

## CHARVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL – PETITION REQUESTING ROAD SAFETY MEASURES IN THE ROADS AROUND THE SCHOOL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Keith Burrows
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Steven Austin, Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of report</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that pupils of Charville Primary School have individually written letters raising concerns of road safety in Pole Hill Road and other roads surrounding their school.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	The request can be considered as part of the Council's strategy for road safety.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Residents' and Environmental Services
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	Charville

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Considers the request and discusses with pupils their particular safety concerns for the school community on their journey towards and away from school.
2. Subject to 1 above, asks officers from the Road Safety and School Travel Team to undertake feasibility studies on options to address road safety concerns and report back to him on possible options.
3. Instructs officers to include Pole Hill Road in the future Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) programme.

## **INFORMATION**

### **Reasons for recommendation**

Discussions between the Cabinet Member and the school will allow the list of options to be developed that will improve safety for pupils attending Charville Primary School and the investigation of feasible measures could then be explored in further detail by officers including the estimated costs involved.

### **Alternative options considered**

These can be identified following discussions with petitioners.

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

None at this stage.

### **Supporting Information**

1. In June of this year, 12 pupils of Charville Primary School individually wrote letters addressed to the Cabinet Member to express their concern with a variety of road safety issues mainly in Pole Hill Road, although the main entrance of the school is located in Bury Avenue. The location of the school is indicated on the plan attached as Appendix A to this report.
2. All of the letters mention two recent accidents that occurred close to the school and these incidents are likely to be a significant factor that prompted the pupils to raise this petition. From the data supplied by the Metropolitan Police, the first accident occurred on 31 March 2011 and involved a three year old infant who ran out into the path of a motorcycle on Bury Avenue. The second accident referred to in the letters occurred on 9 May 2011 on Charville Lane close to the junction with Raeburn Road. This involved a 14 year old who crossed the road behind a bus and was struck by a motorcar. There were a further three recorded police accidents in the three years to July 2011, one in Pole Hill Road and the other two in Charville Lane.
3. In order to improve the safety close to Charville Primary School, measures identified through the school's travel plan led in turn during 2008 to the implementation of a 20mph zone and two raised crossing points in Bury Avenue. The school is also served by a School Crossing Patrol, although it has become apparent that, following the recent construction of the new Children's Centre and a new entrance to the school, the measures that have previously been put in place may need to be reassessed and this will be incorporated in the next review of the school travel plan.
4. In March 2011, following concerns raised by residents about traffic speeds, the Metropolitan Police Traffic Unit commissioned an independent 24/7 speed and traffic survey for Charville Lane between the junctions of Hoppner Road and The Oaks, which is one of the roads used by pupils attending the school. The survey identified that excess traffic speeds is a problem and the Police have informed the Council that they will continue to enforce the speed limit with regular patrols.
5. Around the same time, and following a meeting with the Charville Residents Association, representations were made to the Council on the Association's behalf requesting a safe crossing point on Charville Lane. The Cabinet Member will remember previously hearing a

petition from local residents also requesting a crossing and other traffic calming measures for Charville Lane. As a result of this request, the Council is developing proposals for measures to reduce traffic speeds and improve crossing safety on Charville Lane which, subject to Cabinet Member and local Ward Councillors' approval, could provide benefits in Charville Lane for all road users including those travelling to and from school. Any scheme will, however, be subject to funding being allocated and approved and an independent safety audit and formal consultation with residents and the school before the Council can implement any measures.

6. The letters all mention concerns with vehicle speeds along Pole Hill Road. In October 2008, a 24/7 speed and vehicle survey was undertaken at two locations on Pole Hill Road. The data captured from these surveys revealed that the majority of vehicles were travelling at or close to the speed limit for this road. However, a small minority of vehicles were found to be travelling in excess of the speed limit so the information was shared with the local Police and Pole Hill Road was added to the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) programme. The VAS are electronic devices activated by the approach of a vehicle which then flash a warning message to drivers and have been successfully used across Hillingdon since 2005 and are proven to help reduce vehicle speeds. A VAS was last sited in Pole Hill Road in June 2009 and so, subject to Cabinet Member approval, it is recommended that this location is added to the future VAS programme. It is also recommended that, in light of the genuine concerns raised by pupils of Charville School, a further independent speed survey is carried out in Pole Hill Road and the results be reported back to the Cabinet Member.

7. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member meets with the pupils of Charville Primary School and listens to their concerns about road safety. This will assist officers in developing proposals that could promote safety in the roads close to the school.

### **Financial Implications**

There are none associated with the recommendations in this report as a feasibility study can be carried out using in-house resources. However, if subsequently a scheme is approved for the introduction of traffic calming measures in the area, a suitable funding source will need to be identified.

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

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

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail with pupils their concerns with road safety in the roads surrounding Charville Primary School and possible options.

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

None at this stage but, if the Council subsequently approves the introduction of traffic calming measures in the area, statutory consultation will be required to allow members of the public to comment.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Landlord**

The Corporate Landlord is satisfied that the traffic calming measures outlined above will enhance any works being undertaken by the school.

### **Legal**

There are no special legal implications for the proposal, which amounts to an informal 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.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letters received – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011