

SWAKELEYS DRIVE, ICKENHAM - PETITION REQUESTING A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT AND RAT RUN TRAFFIC FILTERING ON SWAKELEYS DRIVE / COURT ROAD

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 an e-petition from residents requesting the consideration of a 20mph speed limit and rat run traffic filtering on Swakeleys Drive / Court Road, 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 £425 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 & Transport:

- 1) **Meets with petitioners and listens to their request for traffic calming and rat run traffic mitigation on Swakeleys Drive / Court Road, Ickenham;**
- 2) **Subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to undertake 24/7 automated traffic counts at locations along Swakeleys Drive and Court Road as agreed with petitioners;**
- 3) **Subject to the outcome of (2) above, asks officers to consider as appropriate the request for traffic calming and rat running mitigation on Swakeleys Drive / Court Road, Ickenham.**

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 117 signatures has been received by the Council.
2. The petition states the following: *'We the undersigned petition Hillingdon Council to implement a 20 mph speed limit plus traffic/modal filtering measures on Swakeleys Drive and Court Road, to prevent the endemic speeding and rat-running of vehicles using these roads. **Justification:** These roads are used as a rat-run to/from Long Lane at various times of the day and as such the drivers have no regard for the safety of residents, pedestrians or other road users frequently reaching between 40-60 mph on certain stretches. The chances of a life-threatening injury stemming from collision at those speeds on a residential street are effectively guaranteed. The blatant risk is further highlighted during school hours with both roads forming major walking/ cycling corridors for Vyners and Douay Martyrs schools. Local residents are concerned about pulling in or out of their driveways safely, the safety of their families and neighbours of all ages. A 20 mph speed limit and traffic/ modal filtering would be a low-cost solution to dramatically improve the safety of the roads for all concerned whether they be commuting, walking or cycling to school, visiting neighbours/friends or simply out to exercise. Numerous examples across the borough, city and indeed the country show that 20 mph is the appropriate speed limit for a residential street. Transport for London (in its 2018 Vision Zero Action Plan) is actively campaigning for 20 mph (rather than 30 mph) to become the default speed limit in urban areas, something which is now the case in 58% of local authorities across Greater London. Since they were introduced in the UK during the 1960's, traffic/modal filters have been consistently proven to reduce life-threatening injuries on and around roads by removing the possibility of rat-running and speeding whilst not impeding access for local residents or adversely increasing traffic on surrounding roads.'*
3. Swakeleys Drive is a mainly residential road which runs between Warren Road and Long Lane. Court Road is a residential road running between Swakeleys Drive and Long Lane. Both roads currently have a 30mph limit denoted by the presence of street lighting.
4. Although neither road has a direct school entrance the area is highly used by pupils travelling to and from Douay Martyrs and Vyners Secondary Schools. The schools have a combined student population of around 2,433. The pupils aged 11 – 18 years of age tend

to travel themselves or with friends. Swakeleys Drive also provides access to Swakeleys Park, a keen green space primarily serving local residents.

5. The petition touches upon the Transport for London (TfL) Vision Zero policy which is the *'ambition to eliminate death and serious injury from London's transport network by 2041'*. A review of the most recent five-year accident data for this site shows a total of two slight personal injury accidents on Swakeleys Drive and two slight personal injury accidents on Court Road. The recorded accidents do not take into account vehicle only damage collisions or near misses.
6. The petition suggestions measures such as a 20mph speed limit or traffic modal filters. Traffic modal filters are either physical or camera-enforced closures of a section of road to restrict vehicles cutting through the area, access would be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians. These are just some of the methods which can be used to reduce traffic speeds and discourage rat running. The most appropriate traffic calming measures for an area are considered based on a number of factors, including but not limited to traffic levels; vehicle classification; speeds and typography.
7. The Cabinet Member will be aware that some local authorities have introduced such measures as 'modal filters' and 'Low Traffic Neighbourhoods' (LTN for short); clearly such measures, which limit through traffic, also affect local residents just as they can govern rat-running, and in some cases have proved controversial due to the understandable wide range of views. With this in mind, it would be very important to gauge the true level of support within the community for any broad measures of this kind. Survey work and further consultation will therefore be important further steps before consideration of further action.
8. In order to consider the concerns raised by the petitioners, the Cabinet Member may be minded to ask officers to commission a set of 24/7 speed classification surveys on Swakeleys Drive and Court Road. The locations to be surveyed could be identified with the assistance of the petitioners and their Ward Members at the meeting. In order to gain a comprehensive survey of the area, it is suggested three locations are identified on Swakeleys Road and two on Court Road.
9. Subject to the outcome of the traffic surveys, the Cabinet Member may be minded to instruct officers to review potential options to improve the road safety in the area. These considerations would need to take into account highways constraints, existing restrictions, and such. The outcome of these considerations would then be discussed with the Cabinet Member to decide on the most appropriate way forward.
10. Should a potential scheme result from this process, there would need to be appropriate public consultation with residents.
11. In conclusion, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member invites the petitioners to meet with him and set out the nature of their concerns, together with an indication of the kind of interventions that they feel that they and their neighbours in Swakeleys Drive and Court Road might be prepared to support.

