

PETITION REQUESTING THAT THE EXISTING ZEBRA CROSSING CLOSE TO ST HELEN'S COLLEGE, LONG LANE, HILLINGDON IS CHANGED TO A PELICAN CROSSING

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor John Riley
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Public Safety and Transport
Officer Contact(s)	Steven Austin Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received requesting that the zebra crossing located close to St Helen's College, Long Lane, Hillingdon is changed to a pelican crossing.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the Council objective of Our People. The objection to the consultation will be considered in relation to the Council's strategy for road safety.
Financial Cost	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents, Education and Environmental Services
Relevant Ward(s)	Uxbridge North and Hillingdon East

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets and discussed with petitioners their request to change the existing zebra crossing close to St Helen's College on Long Lane, Hillingdon to a pelican crossing;**
- 2. Notes that the installation of signal controlled crossing would need the support of Transport for London, the body responsible for all traffic signals across Greater London;**
- 3. Notes that Transport for London would levy an upfront charge of £5,000 for any investigation work;**
- 4. Notes that there are a number of alternatives to signalisation which may be open to consideration;**

5. Asks Officers to review the Police reported incident data at and around the existing zebra crossing and notes the two incidents reported by the school;
6. Notes the exceptional collaborative work undertaken between St Helen's College and the Council's Road Safety and School Travel Tea; and
7. Subject to the above, consider asking officers to engage with Transport for London on this matter.

Reasons for recommendation

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

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The Council has received a petition submitted by St Helen's School signed by parents, pupils and the Head of the school under the following heading:

"To replace the existing zebra crossing outside the North Hillingdon Methodist Church on Long Lane, Hillingdon (between St. Helen's College Upper and Lower School sites with a pelican crossing."

2. In an accompanying letter drafted by the school's Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs), they eloquently state their case and suggestions as;

"We are the school Junior Road Safety Officers and we are in support of our school petition for a pelican crossing to replace the zebra crossing between St Helen's College school sites on Long Lane.

This zebra crossing is the only safe way for us to travel between our lower school and upper school and we don't feel safe or confident crossing the road using it. We are scared because the cars go so fast and don't always stop for us. One pupil was hit by a car and there was a near miss with our Head Teacher Mrs Drummond!

This crossing is an important link for our younger pupils on different sites, but Long Lane is a busy road and the drivers are unaware of their speed. We think there is a big chance of pupils, parents and local people getting hurt which we don't want to happen. Please help us make the crossing safer for all to use.

We are doing our part at school. We do regular assemblies on topics such as the green cross code, be bright be seen and speed awareness as well as regularly holding safer travel competitions for our pupils. We also got our parents to make a parent parking pledge.

With your support then imagine how much safer the crossing would be and how many lives might be saved. Working together we can make Hillingdon and in particular Long Lane a safer place if we can change the zebra crossing into a pelican crossing. This we believe would have a positive impact on pedestrians, drivers, cyclists and all the local people.

Please help is to be safer moving between our school buildings.”

3. In a supporting letter, the Head of St Helen’s College helpfully makes the following points;

“I am writing to you in my capacity as the Head Teacher of St Helen’s College which, as you will know, is an independent primary school in Hillingdon. We have three sites: our Ducklings Kindergarten is based at All Saints Church, our Lower School is at 160 Long Lane, and our Upper School is sited between Long Lane and Parkway, with an entrance on each of these roads.

You will know that Long Lane in an extremely busy road, along with traffic flows continuously throughout the day (but with particularly busy periods at school run times). Traffic moving along the road frequently travels in excess of the speed limit and our school has been working for many years in conjunction with Hillingdon STARS team to improve road safety in the area. We have a very active pupil team of Junior Road Safety Officers who have implemented several successful schemes, including our ‘Walk to School Loyalty Scheme’, and who also took part, last summer, in the pilot of the Roadwatch Scheme alongside the Hillingdon police. We require our parents to adhere to school travel and parking regulations and the majority of them are signed up to the ‘Parent Parking Pledge’. We train our staff regularly in road safety and we ensure generous staffing to accompany any pupil groups using the local roads and crossings. We run regular pedestrian training sessions with our pupils, and our JRSOs continue to work with the STARS team on road safety and speed awareness campaigns, so I hope you will agree that we already do much to promote road safety amongst those on our school and wider community.

However, I am sorry to say that this is not enough. Recently, one of our Year 2 pupils was hit by a car and I myself had a very frightening near miss with a motorbike. Both incidents took place on the zebra crossing located between our two sites on Long Lane.

Many of the parents, pupils and staff cross Long Lane on foot at the start and end of the school day, particularly (but not only) those who have children at both of our sites. Many staff and children also cross, in class groups, during the school day as they move between the sites for lessons, visits and special events. To do so, they use the existing zebra crossing, and we promote safe use of this crossing frequently to our pupils, staff and parents. Sadly, drivers on Long Lane do not always adhere to the rules and do not always stop for those using the crossing. This is what led to the two incidents above.

We are therefore petitioning for a pelican crossing to be installed, as soon as possible, to replace the exiting zebra crossing. Currently, at school run times, there is a steady stream of pedestrians using the zebra crossing, which constantly interrupts the flow of traffic for one or two people to cross the road. A pelican crossing would ensure that pedestrians congregate in a larger group whilst waiting to cross and the flow of traffic would be controlled. It would undoubtedly be a much safer arrangement, as cars would have to stop at a red light rather than ignoring someone waiting to cross on a zebra crossing.

I am enclosing our petition which, as you can see, has been signed by a significant number of residents. Please would you consider this petition at your earliest convenience? This is

not a case of personal preference but of the safety of young children, their parents, our staff and the wide community. There is no doubt in my mind, given the two incidents recently, that if the zebra crossing is not replaced with a pelican crossing at the earliest opportunity, it is a matter of time before a child or adult comes to serious harm in this location.

4. Long Lane is a main route in Hillingdon that links Uxbridge Road (A4020) in the south to the Western Avenue (A40) in the north and then continues onto Ickenham Village. The section between Uxbridge Road and the A40 where St Helen's College is located, is a classified 'A' road (A437) and a primary Borough distributor road. North of the A40 Long Lane is reclassified as the B466, a secondary Borough distributor road. The location of St Helen's college is indicated on the plan attached as Appendix A.
5. There is a pedestrian phase at the traffic signalled controlled junctions where Long Lane meets the Uxbridge Road and A40. Between these two locations there are a further six formal pedestrian crossing points in the form of zebra crossings including the one close to St Helen's College which this petition refers to.
6. As mentioned in the submissions made by the JRSOs and Head Teacher, the school should be commended on the way it engages with the Council's Road Safety and School Travel Team and have undertaken a series of road safety campaigns and initiatives, some of which are summarised below;

'St Helens College have worked with the STARS team for a number of years and have been awarded a Gold Accreditation award from TfL for their school travel plan.

In 2019 they had a 10% increase in active travel from 2018 which is a great achievement, especially as the catchment area is large as they are a private school.

In 2019, the Junior Road Safety Officers from St Helen's College attended the Councils Dragons Den event whereby schools can bid for funds for a road safety or school travel campaign or project. The school were awarded £420 to introduce a walking loyalty scheme which rewards pupils with points every time they actively travel to school. They also purchased scooter racks for the infant pupils and a high vis jacket for every child.

The school promoted the Parents Parking Pledge in 2019 and in one week managed to get 40% of parents sign up. Their pledge focussed on speeding and responsible parking.

At the 2020 Dragons Den Event the school had raised their concerns for speeding on both the Parkway and Long Lane and bid for £460 to go towards banners around all three entrances campaigning to 'kill your speed'.

Their continuous good work was recognised by the London Road Safety Council and in July 2019 they were invited to present at the full Council meeting where they were commended for their contributions to road safety.

The school continue to work hard with the team and the school community to encourage safe and sustainable travel.'

7. In the submissions made by the JRSOs and the Head Teacher, they highlight two incidents that occurred at the crossing close near the school. The first is where a Year 2 child was reportedly hit by a vehicle which is distressing for all involved and the Council hopes that

the child makes a full and speedy recovery. The second incident involved the Head Teacher who reported that she was almost hit on the crossing by a motorcyclist and thankfully not injured on this occasion. Given the two incidents above the Cabinet Member may be minded to asks officers to analyse the Police recorded incidents at and around the zebra crossing which could help promote the school's case for changing the existing zebra crossing to a signal controlled crossing.

8. The school have made a compelling case to have the current crossing arrangements changed but it should be borne in mind that London Borough of Hillingdon does not have any direct control over traffic signals, Transport for London is the body responsible for the design, installation and maintenance of all traffic signals in Greater London. Transport for London is generally seeking to reduce rather than increase the number of traffic signals, and their support would be critical should it be felt that the existing zebra crossing should be changed to a signal controlled crossing.
9. With this in mind, the Cabinet Member may wish to explore with petitioners other measures to enhance road safety at or near the site of the Zebra Crossing. For example, the Council led the way within Greater London of installing the bright circular LED light haloes seen on some of the Belisha Beacons in the Borough. These are known by their proprietary name of 'Zebrites' and they provide a ring of focused, directional flashing amber LED lights which make the crossing far more conspicuous to approaching drivers. This can be especially beneficial on long, straight tree-lined routes as is the case in this section of Long Lane. A further device which the Council has used in several locations is the 'vehicle activated sign' (VAS) which flashes a warning to any approaching driver who is travelling in excess of the posted speed limit.
10. In conclusion, therefore, the Cabinet Member may wish to meet petitioners and discuss with them the various options which may be open to him, whilst clarifying the situation with regard to Transport for London and their role with all traffic signals in Greater London.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report. If investigation works and further works arising from the investigation are subsequently required, suitable funding will be identified within the Transport for London Grant Local Implementation Plan.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

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

The recommendation will allow the concerns of petitioners to be considered in detail.

Consultation carried out or required

None at this stage.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs that there are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Legal

There are no legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners their request for a Pelican Crossing as set out in this report, which mounts to an informal consultation. A meeting with 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.

In considering the residents' response, decision makers must ensure there is full consideration of all representations arising including those that do not accord with the officer recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that response 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 at the time.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

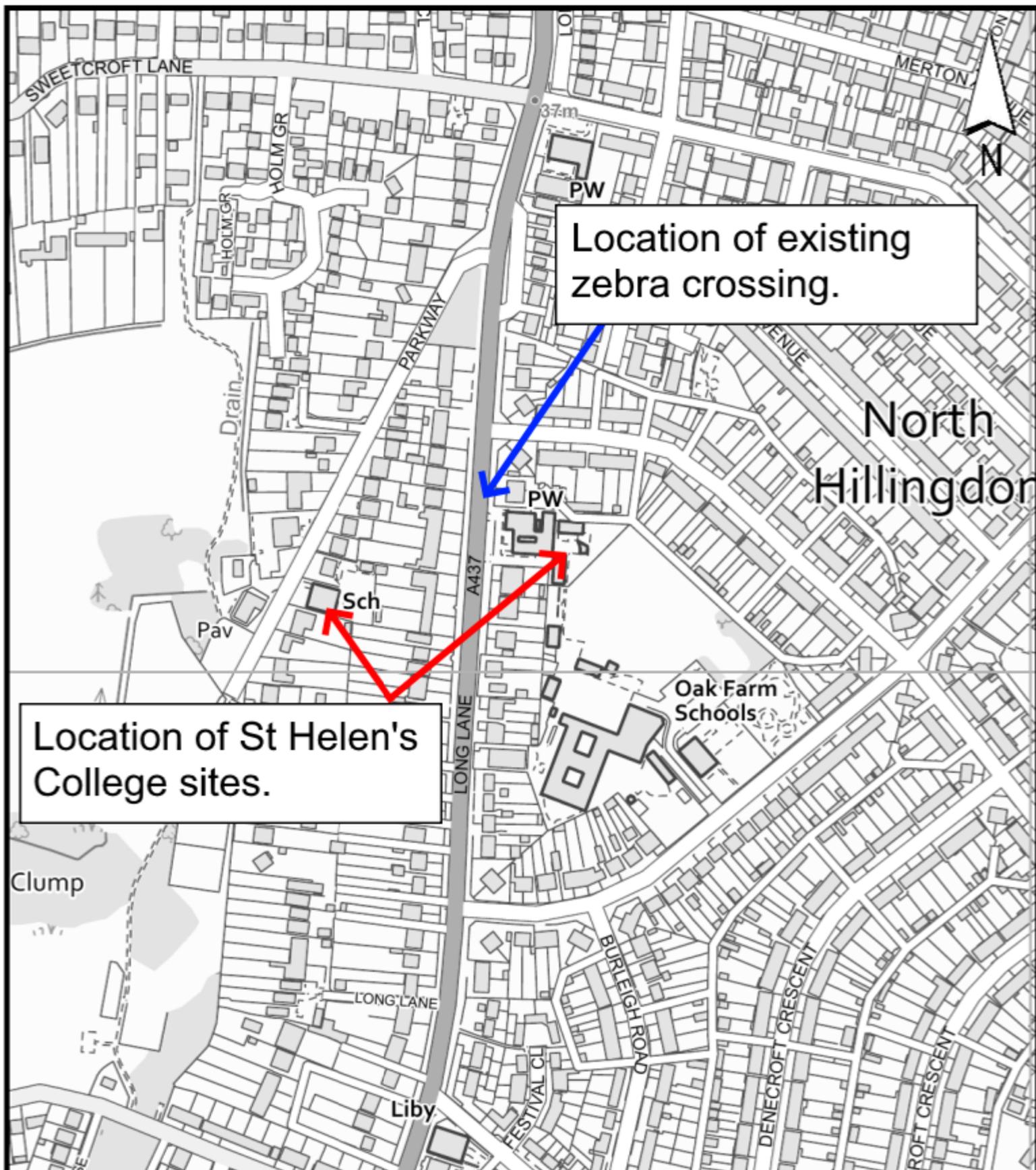
None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

TITLE OF ANY APPENDICES

Appendix A - Plan showing the location of St Helen's College on Long Lane.



St Helen's College - Petition to convert the zebra crossing on Long Lane to a pelican crossing

Appendix A

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Scale 1:4,000