

PETITION REQUESTING MEASURES TO ADDRESS PARKING, ROAD SAFETY AND HIGHWAY ISSUES IN BLANDFORD WAYE, HAYES

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 - Plan

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition requesting measures to address a number of highway related issues in Blandford Waye, Hayes .
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered in relation to the Council's strategies for on-street parking controls and road safety initiatives.
Financial Cost	There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services.
Ward(s) affected	Yeading

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Discusses with petitioners and listens to their requests for highway improvements in Blandford Waye, Hayes.
2. Subject to the above asks officers to add the request for a one way working to the Council's extensive road safety programme and if appropriate asks officers to informally consult roads in an area agreed with ward councillors.
3. Discusses with petitioners the areas of their roads which they believe would benefit from additional "at any time" waiting restrictions and asks officers to investigate these and report back to him.
4. Notes the request for new street lighting in Blandford Waye and advises the petitioners that their request will be considered in future programmes to be agreed by Members.

5. Advises residents that following their petition asking for a "new surface on Blandford Way" the road was resurfaced in December 2014.

Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss with petitioners their concerns and if appropriate add their request to the Council's road safety programme.

Alternative options considered / risk management

These will be discussed with petitioners.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 37 signatures has been submitted to the Council requesting a number of highway and road safety improvements in Blandford Way, Hayes. In an accompanying letter with the petition, the lead petitioner is asking for the following concerns to be considered;

"Review and grant our request for a one-way system from Brookside Road into Swanage Way round into Blandford Way back to Brookside Road. This will ease congestion and near accidents.

New street lighting for Blandford Way.

Double yellow lines at the dangerous blind corners on Blandford Way.

Reduce the green verges or totally remove for at least 2 wheels on the pavement to ease the parking.

Laying new surface on Blandford Way".

2. Blandford Way is a predominantly residential road in Yeading Ward. A location plan of the area is attached as Appendix A to this report. The width of the carriageway of Blandford Way and Swanage Way measures approximately 5 metres and is bounded on both sides by a grass verge that measures approximately 1.8 metres and a footway of approximately 1.4 metres wide.

3. As there are many elements to this petition, this report aims to deal with each concern in the order in which they have been raised.

4. The implementation of a one-way working scheme is often a contentious issue but the narrow nature of this road and the vehicles parking on one side of the road effectively restrict the width of the road to one running lane. The request for a one-way working has some merit especially as the distance residents may need to travel to reach their destination is relatively short. On the other hand petitioners should bear in mind the fact that traffic speeds in one-way roads are inevitably higher for the simple reason that drivers know they will not meet traffic coming the other way. It is therefore recommended that subject to the outcome of discussions with petitioners, the

Cabinet Member decides if this request can be added to the road safety programme for further consultation.

5. In their petition, residents have requested "new street lighting for Blandford Way". As the Cabinet Member is aware the demand from all areas across the Borough for new street lighting exceeds the budget for such schemes. It is therefore suggested that the request for new lighting is noted and put on the system to be considered in a future programme of improvements.

6. The Cabinet Member will be aware that he has previously sanctioned the formal consultation and implementation of double yellow lines on one corner of Blandford Way following a request from residents through the Council's Road Safety Suggestion Programme. In view of the restricted access in this road, if vehicles are parked too close to the sharp bends then access especially for larger vehicles will be problematic. It is recommended that petitioners indicate the problem areas on a plan and the Cabinet Member asks officer to visit these locations and where appropriate prepare proposals for possible additional restrictions and to report back to him and Ward Councillors.

7. Officers have visited Blandford Way and Swanage Way and noted that there is some damage to the grass verges. Due to the narrow width of the road and the dropped kerbs that were constructed at a time when vehicles were much smaller than they are now, some residents clearly have difficulties in entering or exiting their driveways. This is especially likely if vehicles are parking opposite and in some instances drivers may overrun the grass verge. It is also possible that larger vehicles may also mount the verges in the narrowest parts of the road and indeed some bollards and double height kerbs have been implemented on some of the bends to deter this. Petitioners have asked that the verges are reduced or removed to allow vehicles to park with two wheels up. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, where the Council has received similar requests to this in other areas, experience has shown that whilst some residents agree the demand for parking is significant, they are not prepared to sacrifice the green areas that contribute to the aesthetics of their local environment. In Blandford Way and Swanage Way there are also an extensive variety of established mature highway trees including fruit trees and silver birch which would have to be sacrificed in order to facilitate the petitioners' request.

8. The road surface of Blandford Way was of concrete construction and following the request put forward by petitioners asking for their road to be resurfaced, the Council completed these works in December 2014.

Financial Implications

There are none directly associated with the recommendations to this report.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member to consider the petitioners request and available options the Council has to address these concerns.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

If the Council subsequently investigates the feasibility to introduce traffic or parking restrictions in the area, formal consultation will take place with all residents affected.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate finance has reviewed the report and concurs with the financial implications that there are no cost implications to the Council associated with the recommendations to this report.

Legal

There are no special legal implications with the Cabinet Member to meet and discuss with petitioners their request for highway and road safety improvements in Blandford Way and to consider recommendations 2 to 5 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.

Before an Order is made, the Council should ensure that the statutory procedures set out in the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England & Wales) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/2489) are complied with. The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 govern road traffic signs and road markings.

If specific advice is required, Legal Services should be consulted.

Corporate Property and Construction

There are no Corporate Property and Construction implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.



Blandford Way, Hayes - Location plan

Appendix A

Date January 2015

Scale 1:4,000