

TITLE: FORE STREET, EASTCOTE – PETITION REQUESTING A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Cabinet Portfolio

Planning and Transportation

Report Author

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Papers with report

Appendix A

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report

To inform the Cabinet Member that two petitions have been received requesting the introduction of a zebra crossing on Fore Street outside Coteford Infant School.

**Contribution to our
plans and strategies**

The requests can be considered as part of the Council's Road Safety programme to provide a safer environment.

Financial Cost

There are no direct costs associated with the consideration of the petition. The costs of investigating the feasibility of installation of a pedestrian crossing would be contained within the existing staffing budgets of the group.

**Relevant Policy
Overview Committee**

Residents' and Environmental Services

Ward(s) affected

Eastcote, Ruislip and Northwood Hills

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member

- 1. Considers the petition requests.**
- 2. Asks Officers to investigate the feasibility to install a pedestrian crossing on the existing raised crossing point on Fore Street including the estimated cost and report back.**

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The petition requests are acknowledged and before deciding on whether a pedestrian crossing can be provided, the Cabinet Member will need to be advised on both feasibility and estimated cost.

Alternative options considered

None as the petitioners have made a specific request for a pedestrian crossing on Fore Street.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage

Supporting Information

1. Two petitions have been submitted to the Council, both requesting a 'zebra' pedestrian crossing on Fore Street outside Coteford Infant School. As the petitions are asking for the same crossing facility, it is suggested to the Cabinet Member they can be considered together in the same report.
2. One petition with 40 signatures, mostly signed by residents from Grooms Drive, Eastcote has been submitted to the Council under the following heading:

"We the under signed residents carers and friends of Grooms Drive, Eastcote request the Council to remove the raised hump outside Coteford Infant School in Fore Street and install a correctly mark Zebra type crossing in its place. The residents of Grooms Drive are mostly disabled and a number of us are wheelchair users crossing Fore Street is a constant battle with speeding and inconsiderate motorists and a properly marked crossing will allow us and parents with young children to cross the road safely".

The petition was signed by all but two of the households in Grooms Drive.

3. Grooms Drive is a small cul-de-sac with access from Fore Street and situated on the northern boundary of Coteford Infant School. A plan is attached as Appendix A indicating the Close and the surrounding road network. It would appear, the households of Grooms Drive are largely sheltered accommodation and consequently, as the petition heading mentions, there is a high proportion of elderly and disabled residents.
4. The other petition was presented on behalf of Coteford Infant School's Governing Body under the following heading:

" We the undersigned on behalf of Coteford Infant School's Governing Body, request the installation of a zebra crossing features black and white zebra posts beside the road, topped with amber globes and black and white markings on the road. This is to improve the safety of the children attending Coteford Infant School, as well as families visiting the playgroup and baby clinic held at the school, the neighbouring 4 Street Nursery, the residents of Fore Street and our neighbours at Grooms Drive".

This petition would appear to have been predominantly signed by parents and guardians of pupils to the school, playgroup, baby clinic and neighbouring nursery.

5. The "raised hump" outside Coteford Infant School was installed as part of the School's Travel Plan. The raised platform is provided for more convenient crossing of Fore Street so that pedestrians may walk or travel in a wheelchair at the same level as the adjoining

footways, and it will also suppress motorists speeds. The intention of this facility is to assist pupils to cross Fore Street in greater safety and reduce the amount of cars outside the school gates.

6. The petitioners clearly prefer a formal pedestrian crossing and subsequently have asked for a zebra crossing with the petition from Grooms Drive also asking for the raised platform to be removed. The Cabinet Member however will be aware that in certain locations, pedestrian crossings have been installed on raised platforms in order to provide greater safety and convenience to pedestrians. It is suggested that the possibility of installing a zebra crossing as requested should be investigated on the existing raised table and this is recommended as a preferred course of action.
7. It is suggested the Cabinet Member asks Officers to investigate the feasibility to install a pedestrian crossing on the raised platform including the estimated cost and report back.

Financial Implications

The cost of a feasibility study can be undertaken with existing in-house resources. However, if subsequently the Cabinet Member approves the installation of a pedestrian crossing, a funding source would have to be identified.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To provide the Cabinet Member with further information regarding the petitioner's request so that a subsequent decision can be made on whether the Council can provide a pedestrian crossing as requested.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

If the Cabinet Member subsequently approves the introduction of a pedestrian crossing, formal Public Notice will be given for the public to comment or make objections.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

N/A

Legal

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.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received 26th October 2009

[Petition received 26th October 2009](#)