

HILLSIDE ROAD, NORTHWOOD - PETITION REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Steven Austin, Residents Services Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition requesting traffic calming measures are introduced in Hillside Road, Northwood. A plan of the area is attached as Appendix A.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's Road Safety Programme.
Financial Cost	The estimated cost to arrange speed and traffic surveys is approximately £90 per location.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services.
Ward(s) affected	Northwood Hills

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their request for traffic calming measures on Hillside Road;**
- 2. Subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to arrange a speed and vehicle survey at locations suggested by the petitioners and report the results back to the Cabinet Member and local Ward Councillors.**
- 3. Subject to 1 and 2, asks officers to undertake further investigations under the Road Safety Programme and report back to him.**
- 4. Subject to the above, considers deploying one of the Council's Vehicle Activated Signs on Hillside Road.**

Cabinet Member Petition Hearing

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC & PRESS

Reasons for recommendation

The petition hearing will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the petitioners of their concerns and suggestions.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 39 signatures has been submitted to the Council from residents who live in Hillside Road, Northwood under the following heading:

“We, the undersigned concerned residents of Hillside Road request Hillingdon Council introduce traffic calming measures, such as raised tables or sleeping policeman along our road to reduce speeding. We urge the Cabinet Member to act now before there is a serious or fatal accident which could have been prevented by positive, proactive traffic calming measures introduced by the Council.

2. Hillside Road is a predominantly residential road that links Northwood Way at its western end with Potter Street to the east where it meets the Borough boundary with Harrow. Hillside Road carries a significant proportion of through traffic between Pinner and Northwood and carries the H13 bus route. At the western end there is a seven foot wide width restriction in Northwood Way which helps prevent unnecessary large vehicle movements along Hillside Road. The winding alignment of the carriageway of Hillside Road also has significant horizontal and vertical gradients.

3. Accident data held by the Council, which only contain those involving personal injury and those which were reported to the Police. This data indicates that there have been two accidents classed as “slight” injuries in the three year period to December 2012, the latest month for which information is available. Both accidents occurred close to the junction with Potter Street Hill. The first involved a vehicle hitting a parked car and the second involved a vehicle turning left and hitting a pedestrian crossing the road.

4. Although neither of the recorded accidents are speed related and no accidents are recorded on the main section of the road, residents who have submitted the petition are clearly concerned with vehicle speeds along Hillside Road. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member meets with petitioners and subject to the outcome of the above, decides if a 24/7 traffic volume and speed survey should be commissioned at locations identified with residents.

5. The Cabinet Member will be aware that traffic calming measures can be considered in a variety of forms, most of which include the construction of some kind of physical measures such as chicanes, raised table and similar measures. The Council no longer introduces the older style of round-topped road humps commonly known as “sleeping policeman” but does implement other kinds of traffic calming where there is both strong evidence of a need (based on surveys) and a majority of local support. The 24/7 survey would be of assistance in this process.

6. The Cabinet Member will recall that Hillside Road is on the programme of routes that benefit from Speed Indicator Devices which make drivers aware of the inappropriate speeds by “flashing” a warning message. If the Cabinet Member is minded to do so Hillside Road could be included again within the next phase of the programme. It is also suggested that officers liaise with the Northwood Hills Safer Neighbourhood Team as part of further investigations and to identify any appropriate enforcement actions.

Financial Implications

If the Cabinet Member agrees the recommendations in this report the cost of a 24/7 speed and traffic surveys are in the region of £90 per location and subject to the usual approvals could be funded from the Road Safety Programme budget. If any traffic calming measures are subsequently recommended a suitable funding stream would need to be identified.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member an opportunity to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this stage.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

None at this stage

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 and Construction

None at this stage

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received requesting traffic calming measures in Hillside Road.