and Yiewsley High Street, which are considerable distances away. From recent information received in response to my question as to when the necessary repairs will be undertaken which will allow buses to once again access the station forecourt, it would appear that investigations are ongoing and that there is no end date in sight, with a possible start date for repairing the sewer being well into 2024 and beyond.*

*So we have the situation in which streams of people are crossing Station Road from and to the station searching for the nearest bus stops. These groups of people include vulnerable and disabled people with mobility restrictions, young families and visitors and others, some with suitcases.*

*That it has taken three years, and still no resolution, even after a deluge of complaints sent to the organisation and organisations responsible for ensuring that the station forecourt is fit for purpose, is, in my opinion, of deep concern.*

*Therefore, whilst recognising that there may well be logistical problems in delivering a pedestrian crossing as per the request from petitioners; I ask that the Council takes a lead in investigating all options in order for residents of Hillingdon, as well as non-residents alike are able to access the multi billion £ railway which is the Elizabeth line at West Drayton Station with ease and safety, whilst at the same time continuing to put pressure on Network Rail to speed up the repair of the sewer which has been the root cause of this long and protracted problem.*

*I thank you for considering my comments.*

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:**

- 1) Met with petitioners and listens to their request for a zebra crossing by Ferrers Avenue bus stop;**
- 2) Noted petitioners' concerns over safety of those crossing the road to access West Drayton and instructed officers to consider the undertaking of pedestrian surveys to understand levels of pedestrians crossing and pedestrian desire lines; and**
- 3) Asked officers to investigate the feasibility of the petitioners' request for a zebra crossing in the area, given the constraints, such as location of bus stops and parking.**

5. **HARMONDSWORTH ROAD, WEST DRAYTON – PETITION REQUESTING THE INTRODUCTION OF “SPEED REDUCING MEASURES”** (*Agenda Item 5*)

The Cabinet Member considered a petition requesting ‘speed reducing measures’ in Harmondsworth Road.

The lead petitioner attended and addressed the Cabinet Member.

The petitioner had lived in the road for over 30 years and the issue of speeding has been getting worse. There had been incidents of drivers doing a claimed 70-80mph on the road. There had been numerous accidents on the main road and smaller side road, and there had been fatalities. There was a zebra crossing on the road, but this was often ignored by drivers, and an accident had occurred on the zebra crossing itself. Residents needed something to slow drivers. A lot of drivers also used their mobile phones whilst driving.

Speed signs may not work, and perhaps road humps would be more suitable as this was a dangerous road. There was disregard for safety.

Councillor Scott Farley attended as West Drayton Ward Councillor and addressed the Cabinet Member.

Councillor Farley highlighted the bridge over the M4, and on the south side, the road leading towards Harmondsworth Villages was a national speed limit road. People were not taking any consideration when approaching a residential area. Speeding occurred in both directions over the bridge, particularly from motorbikes. The Councillor has personally witnessed this.

An investigation was asked for to ascertain what could be done in terms of mitigations. There was also concern about speeding in the slip road, which was also used as a rat run. It was requested that the Cabinet Member commit to traffic surveys, and that any subsequent mitigations be installed as applicable.

A statement from Councillor Jan Sweeting, Ward Councillor, was read out.

*The petition of 52 signatures indicates the depth of concern which residents are feeling regarding the high speed of motorists and other vehicles along both the main Harmondsworth Road as well as the residential road which is parallel.*

*The main Harmondsworth Road is a very busy main road which is increasingly seeing heavy lorries, skip lorries and buses vying with motorists at speed along this road. The geography of this road says it all, with the long and straight downwards stretch from Holloway Lane, over the M4 motorway into West Drayton, with cars going at speed towards the junction of Laurel Lane which is also heavily congested at many times during the day.*

*There have been a number of serious incidents along this stretch of road as the officer’s report states. There have also been a number of near misses and minor incidents which residents have witnessed.*

*The road is a dangerous one at the best of times and with increased use over the last few years, it is more so.*

*I wholly support any and all traffic calming measures along this stretch of road*

*which would seek to reduce speed. These could including signing, flashing lights, rumble strips etc.*

*As to the residential road with the same name, the problem here is that it is being used as a rat run when the adjacent Laurel Lane road is congested, which it often is. Once again I ask that measures are put in place which would deter motorist from going above 20MPH as the properties along this stretch of road are minus fences and walls and even cars travelling at relatively slow speeds are of concern to residents. I thank you for considering my comments.*

Councillor Mohammed Islam addressed the Cabinet Member as Ward Councillor.

Harmondsworth Road was a main road between West Drayton and Harmondsworth Village. Residents were concerned by speeding, particularly in the northern direction as Harmondsworth Road crossed the M4. By the time vehicles arrived at Laurel Lane, they were already in excess of the speed limit. Laurel Lane was the sole entrance to Laurel Lane estate from the east side and led directly to Laurel Lane Primary School and St Martin's Primary School. Residents were concerned at the speed of traffic travelling along the main road and residential road where there was limited off-street parking. Residents were requesting traffic calming measures to slow traffic on both the main Harmondsworth Road and the smaller residential road immediately in front of the properties. Councillor Islam fully supported the residents. Furthermore, there would soon be the opening of the new Leisure Centre in the area. In additional, as winter was approaching, more accidents would happen. Lastly, the Councillor has personally witnessed a traffic incident.

The Cabinet Member noted that speeding was fundamentally a police matter. The Cabinet Member further noted that local police teams often had speed guns that could be utilised. Residents and Ward Councillors could attempt to arrange this. It was noted that there were sometimes issues with speedhumps, such as residents not wanting them directly outside their homes, although it was acknowledged that Harmondsworth Road was slightly different in that the houses were set back behind the slip roads.

The Cabinet Member noted that he would instruct officers to commission independent speed and traffic volume surveys. Officers would also investigate asking the police to deploy their speed guns where possible.

The new Leisure Centre would generate more people coming to the area. It may also be possible to install flashing signs, although there was a risk that these could be ignored.

Officers passed a plan of the area for petitioners and Councillors to mark locations for the speed surveys.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:**

- 1) Met with petitioners and listens to their request for the Council to introduce speed reducing measures on Harmondsworth Road, West Drayton; and**
- 2) Asked officers to commission independent 24/7 traffic and speed surveys**

	<p>on Harmondsworth Road at locations agreed with petitioners and Ward Councillors.</p>
6.	<p><b>NOBEL DRIVE, HARLINGTON – PETITION REQUESTING THE INTRODUCTION OF “SPEED BUMPS”</b> (<i>Agenda Item 6</i>)</p> <p>The Cabinet Member considered a petition requesting the introduction of speed bumps in Nobel Drive.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member noted the unusual shape of the road, and the nearby residences. Officers suggested liaising with the police to ascertain their views.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p><b>That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) Asked officers to liaise with the Metropolitan Police to ascertain their views; and</b></li> <li><b>2) Subject to the above, ask officers to commission independent 24/7 traffic and speed surveys on Nobel Drive at locations agreed with petitioners and Ward Councillors.</b></li> </ol>
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 7.40 pm.</p>

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Rebecca Reid on [petitions@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:petitions@hillingdon.gov.uk). Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.