

CHURCH ROAD, WEST DRAYTON - PETITION REQUESTING A ZEBRA CROSSING

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact(s)	Steven Austin Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A - Location plan

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition requesting a zebra crossing on Church Road, West Drayton close to St Martin's Church.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's Road Safety Programme
Financial Cost	There are no direct costs associated with the recommendations to this report
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents', Education & Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	West Drayton

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting with the Petitioners, the Cabinet Member:

1. **considers their request for a Zebra Crossing on Church Road, West Drayton close to St Martin's Church.**
2. **subject to the above asks officers to add the petitioners' request to the Council's Road Safety Programme for further detailed investigation.**
3. **asks officers to commission independent speed and traffic surveys at locations agreed by the petitioners and local ward councillors and then to report back to the Cabinet Member.**

Reasons for recommendations

The petition hearing will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the petitioners of their concerns and suggestions.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 311 signatures has been submitted to the Council under the following heading

"We the undersigned are in strong agreement that a Zebra Crossing be put in place between The Closes Park and St Martin's Church on Church Road, West Drayton.

Church Road is a fast and dangerous road with bends and parked cars blocking the view with cars driving at speeds that are difficult to assess.

Two primary schools use this busy road weekly to attend St Martin's Church as well as the general public. It's only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt."

2. In an accompanying letter the lead petitioner helpfully provides the following further information;

"Church Road has a sharp bend with cars parked either side so assessing the dangers ahead is made very difficult.

This road is mainly used as a "rat run" for car drivers to skip the main part of town so is constantly busy and in use.

Most importantly this road is not only used by the general public but also by two primary schools on a weekly basis to attend church, also Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival etc. The Park opens onto Church Road with no gated entrance, so small children and/or pets can easily run out not knowing the dangers that lie ahead.

St Martin's Church also holds two toddler groups a week and various groups aimed at both children and senior members (who are also slow at crossing). With very young children crossing at such a dangerous point, as stated you cannot see around the bend as you try to cross.

As proposed on accompanying letters and petition, we feel that a zebra crossing would be beneficial to ensure public safety and deliver awareness of speed and general driving conditions.

The road is 30mph which we feel is too high for such a small, narrow and very busy road with very poor visibility that is highly used mainly by children. Again this can be addressed with a crossing.

Our aim is a preventative measure to ensure accidents and possible fatalities will be eradicated. We urge you to help keep our children and the general public safe and we feel a zebra crossing is an essential solution."

3. In addition, three letters of support have been submitted with the petition, two were from local primary schools and the third was from a local church all of which the Cabinet Member will have seen.

4. As mentioned by the lead petitioner, Church Road is a mainly residential road with some office space at the western end of the road close to the junction of Swan Road. The entrance to St Martin's Parish Church and Drayton Hall Gardens are both located towards the eastern end of the road.

5. Church Road appears on a plan dating back to 1868 and follows almost the same route as it does today. The width of Church Road is just over 4.5 metres at its narrowest point to approximately 7.7 metres at its widest and is bounded on both sides by a footway. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, the Council has recently undertaken a formal consultation on a detailed design for a Parking Management Scheme in the area which includes Church Road. The results of this formal consultation will be reported separately.

6. The feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing depends on a number of design requirements including visibility distances, the lay-out of existing driveways, existing/proposed parking restrictions and the provision of a safe area for pedestrians waiting to cross the road.

7. In response to the petition, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member meets the petitioners and listens to their concerns and decides if this report should be added to the Council's Road Safety Programme for further detailed investigations and the development of alternative options. In addition and subject to the outcome of discussions, the Cabinet Member could recommend undertaking independent speed and traffic surveys on Church Road, at locations to be agreed with the petitioners and ward councillors to help inform any decisions on a possible zebra crossing and any other measures that may be appropriate.

Financial Implications

If the Cabinet Member is minded to agree to undertake independent speed and traffic surveys the cost is usually in the region of £80 to £85 per location which will be funded through an allocation from within the Transportation Service. If works are subsequently required, suitable funding will also be identified.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member an opportunity to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

No financial implications at this stage.

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners request for a zebra crossing on Church Road, West Drayton which amounts to an informal consultation. 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.

