

SWAKELEYS ROAD, ICKENHAM - PETITION REQUESTING A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

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 asking for a pedestrian crossing on Swakeleys Road, Ickenham close to Lodore Green.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request for a pedestrian crossing on Swakeleys Road can be considered in relation to 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	Ickenham

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their request for a pedestrian crossing on Swakeleys Road, Ickenham;**
- 2. Notes the outcome of previous investigations, which concluded that a non signal-controlled crossing was not appropriate;**
- 3. Subject to the outcome of the above decides if this request should be added to the Council's extensive road safety programme for subsequent further investigation.**

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 56 signatures has been submitted to the Council under the following heading:

"We the undersigned think that due to the traffic levels and speed of traffic and the particular conditions of the road at that point, that a safe method of crossing the road are needed. At present the nearest crossings are either at Swakeleys Roundabout or near to Thornhill Road".

2. Swakeleys Road is one of the main east to west routes that connects Uxbridge town centre and the A40 to Ickenham and the north of the borough. Swakeleys Road is also classified as a Borough Secondary Distributer Road and is served by three bus routes.

3. In an attached letter to the petition, the lead petitioner states *"firstly the people in Swakeleys Road that we approached said that they had received a letter over a year ago saying that there was definitely going to be a crossing there, and secondly the amount of people that sincerely thanked us that there was such an urgent need for such a crossing".*

4. The Cabinet Member will recall that in 2010 options were previously explored to provide a pedestrian crossing point on Swakeleys Road close to Woodstock Road. As part of the process a 24/7 speed and traffic survey was commissioned and a detailed design was developed. The design for a possible crossing was subject to an independent Road Safety Audit.

5. The audit raised a number of concerns including the 85 percentile speed of 35 mph which is at the limit for a road where a zebra crossing can be proposed. It also mentioned the high traffic flows, which are to be expected on a Borough Secondary Distributer road. As a result of the road safety issues raised in the Road Safety Audit to the initial design, an amended scheme was developed which included some physical traffic calming measures.

6. The new proposals were subject to discussions with the emergency services, Transport for London, the bus service operators, ward councillors, local residents and the residents

association. While there was some support in principle for a crossing point on Swakeleys Road, the required traffic calming measures to make it safe were not supported as the impact on the directly affected residents and the response times for the emergency services would be too detrimental.

7. In addition to the above, various local stakeholders suggested that the numbers of pedestrians crossing in this section of Swakeleys Road was modest and they further noted the existence of safe crossing facilities near Harvil Road (traffic island refuges) and Warren Road (a traffic signal controlled crossing). After careful consideration of all the comments received it was agreed that it was not practical to proceed with a zebra crossing at that time.

8. However, it seems clear that from this petition that there is still some support for a crossing in this part of Swakeleys Road. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member discusses with petitioners their concerns and if considered appropriate, asks officers to add this request to the road safety programme and to explore further possible options and to report back to him on the results of these investigations.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report. If works are subsequently required, suitable funding will need to be identified within the road safety programme.

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

Corporate finance has reviewed the report and concurs with the financial implications detailed above.

Legal

There are no special legal implications with the Cabinet Member to meet and discuss with petitioners their request for a pedestrian crossing on Swakeleys Road, Ickenham and to consider recommendations 2-3 above. A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise, especially where consideration of the policy, factual and engineering 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.

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.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered.

Corporate Property and Construction

There are no corporate property and construction implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received