

FREEMAN'S LANE, HAYES - PETITION REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING AND INCREASED STREET CLEANSING

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

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that the Council has received a petition from residents requesting the introduction of speed reduction and increased street cleansing on Freeman's Lane, Hayes.
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 £425 and will be managed within existing transportation revenue budgets.
Relevant Select Committee	Public Safety and Transport Select Committee
Ward(s) affected	Townfield

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Public Safety and Transport:

- 1) meets with petitioners and listens to their concerns in regard to speeding and street cleansing on Freeman's Lane, Hayes;
- 2) subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to undertake 24/7 automated traffic counts at locations along Freeman's Lane agreed with petitioners, and to report back to the Cabinet Member on the outcome;
- 3) subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to liaise with the Highways team to investigate the current width restriction on Freeman's Lane, Hayes; and
- 4) subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers within the Street Cleansing team to investigate issues raised by the petitioners and report back to the relevant Cabinet Member, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing and Regeneration.

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. A petition with a total of 81 signatures has been received by the Council.
2. The petition is a request for a speed reduction and increased street cleansing in Freeman's Lane, Hayes and states the following: '*20mph speed limit and littering blighting residents' lives on Freemans Lane. We the residents of Freemans Lane and nearby areas call upon the Council to reconsider the imposition of 30 mph speed limit in our road for the following reasons. 1. Outside two of the entrances to the park where the pathways are very narrow there is no designated crossing points which often means that children and less agile residents struggle to cross due to 30mph. 2. Those living in the road have to listen to the constant sound of cars screeching day and night as they pick up speed or come to a halt close to where the road turns and narrows. 3. There have been very many near misses due to speed of vehicle travel and we are all aware of the accidents that have taken place over the years. We call upon the Council to install 20mph in Freemans Lane as is on most of Church Road. We would also welcome the Council taking action to ensure our road is cleaned more often than it is due to the high volume of littering that takes place by those entering and exiting the Park.... Reduced speed limit from 30mph to 20mph reinstall bollards (they are damaged, unlocked and widened).*'
3. Freeman's Lane, Hayes is a residential road in Hayes. It runs between the roundabout junction with Botwell Lane, Botwell Common Road and Judge Heath Lane to the junction with southbound from its junction with Church Road. On one side of the road there is Barra Hall Park. A location plan is provided in Appendix A.
4. A review of accident data shows that there have been five personal-injury accidents on Freeman's Lane in the most recent five-year period for which data is available. All these accidents resulted in slight injury only. The majority of accidents occurred at the junction with Church Road. It should be noted that these records do not include damage-only collisions or near misses which had no police involvement. The petitioners have indicated that a lot of near misses have occurred on Freeman's Lane.
5. The Cabinet Member will be aware that, like most local authorities throughout the United Kingdom, the Council no longer installs the old-fashioned type of round-topped 'speed humps', often known colloquially as 'sleeping policemen'. However, in certain

circumstances where the evidence supports the case, some other forms of traffic calming, such as raised speed tables or other approved measures, may be considered. There are of course costs involved with any physical measures of this kind, which means that there has to be reasonable evidence to justify the expenditure.

6. In order to investigate these concerns of speeding raised by the residents of Freeman's Lane, 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. Given the size of Freeman's Lane, a total of five survey locations are suggested to ensure an appropriate set of data is collected.
7. Subject to the outcome of the traffic surveys, the Cabinet Member may then be minded to instruct officers to review potential options to improve the road safety and reduce traffic speeds in the area. These considerations would need to consider highways constraints, existing restrictions and other such factors. The outcome of these considerations would then be discussed with the Cabinet Member to decide on the most appropriate way forward.
8. Should a potential scheme result from this process, there would need to be appropriate public consultation with residents, as well as bidding for the funding that would be required to deliver such a scheme.
9. There is an existing width restriction on Freeman's Lane, close to the roundabout junction. This is a physical width restriction, which is built with a central island and removable bollards to maintain access for emergency services. The petitioners have stated that this width restriction is currently damaged, with bollards removed resulting in the width restriction being wider and not preventing larger vehicles accessing Freeman's Lane. Officers have visited the width restriction on Freeman's Lane and all bollards were in place at the time, however, the Cabinet Member maybe minded to ask the Highways team to undertake a more in-depth investigation.
10. The petitioners have also outlined that further street cleansing is needed on Freeman's Lane as the road suffers from increased litter due to people exiting Barra Hall Park. Officers have liaised with colleagues in the Street Cleansing Team who have provided the following information about cleaning of Freeman's Lane: '*At the moment, Street Cleaning has a Solo sweeper that attends Freemans Lane every Wednesday. We also have mechanical sweepers that sweep the area every 4 to 6 weeks depending on the time of year and workload. On top of this we have a 'Ward Team' that clear fly tips and litter, etc, and any other emergency ad-hoc jobs whenever reported. We respond within 24 hours to any complaints received. This area is regularly monitored.*'
11. Based on the above, the Street Cleaning team feel that, at this time, there is no need for Street Cleaning to send any more resources to the area. However, once he has heard the testimony of petitioners, the Cabinet Member for Public Safety and Transport may be minded to ask that the Street Cleaning Team investigate and discuss the issues with the relevant Cabinet Member, who is the Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing and Regeneration.

