

MORFORD WAY, EASTCOTE - PETITION REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Caroline Haywood, Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received asking for traffic calming measures in Morford Way, Eastcote.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's annual programme of road safety initiatives.
Financial Cost	There are no financial implications in relation to the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' & Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Cavendish

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting with the petitioners, the Cabinet Member agrees to:

- 1. Discuss their request for traffic calming measures.**
- 2. Subject to the outcome of the above, ask officers to arrange a speed and vehicle survey at locations suggested by the petitioners and reports the results back to the Cabinet Member and local Ward Councillors.**
- 3. Subject to 1 and 2, ask officers to undertake further investigations under the Road Safety Programme and report back to him.**

Reasons for recommendations

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

Alternative options considered / risk management

These can be identified from the proposed detailed discussions with the petitioners.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1 A petition with 53 signatures has been submitted to the Council from residents of Morford Way and Morford Close under the following heading '*Speeding cars using Morford Way as a short cut to the traffic lights on Field End Road and Elm Avenue*'.

2 Morford Way and Morford Close are residential roads which both fall within Cavendish Ward. Morford Way leads onto Field End Road and the local shopping parade. Eastcote underground train station is within easy walking distance of Morford Way. A plan of the area is shown on Appendix A.

3 Morford Way and Morford Close are within Eastcote Parking Management Scheme, which is operational Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm. Parking is allowed on one side of the road during these hours.

4 The petitioners are concerned with vehicle speeds. They state that throughout the day, but in particular between 07.45am and 09.30am and 16.30pm and 18.30pm cars seek to avoid the build up of traffic at the Field End Road / Elm Avenue junction. The cars enter the road from both Field End Road and Hawthorne Avenue using Morford way as a short-cut. Many of the cars accelerate all the way along the road to ensure they beat the traffic turning at the lights.

5 In order to assist with investigations concerning the speed of vehicles, it is suggested that the Cabinet Member may be minded to ask officers to commission independent 24-hour / 7-day vehicle speed and traffic surveys at locations agreed by the petitioners and relevant Ward Councillors.

6 These surveys could take the form of Automatic Traffic Counters (ATCs) which, as the Cabinet Member will know, are pairs of rubber tubes laid across the carriageway and attached to a road-side data recorder. These types of surveys are the most reliable means of measuring traffic volumes, types and speeds over a 24-hour, seven-day a week basis. The data captured would inform any possible options to address vehicle speeds if this is found to be a problem.

7 It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member meets the petitioners and listens to their concerns and decides if this request should be added to the Council's Road Safety Programme for further investigation.

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 confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations above.

Legal

There are no special legal implications with the Cabinet Member meeting and discussing with petitioners their request concerning the speed of vehicles in Morford Way and to consider recommendations 1 to 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 property implications resulting from the recommendations set out in this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Petition received