

# RICKMANSWORTH ROAD, HAREFIELD - PETITION REQUESTING A ZEBRA CROSSING OR PEDESTRIAN ISLAND

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

## HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has received from residents who mainly live in Harefield requesting the installation of either a zebra crossing or pedestrian island close to the Baptist Church on Rickmansworth Road, Harefield.
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>	This report supports the Council objective of Our People. The request can be considered as part of the Council's annual programme of road safety initiatives.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	The estimated cost associated with the recommendations to this report is £600 and will be managed within existing revenue budgets for the Transportation Service.
<b>Relevant Select Committee</b>	Road Safety and Transport Select Committee
<b>Relevant Ward(s)</b>	Harefield

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation:

1. meets with petitioners and listens to their request for either a Zebra Crossing or pedestrian island on Rickmansworth Road, Harefield close to the Baptist Church.
2. subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to undertake 24/7 speed and traffic surveys on Rickmansworth Road.
3. subject to the above, also considers asking officer to commission a specialist company to undertake an assessment of pedestrian crossing demand at the location suggested by petitioners.

## 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

1. A petition with 114 signatures has been submitted to the Council mainly from residents of Harefield signed under the following heading:
  - a. *"We the undersigned would like to request a Zebra Crossing/traffic island to be installed opposite the Baptist Church on Rickmansworth Road, Harefield.*
  - b. *It is increasingly difficult and dangerous to cross this busy road and to get to the Baptist Church, the Hospital, Taylors Meadow, The Bowls Club, Barden Court, Hall Drive, and the bus terminal inside the hospital grounds. The majority of residents in this area are either elderly or disabled"*
2. In an accompanying letter submitted with the petition, the lead petitioner provided additional helpful information as attached below:

*Please find enclosed a petition signed by residents of Harefield, mostly by those living in the close vicinity of Rickmansworth Road.*

*It has become increasingly difficult to cross the road near the Baptist Church on Rickmansworth Road or from Sanctuary Close. Most of the residents in this area are elderly or disabled. Barden Court is the older persons home in Hall Drive and the bungalows on this road are mostly residents from an older group of people. As you can see, they have signed the petition. People who try to cross the road on this part of Rickmansworth Road are in danger due to cars speeding around the corner from Rickmansworth and those gathering speed from the village. Residents who attempt to cross the road are either heading to Harefield Hospital, the Bowls club or are attempting to get the U9 bus parked in the hospital. Trying to get to the Baptist Church from the other side of the road (Sanctuary Close) is also very difficult. Also, for children trying to get to Taylors Meadow for football or residents of Sanctuary Close, crossing is really dangerous. I have noticed there is a dropped pavement near Hal Drive entrance, but it is not at all safe to cross there and a crossing would be better sited near the Post Box and the corner leading to the Baptist Church.*

*There have been several incidents of near misses which is why a Zebra Crossing or Traffic Island is needed as a matter of urgency.*

*I would be grateful if you could look into this for us, our Councillor Jane Palmer is aware of this petition, and it has been signed by the Police and member of the Harefield Tenants Association. It has also been signed by members of the Bowls Club next to Taylors Meadow.”*

3. Rickmansworth Road, as the name would suggest, is a key route between Harefield Village and Rickmansworth Town Centre to the north. The southern end of Rickmansworth Road forms part of the U9 bus route that operates between Uxbridge Station and its termination point at Harefield Hospital. Rickmansworth Road appears to be served by two other bus services the R1 and R2 which are operated on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council. As you leave Harefield Village and just to the north of Hall Drive the speed limit changes from 30mph to national speed limit. The road from that point has a distinctly rural feel to it particularly coming from the Rickmansworth direction.
4. Petitioners have suggested two possible options they would like to see at this location to improve pedestrian safety when crossing Rickmansworth Road. There are many types of crossing that can be considered where there is sufficient pedestrian demand and the circumstances are appropriate, the latter including the layout and type of road, the availability of sufficient room on the carriageway and adjacent footways, and the last but not least the traffic volume and speed.
5. Petitioners have suggested a possible Zebra Crossing which as the Cabinet Member will be aware are covered by a Statutory Instrument laid out in Parliament and has nationally prescribed design standards with it. These include statistical formulae which require the consideration of the data previously described. It should be noted that a Zebra Crossing involves the introduction of two or more flashing Belisha Beacons which experience has shown can be perceived as a nuisance to those living nearby. In addition, the design of any new formal crossing of this kind must take account of any existing access onto the highway (e.g. a driveway) to avoid safety conflicts between pedestrians and drivers manoeuvring nearby. Notwithstanding the legal process involved and the requirements set out above, the introduction of a Zebra Crossing can be a complex and lengthy process.
6. Alternative pedestrian crossings which usually compromise dropped kerbs, tactile paving a traffic island refuge and illuminated beacon are in some ways easier to implement. Although many of the considerations highlighted previously apply to this type of arrangement, this is perhaps a more typical provision for a site of this kind, catering for the likely levels of pedestrians using the crossing. Forward visibility in both directions for any options mentioned appears to be more than adequate due to the alignment of Rickmansworth Road.
7. In conclusion, as a result of the petition raised by residents the Cabinet Member may be minded to instruct officers to instruct officers to commission 24/7 Automatic Traffic Counts on Rickmansworth Road and possible pedestrian counts. The data captured and the testimony of petitioners will help inform the investigations into the possibility of improved crossing facilities close to the Baptist Church on Rickmansworth Road, Harefield.

## **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 £85 per location, which will be managed within existing revenue budgets for the Transportation Service. The cost of commissioning pedestrian counts is estimated to be in the region of £600, subject to obtaining quotes from appropriate specialist companies. If works are subsequently required, suitable funding will be identified.

## **RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION**

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

To allow the Cabinet Member to consider the petitioners' request.

### **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**

None at this stage.

### **Comments from other relevant service areas**

None at this stage.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petition received.

## **TITLE OF ANY APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Location plan