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.

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

Corporate Property and Construction

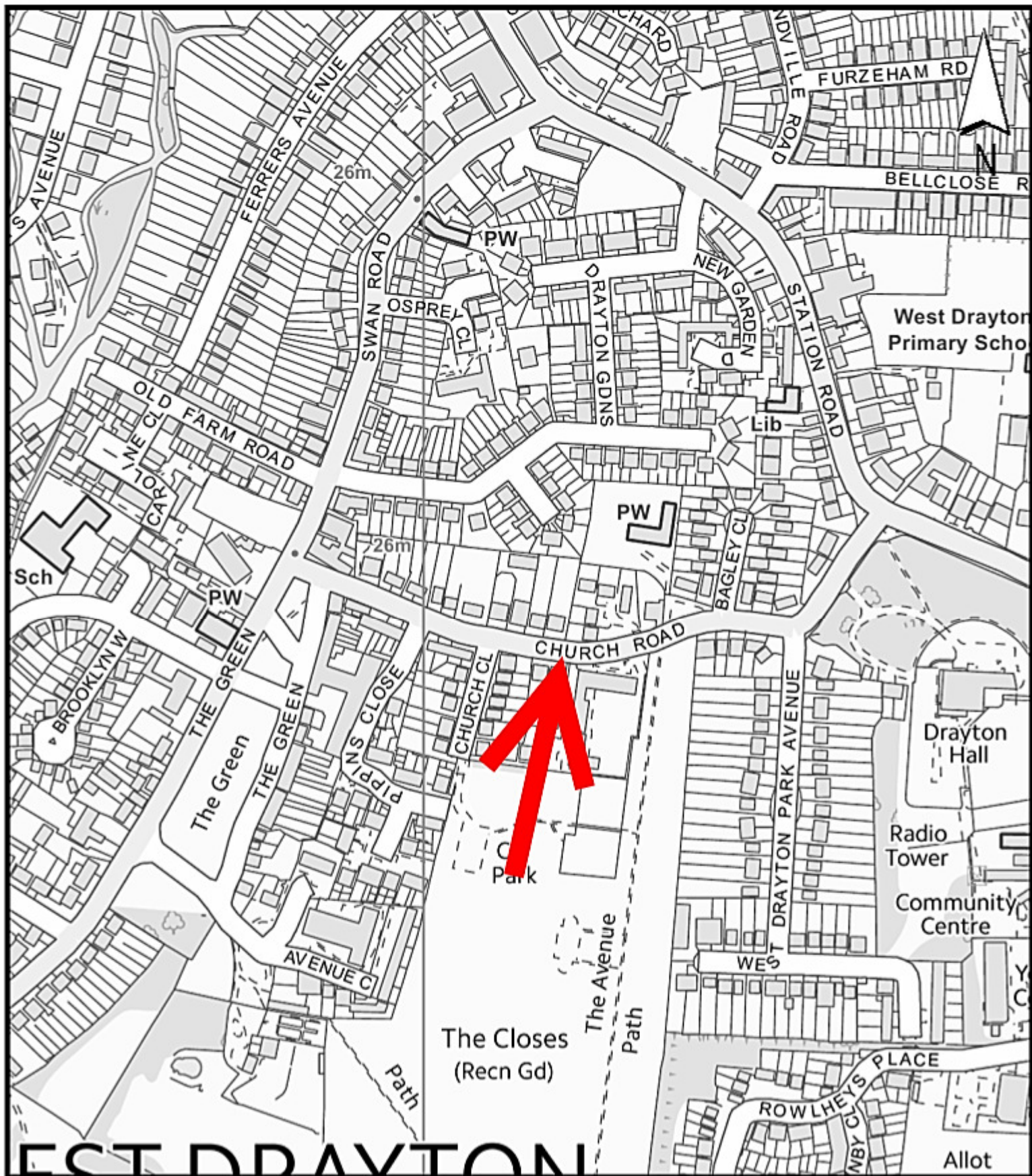
None at this stage.

Relevant Service Groups

None at this stage.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received.



Church Road, West Drayton
Location plan

Appendix A

Date September 2018

Scale 1:4,000