

PETITION 'LACK OF CONSULTATION ABOUT THE SHARED FOOTPATH BETWEEN CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS ON THE WEST END RD'

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Alan Tilly, Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A – Location Map West End Road

HEADLINES

Summary	To advise the Cabinet Member of the petition expressing concern about the lack of consultation before the creation of a pedestrian and cyclists shared use footpath along West End Road, Ruislip.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People; Our Natural Environment; Our Built Environment; Our Heritage and Civic Pride; Strong financial management. The Hillingdon Local Plan: Part One – Strategic Policies 2012; London Borough of Hillingdon LIP Delivery Plan 2013/14 to 2016/17; Hillingdon's Sustainable Community Strategy 2011.</i>
Financial Cost	There are no financial implications of this report at this stage.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Relevant Ward(s)	South Ruislip

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling:

- 1. meets with and listens to the petitioners' concerns;**
- 2. notes that the shared cycle/ footway arose as a direct consequence of a previous petition from local residents, asking specifically for such provision;**
- 3. notes that prior to the development of the proposals, it had been established that there was a significant history of accidents between pedal cyclists and other road users in this section of West End Road;**
- 4. notes that the path surface and drainage have improved significantly as a consequence of the measures;**

5. notes that of the petitioners supporting the present petition, a clear majority (82%) do not live on West End Road but in adjacent roads; and
6. subject to the above, asks officers to consider the petitioners' concerns, and if deemed appropriate to undertake further investigation and report back to him.

Reasons for recommendations

To give the Cabinet Member the opportunity to discuss in detail the petitioners' concerns and aspirations.

To investigate in further detail the potential to address the petitioners' concerns.

Alternative options considered / risk management

Options will be discussed with the petitioners.

Democratic compliance / previous authority

Detail here any previous delegated authority granted by Cabinet for this decision (if applicable). This would only usually apply if Cabinet at a previous meeting delegated authority to Cabinet Members to make the decision outlined in the recommendation. Democratic Services can advise further if required and may add other text to this section if special authority is being used to take this decision.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. A petition with 127 valid signatures has been received by the Council from residents who live in the vicinity of the new pedestrian and cyclist shared use footway along West End Road, South Ruislip. Petitioners are raising objection to the shared use footway itself and not being consulted before it was implemented. The petition is worded as follows:

"We were not consulted about sharing the footpath with cyclist on the West End Road and are completely against it".

2. The Cabinet Member may recall hearing a previous petition which sought the creation of dedicated cycle routes in West End Road and Victoria Road. At that time, the lead petitioner appeared before the Cabinet Member and their testimony included statements that:

- There was insufficient space on West End Road for cyclists to use the road safely and allow for traffic to pass by on either side of the road;
- The petitioner had spoken to school children and their parents and they had confirmed that more people would cycle if there were better local provision;

- Motorists tended not to provide cyclists with sufficient room on the busiest roads and this posed a danger to them and a general road safety concern given the increased probability of accidents;
 - It was suggested that local cycle paths should be linked from West End Road to the A40.
3. In the report which accompanied that petition, the Cabinet Member heard that in the preceding three years, there had been a total of 53 personal injury accidents in West End Road, of which four involved pedal cyclists. All pedal cycle accidents resulted in slight injuries, but equally significantly, all involved collisions with cars. With the support of the local Ward Members at the time, the Cabinet Member had instructed officers to progress with a study to develop proposals to introduce appropriate measures to benefit cyclists who wished to use West End.
4. Using the Council's allocation of Transport for London's Local Implementation Plan budget for 2016/17 the footway on the western side of West End Road between the Polish War Memorial roundabout and Station Approach was upgraded to become a shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists. Works included widening the footway to provide ample room for pedestrians and cyclists to pass, new tactile paving and dropped kerbs wherever the shared use footway crosses driveways together with the appropriate shared use footway signing and resurfacing.
5. The shared use path along the western side of West End Road was introduced both in response to the previous petition referred to above and in preparation of Transport for London's (TfL's) aspiration to widen the northbound exit of the A4180/ A40 Polish War Memorial roundabout. Transport for London is the Highway Authority for the Polish War Memorial roundabout located at the southern end of the scheme. The northbound exit widening works that TfL propose will reduce the space available to cyclists using West End Road and this therefore created a need to widen the footway and convert it into shared use.
6. In accordance with normal practice, the Cabinet Member approved the design proposals for the shared use path; Ward Members were consulted and supported the scheme strongly. The measures were developed with the input of London Buses and the Metropolitan Police, and were subjected to a formal (and completely independent) Stage I, II and III Road Safety Audit. Before works started on site, the contractor was instructed to notify the residents living along West End Road when the works would be taking place.
7. The new shared use path was successfully implemented and forms part of the adopted highway which is owned and maintained by the London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH). The Cabinet Member will be aware that with some changes on the Public Highway, formal notices are required in the form of Traffic Regulation Orders under the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1994; however these were not explicitly required in this case.
8. The works included replacing an old air quality monitoring station; the opportunity was taken to provide a new station which is much smaller in size and less of an eyesore, thereby significantly improving the public realm.
9. An option was also considered to widen and convert the footway located on the east side of A4180 West End Road into shared use. However, it was found that the widening proposals

would result in losing most of the mature trees. The tree loss was considered unacceptable to Members and so there was no further consideration of this idea.

