

TITLE: FARMLANDS, EASTCOTE – PETITION REQUESTING A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Cabinet Portfolio	Planning and Transportation
Report Author	Steve Austin
Papers with report	Appendix A

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To inform the Cabinet Member that two petitions have been received, requesting a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Ascott Court, a sheltered housing unit.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request will be considered as part of the Council's strategy for road safety and provision of pedestrian crossings.
Financial Cost	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Northwood Hills, Eastcote and East Ruislip

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member

1. Discusses with petitioners their concerns with crossing roads in the vicinity of Ascott Court and listens to their suggestions on possible locations for a pedestrian crossing.
2. Subject to 1 above, asks Officers to undertake a feasibility study for the possible installation of a pedestrian crossing 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

Alternative locations for a pedestrian crossing can be discussed with the petitioners.

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 Joel Street in the proximity of Ascott Court. As the petitioners 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 46 signatures predominately signed by residents of Farmlands, Eastcote has been presented to the Council under the following heading:
“We the undersigned residents hereby request Hillingdon Council to install a zebra crossing in the locality of the sheltered housing unit known as Ascott Court, Farmlands or adjacent to it”.
3. Farmlands is a small cul-de-sac parallel to Joel Street and accessed from Wiltshire Lane. At its southern end there is Ascott Court, a sheltered housing development. The road layout is indicated on Appendix A.
4. The other petition with 29 signatures all of which are from residents of Ascott Court was presented under the following heading;
“We the following residents of the London Borough of Hillingdon and Ascott Court, Farmlands, HA5 2LJ call on the London Borough of Hillingdon to install a zebra crossing urgently, to avoid future fatalities and enable elderly residents to cross this busy road safely”
5. A request for a zebra crossing is clear but it is not clear where the petitioners consider a crossing is required. It is likely to be on Joel Street but further clarification is required before the Council could consider a feasibility study.
6. The Cabinet Member will remember an item on a previous Road Safety programme, which introduced a central refuge in Joel Street just north of Wiltshire Lane. This was provided to assist pedestrians cross Joel Street at this point, primarily to access a bus stop on the east side of Joel Street. The petitioners clearly prefer a formal pedestrian crossing and subsequently have asked for a zebra crossing at or close to the existing refuge.
7. The Cabinet Member will also be aware, the Council endeavours to introduce as many pedestrian crossings as possible as part of an annual programme, subject to funding. The success of individual crossings is dependent on it being located in the desire line of pedestrian movement. Although formal pedestrian crossings are the safest place to cross roads, it has become apparent from accident records that possibly the most hazardous area is within 50 metres. Subsequently, it is

necessary to locate these facilities where they would be most used by residents with little deviation from their desired path line.

8. It is suggested the Cabinet Member invites the petitioners to suggest suitable locations and subject to their viability asks officers to undertake a feasibility study to install a zebra pedestrian crossing on Joel Street close to Ascott Court, Farmlands including the estimated cost and report back.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report as a feasibility study can be undertaken with in-house resources. However, if the Council subsequently considers and approves the installation of a pedestrian crossing, a suitable funding source will need to be identified. One could be the Council's Road Safety programme and another possibly an allocation from Transport for London under a walking budget heading.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail the petitioner's concerns and where they consider a pedestrian crossing would be most appropriate.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

If the Cabinet Member subsequently approves the introduction of a pedestrian crossing, Public Notice would be given so that objections can be submitted to the Council for consideration.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Legal

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received 27th November 2009

Petition received 30th December 2009