

PETITION REQUESTING RENEWED SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SUPPORT FOR MINET INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL IN COLDHARBOUR LANE, HAYES

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Mhairi Stephens
Papers with report	Appendix A

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition requesting cover for the School Crossing Patrol Officer on the crossing on Coldharbour Lane, Hayes due to staff absence.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered in relation to the Council's strategy for School Crossing Patrols.
Financial Cost	There are none associated with the recommendations in this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services.
Ward(s) affected	Townfield

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their concerns about the recent lack of school crossing control support in Coldharbour Lane, Hayes.
2. Informs petitioners of the fact that the incumbent school crossing patrol officer is presently unavailable to provide the service.
3. Agrees that during the recruitment process currently being conducted, the first officer appointed be allotted to the Coldharbour Lane site, at least on a temporary basis until such time as the long term position with regard to staff absence is better understood.
4. Invites Minet Junior School to engage with the Council's School Travel Plan team to pursue further initiatives of potential benefit to the school and wider community.

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Reasons for recommendation

This recommendation means there is no immediate financial implication to the Council and is the lowest risk option to help ensure residents safety.

Alternative options considered / risk management

Recruit a casual employee to cover high risk sites when staff absence requires this. However this suggestion would have financial implications, as there is currently no budget to cover this in the allocated cost code.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 53 signatures, of whom 32 are residents of the Borough, has been submitted to the Council via the Head Teacher of Minet Junior School under the following heading:

“Petition to the London Borough of Hillingdon to provide suitable cover on the crossing at Coldharbour Lane, in absence of our crossing lady as the road is extremely dangerous and our children are under considerable risk.”

2. The Cabinet Member will be aware that the Council has a small dedicated team of School Crossing Patrol Officers (SCPOs) who provide assistance to pedestrians during the morning and afternoon school peak periods at a limited number of priority sites across the Borough.

3. A SCPO had been assigned to the Zebra Crossing in Coldharbour Lane Hayes, near its junction with Avondale Drive, as shown on the attached location plan as Appendix A. Minet Infant and Junior Schools are located nearby on Avondale Drive and a significant percentage of the children cross at the crossing point to get to school.

4. Regrettably due to staff absence the site is not being covered by a SCPO.

5. A significant proportion of the children who travel to Minet Infant and Junior Schools in any way other than car will have to cross Coldharbour Lane, as Avondale Drive leads to Abbotswood Way, which is a no through road and the dominant catchment area is therefore on the opposite side of Coldharbour Lane to the two schools. At present the Infant school have approximately 480 students and the Junior School another 480, meaning there is a total of 960 children travelling to and from the school on a daily basis

6. Coldharbour Lane is a busy, congested, and wide 30 mph road and is sometimes used as a ‘Rat Run’ when The A312 Parkway becomes congested. The Zebra crossing benefits from a traffic island located at the crossing point.

7. The Cabinet Member will be aware that the Council is in the process of seeking to recruit further SCPOs for cover at other sites where there is both a demand and sufficient justification for such assistance. There is some difficulty in recruitment as the people who have the time and inclination to serve on a part time basis as SCPO are limited in number. Many SCPOs come from the community closely associated with the schools they serve and it may be that the Minet School community could help identify anyone who would be willing, able and suitable to fulfil such a role.

8. In light of the current situation regarding the provision of a dedicated SCPO at Coldharbour Lane, the Cabinet Member may be minded to ask officers to allocate one of the new SCPOs once recruited to this site, at least on a temporary basis.

9. The Cabinet Member will also be aware that the TfL-supported School Travel Plan programme is an invaluable route for schools in the Borough to achieve improvements either on the roads near their sites or even in many cases on the school grounds themselves. Arising from this programme, a traffic calming scheme and associated improvements were successfully delivered in Avondale Drive in 2011.

10. Minet Infant school has been working with the Borough's Road Safety and School Travel team to complete their School Travel Plan. In their most recent update 54% of the children who completed the class surveys indicated that they walk to school, almost all of these children will have to cross Coldharbour Lane on their way to and from school.

11. The Junior School, who submitted the petition, are not currently working with the Road Safety and School Travel team. The Cabinet Member may wish to encourage the school to engage with the School Travel Team as this can help deliver further benefits to the school as well as the adjacent community.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications on the suggested solution however if the alternative is to be considered then there would be a cost. A typical employed SCPO costs the Council £425 per month.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The effect on residents would be beneficial on the site in question as they would quickly have an Officer to cover the crossing point on Coldharbour Lane.