Financial Implications

The cost associated with the recommendations to this report is £425 and 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

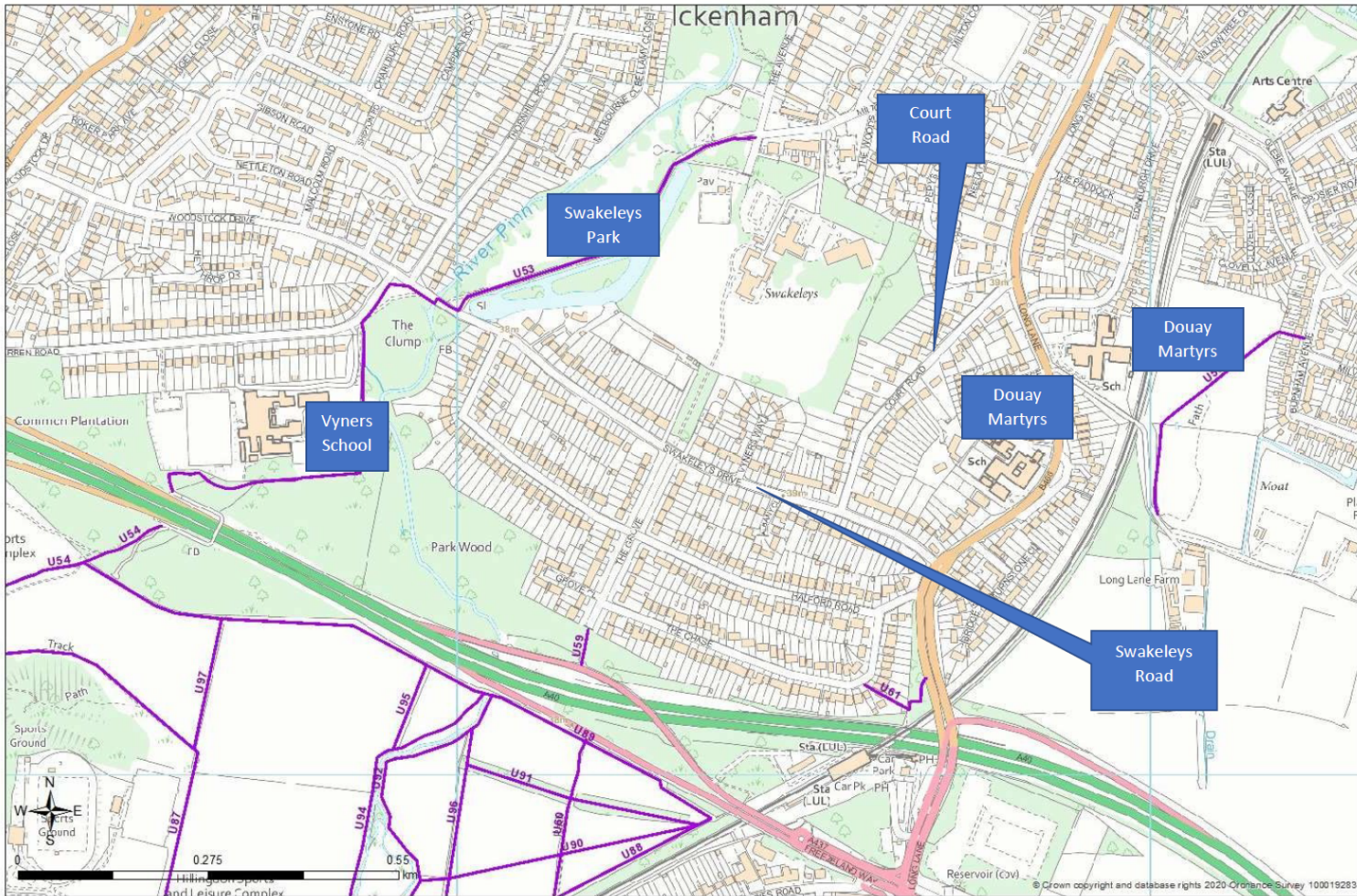
None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received

APPENDIX A - LOCATION PLAN

Swakeleys Drive / Court Road



Map Notes

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