10. One of the Ward Councillors stressed how delighted they were with the solution of the shared footpath along West End Road. They added that the shared pathway now gives children, particularly from Bourne School, a safe passage for their journey to and from school and suggested that pedestrians can use the other side of the road if they do not like the idea of sharing.

11. The petition has 127 signatures, just 23 of which (18%) of which are from people that actually live along West End Road and therefore could be considered as those most directly affected. The other signatures (82%) are from residents in Masson Avenue, Glebe Avenue, Wingfield Way and Mahlon Avenue. Officers contacted the lead petitioner, who lives in Mahlon Avenue, not West End Road, to discuss the concerns further. He confirmed his wish for the petition to be formally heard by the Cabinet Member.

12. On the basis of the above it is recommended that the Cabinet Member meets with the petitioners and listens to their concerns and any practical suggestions they may have.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report. However if there were costs to arise with a result from further investigations there will be no financial implications to council resources as the costs will be funded from the 2017/18 TfL LIP Programme subject to the Capital Release protocol.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

The hearing will allow for consideration of petitioners' concerns with the new facilities and possible changes to the design.

Consultation carried out or required

None at this stage.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and concur with the financial implications set out above.

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners their concerns, which amounts to an informal consultation. A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise. 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.

Section 122 Road Traffic Regulation Act means that the Council must balance the concerns of objectors with their statutory duty to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic.

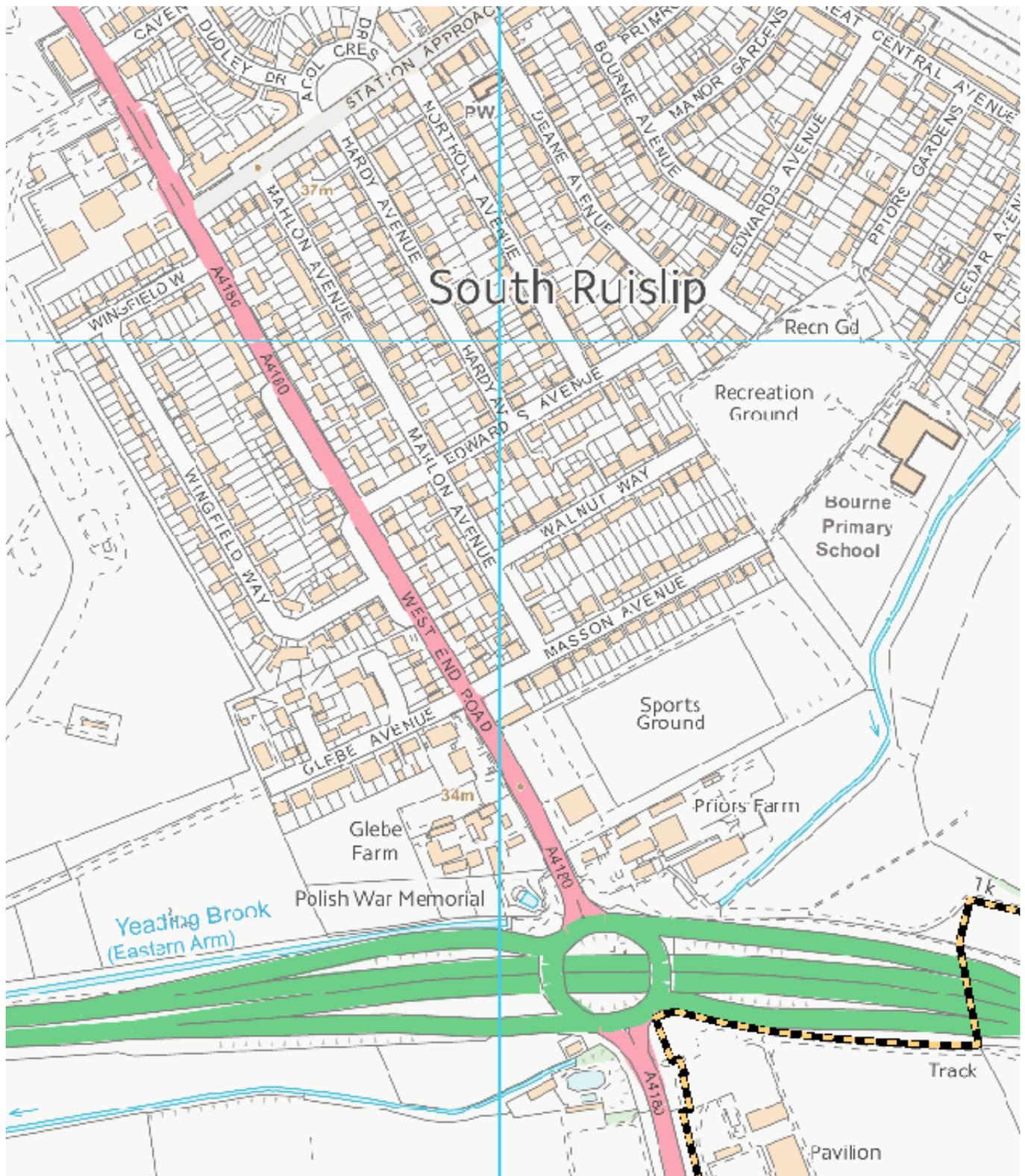
The outcome of any previous consultation should not prejudice the consideration of responses received in relation to the informal consultation or any future consultation.

Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered at that time.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition.

Appendix A: Location Map West End Road



PART I - MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

Cabinet Member Petition Hearing - 14 February 2018