

TITLE: LONG DRIVE, RUISLIP - PETITION REQUESTING ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC CALMING

Cabinet Member

Cllr Keith Burrows

Cabinet Portfolio

Planning, Transportation & Recycling

Officer ContactCaroline Haywood
Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services**Papers with report**

Appendix A

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report

To inform the Cabinet Member of a petition requesting the raised tables installed in Long Drive, Ruislip are extended along the rest of the road.

Contribution to our plans and strategies

The request can be considered as part of the strategy for on street parking controls and the Council's annual programme of road safety initiatives.

Financial Cost

There are none associated with this report.

Relevant Policy Overview Committee

Residents' & Environmental Services

Ward(s) affected

South Ruislip

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Considers the petitioners' request and discusses with them in detail their concerns with speeding;
2. Asks officers to conduct a 24 hour / seven day speed and volume survey in the section of Long Drive between Queens Walk and The Fairway and report back to the Cabinet Member and Ward Members:
3. Subject to the concerns raised by petitioners and the results of the survey, asks officers to investigate possible options under the Road Safety Programme when resources permit.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns. The success of traffic measures which address speeding are largely acceptable to local residents. These can

be identified with petitioners for further detailed investigation by officers within the Road Safety Programme.

Alternative options considered / risk management

These can be discussed with petitioners.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 34 signatures has been submitted to the Council from the residents of Long Drive between Queen's Walk and The Fairway, Ruislip in the form of a standard letter signed by each household and returned to the lead petitioner. The petition heading is as follows '*...to make our road a safer place by hopefully extending the speed bumps further up Long Drive.*'
2. Long Drive is a residential road situated within South Ruislip Ward. The road may be effectively divided into two sections at Queen's Walk. The northern section between Field End Road and Queen's Walk has three raised tables which were installed in March 2011 following requests from residents concerned with road safety. The southern section of Long Drive between The Fairway and Queens Walk, where the majority of the householders who signed the petition live, has no physical traffic calming measures, but is within the South Ruislip Parking Management Scheme. A plan of the area is shown on Appendix A.
3. The police reported personal injury accident data records for the 36 month period ending January 2012 shows there have been one accident in Long Drive between The Fairway and Queen's Walk. The accident involved a lone motorcycle, who lost control in wet weather.
4. Funding for traffic calming schemes where there is a high level of accidents is generally supported by Transport for London (TfL). The case for traffic calming measures can be supported by accident data and one of the standard criteria is six or more police reported personal injury accidents at the site of the proposed scheme. Long Drive with one slight personal injury accident therefore does not meet these criteria.
5. The Cabinet Member will, however, be aware that the Council's Road Safety Programme is a special capital budget, which the Council has available to implement measures where there are lower numbers of recorded accidents, and the programme can accommodate schemes developed with the benefit of local input. All schemes and funding is agreed by the Cabinet Member.
6. It is suggested therefore that the Cabinet Member discusses with the petitioners their specific concerns with road safety and endeavours to determine options that officers could investigate in detail as part of the Road Safety Programme.
7. The section of Long Drive between Queen's Walk and The Fairway benefits from a parking management scheme. This has resulted in less cars being parked on Long Drive which may have resulted in increased vehicle speeds. However should measures be identified residents will need to appreciate that they may be at the expense of some parking.
8. The Cabinet Member will be aware that in similar requests in the past, he has instructed officers to undertake an independent 24 hour, 7 day traffic speed and volume survey and depending on the results determines the case for further studies.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report, as feasibility studies can be undertaken with in house resources. However if the Cabinet Member subsequently considers the introduction of a scheme suitable funding will need to be identified.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The recommendations will identify the extent of the petitioners concerns and look at possible solutions to mitigate these.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

No further consultations have been carried out as a result of this petition.

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 and factual 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.

Accordingly, the Council must balance the concerns of the objectors with its statutory duty to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

Should the outcome of the informal discussions with petitioners require that Officers include the Petitioners request in a subsequent review of possible options under the Council's Road Safety Programme and a consultation be carried out when resources permit there will need to be consideration of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002, which govern road traffic orders, traffic signs and road markings. If specific advice is required in relation to the exercise of individual powers Legal Services should be instructed.

Corporate Property & Construction

Corporate Property and Construction is in support of the recommendations in this report.

Relevant Service Groups

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received: 19th September 2011