

TITLE: HEMMEN LANE, HAYES – PETITION FOR A 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

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 a petition organised by the Headteacher of Dr Triplett's CE Primary School has submitted a petition asking for a 20 mph speed limit in Hemmen Lane, Hayes.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's strategy for School Travel Plans and the Road Safety programme
Financial Cost	There is none associated with the recommendations.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Townfield

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member

- 1. Notes the petition request and discusses with petitioners their concerns with speed of traffic in Hemmen Lane.**
- 2. Asks Officers to add the request to Dr Triplett's School Travel Plan and when resources permit, carryout a feasibility study as part of the Road Safety programme.**

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The School's Travel Plan includes an action plan which details measures the school considers necessary to improve pupils routes to school and this request can be added. Preliminary studies could be carried out in advance of funding to establish feasibility and introduce a scheme with minimal delay.

Alternative options considered

None as the school have asked for a 20 mph speed limit.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 241 signatures has been submitted to the Council under the following terms:

We the undersigned are fearful for the safety of the children at Dr. Triplett's C.E. Primary School due to the excessive vehicular speeds in Hemmen Lane, Hayes UB3 2JQ. To alleviate these fears and improve overall safety, we hereby request that the speed limit be altered from the current 30 mph to 20 mph".

The petition was organised by the Headteacher of Dr Triplett's School which has its main entrance on Hemmen Lane.

2. The location of Hemmen Lane is indicated on Appendix A and links Church Road in the west to Central Avenue in the east. Consequently, it is an attractive route between these two local distributor roads in this area of Hayes. At its western end, Hemmen Lane has a one-way system which allows traffic to turn in from Church Road but not to exit. It has predominately residential frontage except Dr. Triplett's School which is located on the northern side between Church Road and the junction with Rectory Road. The only entrance to the school is from Hemmen Lane, which has both vehicle and pedestrian access. Hemmen Lane is relatively narrow with parking generally taking place on one side of the road which only leaves sufficient width for single lane of traffic.
3. Dr Triplett's has produced a School Travel Plan and the action plan contains a number of traffic measures. These include a pedestrian crossing, parking, car-sharing and walking bus initiatives. Currently, it does not include a 20 mph speed limit along Hemmen Lane.
4. The request to reduce traffic speeds on Hemmen Lane is understood as the school's main gate is onto this road and clearly, it would appear they have experienced inappropriate speeding which could be excessive for the conditions along Hemmen Lane. The existing speed limit is 30 mph and although vehicles are unlikely to exceed this limit, the speeds can be considered inappropriate because of the narrow road width and the location of the school.
5. It is suggested, the Cabinet Member may like to ask for this request to be added to the Schools Travel Plan and if resources permit, asks Officers to undertake a feasibility study within the road safety programme so that a scheme could be introduced with minimum delay as soon as funding can be obtained.
6. For the Cabinet Members information two Ward Councillors have indicated their support to the petition request and would like it implemented as quickly as possible.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with recommendations to this report as a feasibility study could be carried out with in-house resources. However, if subsequently a scheme is approved for the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in Hemmen Lane, a suitable funding source will need to be identified.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To investigate in greater detail the petitioner's request and explore potential sources of funding.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this stage but if the Council subsequently approves the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in Hemmen Lane, statutory consultation will be required to notify members of the public for comment.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal, which amounts to an informal 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.

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.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received 11th November 2009