

CHURCH ROAD AND HIGH STREET, 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 and businesses requesting traffic calming measures be introduced in Church Road and High Street, 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

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 and businesses.**
- 2. Subject to the above recommendation asks officers to conduct further investigations into possible traffic calming measures under the Council's Road Safety Programme.**
- 3. Asks officers to undertake traffic surveys to establish the volumes and speeds of traffic in Church Road and High Street, Northwood.**

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4. Asks officers to liaise with the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

INFORMATION

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 80 signatures from residents and businesses requesting traffic calming measures in Church Road and High Street, Northwood under the following heading;

*“We the residents of ‘The Old’ High Street and Church Road, Northwood request **Traffic Calming Measures** to stop the dangerous and anti-social speeding that occurs down our road.”*

2. The location of the A4125 Church Road/High Street, Northwood is indicated on Appendix A. It is one of Hillingdon’s main distributor roads and has a junction at its northern end with Green Lane and Northwood Way and at its southern end with Pinner Road and Rickmansworth Road. The road incorporates both businesses and residential properties and also provides access to several other residential roads. Hillside Infant & Junior School and Emmanuel Church are also a short walk away.

3. A total of eight Police recorded accidents have occurred on High Street, Northwood in the three years to December 2010. Four of the accidents reported at its junction with Pinner Road were described as shunt type accidents. Three of the incidents reported were caused where pedestrians failed to look properly when crossing the road. Two of these accidents occurred at the junction with Pinner Road and a third near the junction with Townsend Way. One accident occurred close to the junction of Chester Road where the driver was distracted and swerved off the carriageway.

4. The Council has previously received representations from concerned residents regarding vehicle speeds in High Street Northwood, but subsequent investigations by officers have found the majority of vehicles to be travelling near or at the speed limit. The petitioners have not indicated specific 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 determine with them acceptable options that officers could investigate in detail

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as part of the Road Safety Programme. Whatever measures can be developed would require the support of local residents and businesses 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 High Street Northwood as part of the Road Safety Programme.

6. The Council receives a considerable amount of positive feedback from residents where Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) have been installed. These signs are most effective when in place for a short period of time. Therefore the Council has developed a programme whereby the signs are installed at key sites, left in place for three months and then moved to another site. There is currently a Vehicle Activated Sign located on High Street, Northwood, however this has been in place since February 2011 and is due to be moved to another location. High Street, Northwood will be retained on the list for re-installation in future phases.

7. The Cabinet Member will also be aware that officers are in regular communication with their 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 SNT and their input further sought in the development of any measure.

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 and local businesses.

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 and businesses would be carried out if suitable traffic measures could be identified to address the petitioners concerns

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Legal

At this stage there are no special legal implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

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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 the discussions with the petitioners, 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.

In all cases the decision maker should bear in mind Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which means that the Council as traffic authority has a statutory duty to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition dated 22nd July 2010

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