

MAHLON AVENUE, RUISLIP - PETITION REQUESTING TO RETAIN THE GATE

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Danielle Watson – Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
Papers with report	Appendix A

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from residents living in Mahlon Avenue and Masson Avenue, Ruislip requesting to retain the gate.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's Road Safety Programme.
Financial Cost	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services.
Ward(s) affected	South Ruislip

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their request to retain the barriers/gate located on the junction of Edwards Avenue and Mahlon Avenue, Ruislip.**
- 2. Notes that two separate petitions have been received from residents, one for the gate removal and one against the gate removal.**
- 3. Subject to the outcome of discussions with petitioners, asks Officers to include the request and possible options in the Road Safety Programme.**

Reasons for recommendation

PART I – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cabinet Member meeting with Petitioners – 23 May 2012

The discussion with petitioners will help identify suitable options to address petitioners concerns.

Alternative options considered / risk management

These can be identified from the discussions with petitioners.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 62 signatures has been received from residents living in Mahlon Avenue, Masson Avenue and West End Road, South Ruislip under the following heading:

'Petition to retain the "Gate" at junction of Mahlon and Edwards Avenue – The main reason for installing the gate at the junction of Mahlon and Edwards Avenue was to reduce the number of collisions occurring on an almost weekly basis. The traffic jams as vehicles attempted to enter and exit West End Road resulted in large build ups in Masson, Edwards and Mahlon Avenues and the exhaust fumes resulting were intolerable. Since the installation, in 1991, the number of accidents has been dramatically reduced and children going to school have a safe place to cross. It is for these reasons we believe the Gate should be retained.'

2. Mahlon Avenue is a residential road, the location is shown on the plan attached as Appendix A. This petition is signed by residents living in Mahlon Avenue, Masson Avenue and one resident of West End Road.

3. There is a diagonal road closure installed on the junction of Edwards Avenue and Mahlon Avenue which is referred to by petitioners as 'the Gate'. This gate was installed some years ago to prevent traffic from Station Approach by-passing the signal installation for access to West End Road and vice versa.

4. It is understood that residents are petitioning as a result of the separate petition to remove the gate which was signed by other residents of Mahlon Avenue who are requesting the barrier be removed. Previous petitions from residents in the area have highlighted concern with rat-running which have been investigated and reported to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

5. The Cabinet Member will be aware of the counter petition to remove the gate which will be reported separately.

6. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member discusses with petitioners their concerns, and subject to the outcome, asks officers to consider options to address residents' concerns under the Council's Road Safety Programme. The Cabinet Member may in particular value the knowledge and views of the local Ward Councillors.

PART I – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cabinet Member meeting with Petitioners – 23 May 2012

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. However, should the eventual outcome be a decision to undertake some works, a funding source would need to be identified. The Council's Capital Road Safety programme would typically be used for this type of scheme, subject to the usual approvals and release procedure.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns and explore possible options that could be introduced to address their issues.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this stage.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial implications as stated.

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 suggestion is 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.

It is recommended that the petition to remove the gate, produced and signed by other residents of Mahlon Avenue, is considered in conjunction with this petition in order that the decision maker is informed of all views when reaching a decision.

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. 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 and other possible options in the Road Safety Programme, there will need

PART I – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cabinet Member meeting with Petitioners – 23 May 2012

to be consideration of the Highways Act 1980, 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 and Construction

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

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition for gate removal received – May 2012

Petition for gate to be retained received – May 2012

PART I – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cabinet Member meeting with Petitioners – 23 May 2012