Financial Implications

If the Cabinet Member is minded to agree to undertake traffic surveys, the estimated cost would be £425. 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

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

There are no Infrastructure / asset management implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Relevant Service Groups

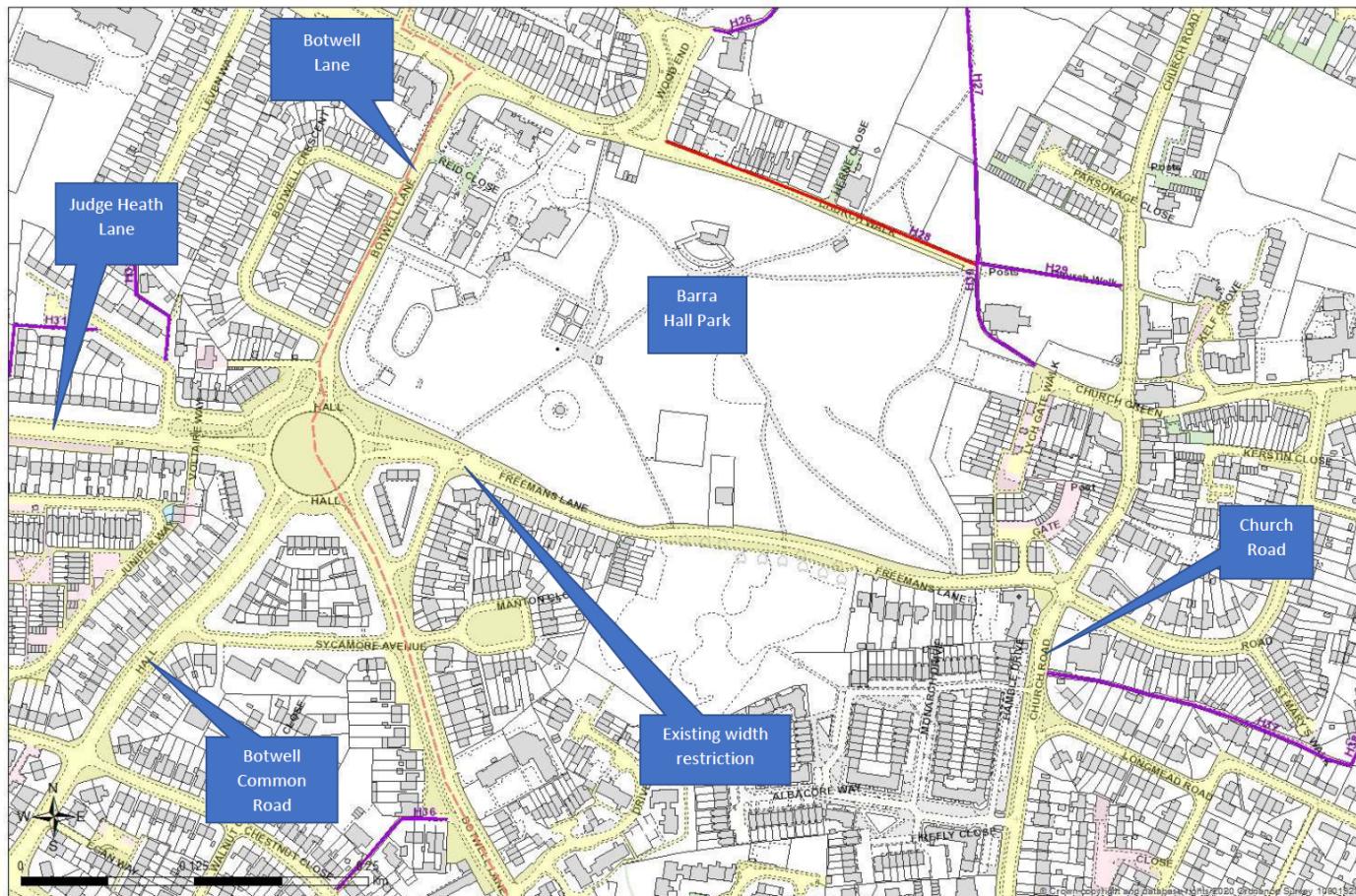
None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received.

APPENDIX A - LOCATION PLAN

Freeman's Lane, Hayes



Map Notes

© Crown copyright and database rights 2021 Ordnance Survey 100019283