There are currently 3 vacant positions for 3 sites which are currently being recruited for. The Coldharbour Lane site could be recruited from one of these vacant posts temporarily which means one site would have to wait longer for a School Crossing Patrol officer.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

n/a

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations set out above.

Legal

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

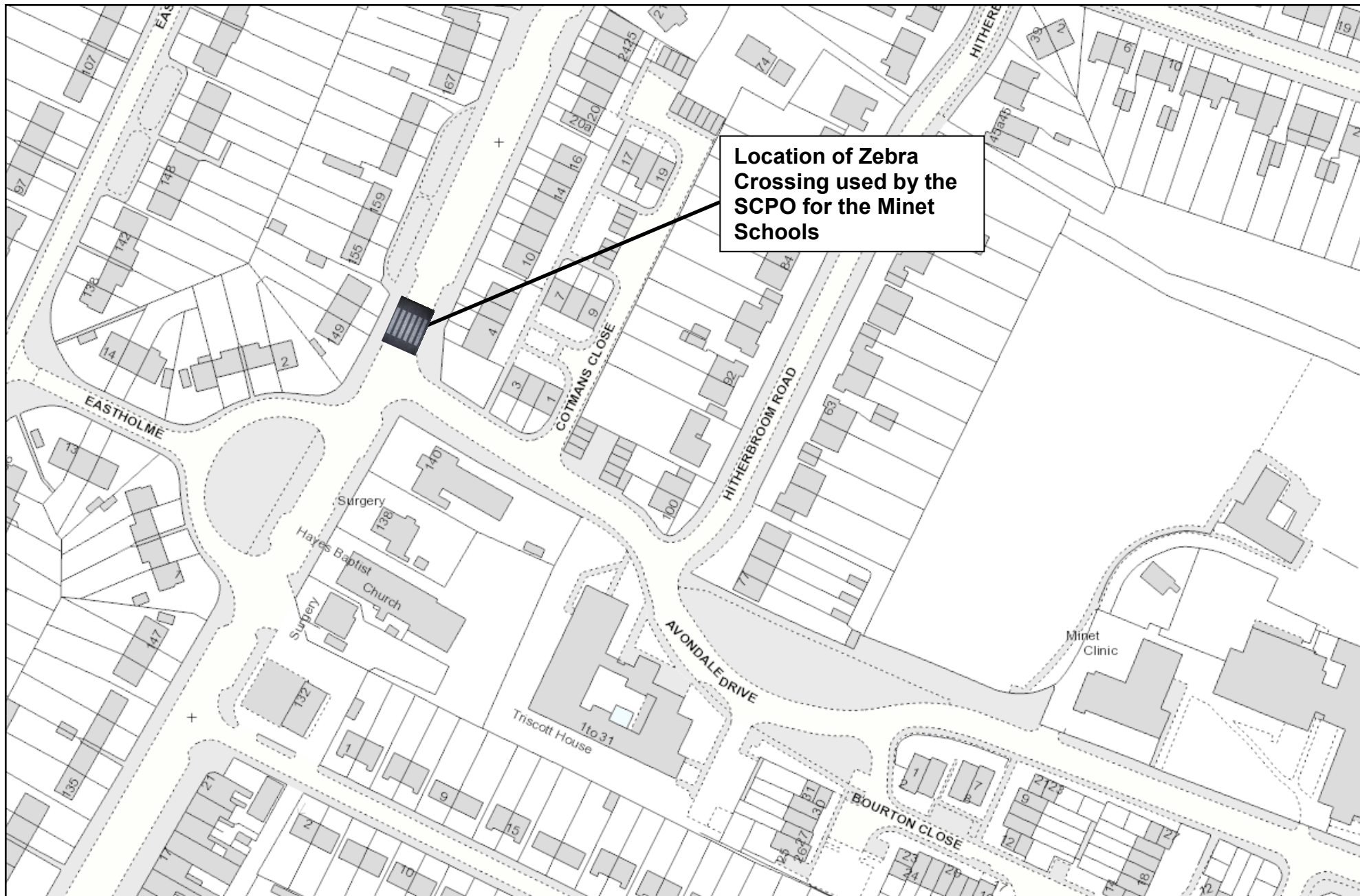
Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Petition Requesting Renewed School Crossing Patrol Support For Minet Infant And Junior School In Coldharbour Lane, Hayes – Appendix A



Location of Zebra Crossing used by the SCPO for the Minet Schools