

# GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL, SUSSEX ROAD, ICKENHAM - PETITION REQUESTING A ZEBRA CROSSING

<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Councillor Keith Burrows
<b>Cabinet Portfolio(s)</b>	Planning, Transportation and Recycling
<b>Officer Contact(s)</b>	Steven Austin Residents Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendices A - Location plan

## 1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a Petition from pupils attending Glebe Primary School requesting a zebra crossing.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	The request can be considered as part of the Council's strategy for road safety.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no direct costs associated with the recommendations to this report.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Residents' & Environmental Services
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	Ickenham

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

**Meeting with petitioners, that the Cabinet Member:**

- 1. Considers petitioners concerns with pupils' safety when crossing the road on their journey towards and away from Glebe Primary School;**
- 2. Subject to the above, asks officers to undertake classified traffic volume and speed survey(s) at location(s) to be agreed with the petitioners and the relevant Ward Members and;**
- 3. Subject to the above, asks officers to add the petitioners' request to the Council's Road Safety Programme for further investigation.**

### **Reasons for recommendation**

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

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## **Alternative options considered / risk management**

None at this stage.

## **Policy Overview Committee comments**

None at this stage.

## **3. INFORMATION**

### **Supporting Information**

3.1 A petition with 51 valid signatures been submitted to the Council signed by pupils who attend Glebe Primary School, Sussex Road, Ickenham under the following heading:

*"Petition for a zebra crossing outside of Glebe Primary School"*

3.2 In an eloquently written accompanying letter the lead petitioner states that *"after several incidents on Sussex Road, it's become harder and harder to cross the road. Whilst the Green Cross Code clearly states not to cross in between parked cars, we've no choice but to risk our lives to cross sometimes walking straight in front of traffic to stop them! There is plenty of room for a zebra crossing, making it safer when the school is at full capacity, 700 children of all ages."*

3.3 The petition was organised by pupils to demonstrate the level of concern with walking to school not only now but in the future when the expanded school will be at capacity. In particular pupils are asking for a zebra crossing which they feel would create a safe place to cross.

3.4 In addition to the petition a further nine well written, clear and concise individual letters from pupils at Glebe School were submitted to the Council all broadly asking for a safe crossing point close to the school which, the writer believes will not only be of benefit to the pupils but also for the wider local community. The Deputy Head Teacher of Glebe Primary School has also written a letter of support for a crossing and has summed up the general feeling among those who have petitioned and written in, by stating *"The whole school community would be very grateful for your consideration in this matter as we have been given a brand new school, it seems an ideal opportunity to also have a new pedestrian crossing as I am sure, like us, you value the lives and safety of our children"*.

3.5 The location of Glebe Primary School is indicated on the plan attached as Appendix A to this report. As mentioned by petitioners the school has been subject to a recent expansion and will grow over time from a two form entry to a three form entry school.

3.6 The School are actively engaged with the Council's Road Safety and School Travel Team and must be commended on the work they are doing with the team on working on their School Travel Plan. The school have booked Pedestrian Training, Bikeability courses and also have two Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) who are pupils who help promote the road safety message.

3.7 Police recorded personal injury accident data for the 36 months to 31 October 2014 indicate that fortunately there have been no incidents on Sussex Road.

3.8 From officers' initial site observations, the request for a zebra crossing has some merit but the Cabinet Member will be aware that a potential crossing site needs to meet forward visibility and other safety requirements to ensure pedestrians waiting to cross the road can be seen by motorists.

3.9 It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member meets the petitioners at Glebe Primary School and listens to their concerns and suggestions and decides if this request should be added to the Council's extensive Road Safety Programme.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report. If after further investigation any measures are subsequently approved by the Council, funding would need to be identified from a suitable source.

## **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 this report and concurs with the financial implications above, noting that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations outlined above.

### **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, 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 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 following work under taken then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered at that time.

## **Corporate Property and Construction**

There are no property implications resulting from the recommendations set out in this report.

### **Relevant Service Groups**

None at this stage

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil