

ICKENHAM STATION, GLEBE AVENUE, ICKENHAM - PETITION REQUESTING A ZEBRA CROSSING OUTSIDE THE STATION

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor John Riley
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Public Safety and Transport
Officer Contact(s)	Sophie Wilmot, Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A – Location Plan

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received an e-petition from residents requesting the introduction of a zebra crossing outside Ickenham Station on Glebe Avenue, Ickenham.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request can be considered as part of the Council's annual programme of road safety initiatives.
Financial Cost	The cost associated with the recommendations to this report is £1,575 and will be managed within existing transportation revenue budgets.
Relevant Select Committee	Public Safety and Transport Select Committee
Ward(s) affected	Ickenham

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Public Safety and Transport:

- 1) meets with petitioners and listens to their concerns in regard to safe crossing for pedestrians in the area of Ickenham Station and the request for the provision of a zebra crossing;
- 2) subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to undertake 24/7 automated traffic counts at locations along Glebe Avenue agreed with petitioners;
- 3) subject to the outcome of (1), asks officers to undertake pedestrian surveys at and close to the station to understand current pedestrian desire-lines;
- 4) asks officers to consider and incorporate as appropriate the request into the current investigations into improving accessibility and road safety in the area around the station, as detailed within the body of the report; and

- 5) notes the work by Transport for London to make Ickenham Station 'step-free' and the part that the Council is playing to build on this.

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.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Supporting Information

1. An e-petition with a total of 107 signatures has been received by the Council.
2. The petition states the following: "*We the undersigned petition Hillingdon Council to install a zebra crossing on the bridge outside Ickenham tube station for everyone's safety. Justification: In busy times, namely school run and rush hour, cars fly over this bridge and it makes it very difficult and dangerous to cross the road, as you don't have a good view with it being a hill and bend. It is a busy thoroughfare with pedestrians going to and from Glebe School, as well as commuters to the station, which would benefit everyone to be able to cross the road safely.*"
3. During the petition process, the petition organiser informed Democratic Services that a number of other safety issues were raised by residents. These include ideas such as introducing and enforcing a 20mph speed zone around the Glebe Estate, where it was claimed that traffic often speeds around school times; putting cameras or some similar deterrent outside the station where people often stop to drop off/pick up on the brow of the hill; and traffic lights or a pedestrian bridge to help pedestrians cross the road outside the station.
4. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, speed enforcement is principally a matter for the Metropolitan Police, who unlike the Council have the necessary powers to prosecute when necessary for what is an endorsable offence. Camera enforcement of stopping offences other than on bus stops or school keep clear markings is not permitted under current legislation, and speed cameras (more formally 'safety cameras') are, contrary to popular belief, not the responsibility of the Council. These matters do not, however, form part of the original submitted petition as signed by the original signatories, and so are noted here for information purposes only.
5. Glebe Avenue is located off Long Lane, Ickenham, and provides the main access into a large residential area which is also home to Glebe Primary School. The area is also served by the U10 bus service and there are parking management controls in the vicinity of the

school, the latter implemented following previous petitioning by local residents. The main entrance to Ickenham Station is located on the bridge over the railway; at this location the carriageway narrows and, as a result, the footway also narrows. Previous requests from the Council to the owners of the bridge over the railway (Transport for London – TfL) have included the suggestion to widen the carriageway in this area, but this was not considered a feasible option by TfL. Similarly, the idea of some kind of parallel pedestrian bridge was regrettably deemed not viable.

6. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, as part of TfL's 'Step Free Access' programme, works have just been completed at Ickenham Station, including the installation of lifts, with the station now being step-free from street to platform. TfL is now working on the installation of a small mezzanine car park to allow disabled access straight from the car park into the station.
7. In order to support the work by TfL, the Council has been jointly working with them on both a new access into the mezzanine car park and working on measures that could achieve speed reduction, with related measures on Glebe Avenue and the surrounding residential road network. These considerations are currently at the concept design stage; as they progress, and subject to the necessary funding, they will be discussed with the Cabinet Member and ultimately subjected to an appropriate public consultation.
8. The Council has previously been requested to consider a formal crossing point outside the station and investigations have been undertaken. This study concluded that a formal crossing directly outside the station is not feasible, due to its location on the bridge. A crossing could not be safely provided due to inadequate sight-lines and the reduced footway in this area meaning a safe waiting area for pedestrians is unfortunately not achievable. Furthermore, this cannot be improved in this area, due to not being able to widen the carriageway at this point.
9. Although the provision of a zebra crossing directly outside the station is not feasible, further investigation could be undertaken to determine another location in reasonable proximity to the station but further along Glebe Avenue, at a point where a crossing could be safely accommodated and at the same time benefit pedestrian movements in the area. In order to support these investigations, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member considers approving the commissioning of appropriate pedestrian surveys near the station via video surveys. These will provide information on both pedestrian numbers and desire lines.
10. The related correspondence to the petition has also raised concerns about road safety and made a request for a 20mph speed limit in the area. In order to investigate these concerns further and support the work already started by Council officers on road safety in the area, the Cabinet Member may be minded to instruct officers to commission a series of independent 24/7 automated traffic counts to collect vehicle speeds and classification. The petitioners may also be able to offer suggested locations for such surveys, based on their local knowledge of the area, whilst the Cabinet Member may wish to expound on the Council's present position with regard to 20mph zones.
11. Subject to the outcome of these new traffic surveys, the Cabinet Member may be further minded to instruct officers to incorporate the residents' concerns into the review of potential options to improve the road safety and pedestrian crossing in the area. These considerations would need to take into account highways constraints, existing restrictions

and such. The outcome of these considerations will then be discussed with the Cabinet Member to decide on the most appropriate way forward.

12. Should a potential scheme result from this process, there would need to be appropriate public consultation with residents.

Financial Implications

If the Cabinet Member is minded to agree to undertake traffic surveys, the estimated cost would be £1,575. This will be managed within existing transportation revenue budgets. If works are subsequently required, suitable funding will need to be identified.

RESIDENT BENEFIT AND CONSULTATION

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

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

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this stage.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the recommendations to this report and concurs with the financial implications as set out above.

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal to discuss with petitioners their request for a zebra crossing at Ickenham Station on Glebe Avenue, Ickenham, 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 at that time.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

There are no Infrastructure / Asset Management implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Relevant Service Groups

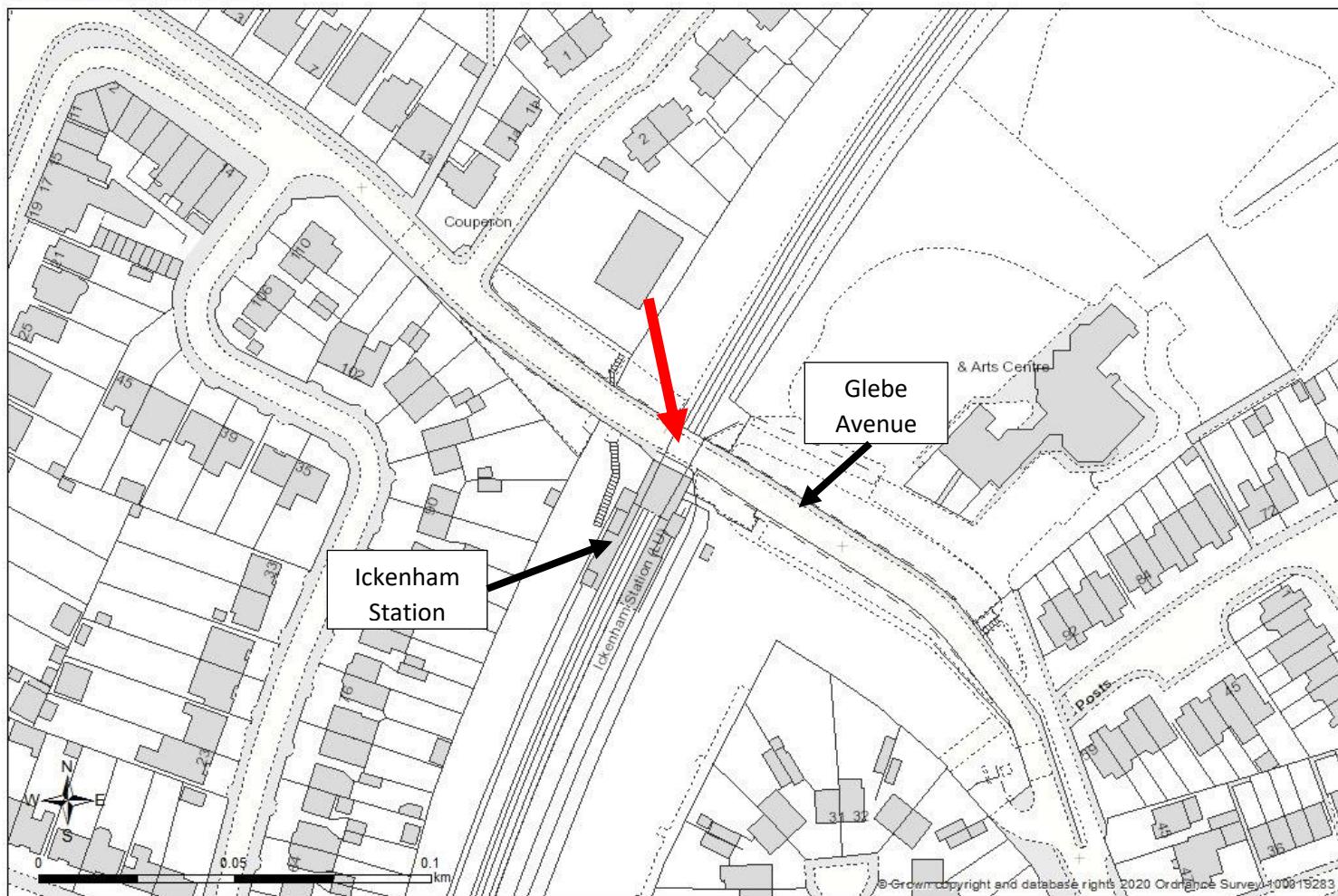
None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received.

Location Plan

Hillingdon Browser



Map Notes

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