

WINDMILL HILL, RUISLIP – 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 report on a petition request received by the Cabinet Member at Warrender School asking for safer facilities for pupils to cross roads on their journey towards and away from the school.

Contribution to our plans and strategies

The request will be considered as part of the Council's strategy for road safety.

Financial Cost

There is none associated with the recommendations

Relevant Policy Overview Committee

Residents and Environmental Services

Ward(s) affected

Eastcote & East Ruislip

RECOMMENDATION**That the Cabinet Member**

1. **Considers the request and discusses with petitioners their particular concerns with safety aspects for pupils on their journey towards and away from Warrender School.**
2. **Subject to 1 above, asks officers to develop options identified with the petitioners including estimated costs and report back.**

INFORMATION**Reasons for recommendation**

Discussions between the Cabinet Member and petitioners will allow a list of options to be developed that will improve safety for pupils attending Warrender School so that investigation of feasible measures can be explored in further detail by Officers including the estimated costs involved.

Alternative options considered

These will be discussed with the petitioners.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage

Supporting Information

1. A petition organised by the headteacher of Warrender School has been presented to the Council with 411 signatures. These have come from parents, children and governors of the school together with local residents.
2. The petitioners have signed under the following heading:

“We, the undersigned, are in support of the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Windmill Hill between West Hatch Manor and Old Hatch Manor”.

In an accompanying letter with the petition, the headteacher emphasises the school are working hard to encourage children and parents to walk to school and as part of the school’s Travel Plan have identified a number of concerns. The headteacher would also like to point out that ranked highest amongst these by parents are dangerous road crossings and speed of traffic. These concerns are also shared by local residents.

3. The petition was organised to demonstrate the level of concern with walking to the school and for the Council to explore options that would create safer road crossings, particularly between Old Hatch Manor and West Hatch Manor.
4. On 27th November 2009 the Cabinet Member, accompanied by officers from the Council and local residents, attended Warrender School and received the petition. At the meeting, the Cabinet Member promised that he would return, once officers had undertaken some initial investigations and he would formally hear the petition, providing the school pupils a chance to see and participate in the democratic process of a petition hearing.
5. The location of Warrender School is indicated on Appendix A. Its entrance is on Old Hatch Manor which in turned links with Windmill Hill at its western end. At the junction with Windmill there is a very wide island and south of this is Ruislip Manor town centre. Further west of Windmill Hill is Ruislip town centre. Pupils therefore approach the school from both the south, Ruislip Manor and the west along West Hatch Manor from the Ruislip town centre area. To reach the school from West Hatch Manor requires Windmill Hill to be crossed at two locations and at each traffic is only in one direction. Apart from school children, local residents also use this route.
6. On the eastern side of Windmill Hill, a kerb buildout has previously been introduced on the northern corner with Old Hatch Manor. This was necessary to remove parking which took place close to the junction and increased road safety risk to pedestrians crossing Windmill Hill at this point which is directly opposite to the paved footway on the wide island. The kerb buildout not only removed parked vehicles but also had the beneficial effect of making it a shorter distance for pedestrians to cross the carriageway.
7. It would appear from the petition, the request is for pedestrian crossings on Windmill Hill which would involve one each on the western and eastern sides. These connect with the

northern footways of West Hatch Manor and Old Hatch Manor which is in alignment with the paved footpath across the centre island. It is suggested the Cabinet Member confirms this request with petitioners and from discussions identifies any further issues that can be addressed and subsequently asks officers to undertake feasibility studies including the estimated cost.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report, however if subsequently, the Council approves the introduction of road safety measures, a suitable budget will need to be identified. It can be expected that any proposed measures could be a valid bid from the Council's Road Safety Programme.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns with crossing the road in the vicinity of Warrender School and after identifying suitable options to ask officers to carryout a feasibility study.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

If the Council were to consider the introduction of traffic measures including pedestrian crossings, appropriate consultation would be carried out with the public and local residents.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Legal

A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise 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. If a local authority decides to embark upon a non-statutory process of consultation the applicable principles are no different from those which apply to statutory consultation. Officers must ensure there is a full note of the main points discussed at the meeting with the petitioners.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received 30th November 2009