

NORTH ROAD, WEST DRAYTON - PETITION ASKING THE COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE OPTIONS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES.

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

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received asking that the Council investigate options for traffic calming measures in North Road, West Drayton.
Putting our Residents First	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.
Financial Cost	Subject to the outcome of discussions with petitioners, the Cabinet Member may be minded to commission speed and traffic surveys. The current cost of these is in the region of £85 per location and can be funded from within existing revenue budgets for the Transportation Service.
Relevant Select Committee	Public Safety and Transport Select Committee.
Relevant Ward(s)	West Drayton.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Public Safety & Transport:

- 1. meets with petitioners and listens to their request for the Council to investigate options for possible traffic calming measures for North Road, West Drayton;**
- 2. subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to commission independent 24/7 traffic and speed surveys on North Road, West Drayton at locations agreed with petitioners and ward councillors, and to report back to the Cabinet Member on the outcome.**

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 60 signatures signed by residents of North Road, West Drayton has been submitted to the Council under the following heading:

"Speeding in North Road, West Drayton

For the Council to investigate measures to reduce speeding in North Road and implement the measures after consultation and agreement with residents".

2. In an accompanying letter submitted by the lead petitioner with the petition they helpfully provided the following additional information:

"I am submitting this petition on behalf of all residents in North Road, West Drayton.

Ever since Park West was built, the traffic has increased, and drivers are speeding down North Road from Porters Way and using as a cut through to come out of Bell Avenue end.

I have had two vehicles written off in a space of two years, first was my car for personal use and the second was my van which was used for work, both of which were parked outside my home at the time, and both were driven into by speeding vehicles. Not only was this a very stressful time but also caused financial loss as I have had to replace both vehicles.

Something needs to be done before there is more loss of vehicles or worse loss of life, therefore could you please look at our petition and consider speed bumps or no through road at one end."

3. North Road is a mainly residential road with many of the properties appearing to have access to off-street parking provision. The width of the carriageway is approximately 5.7 metres and is bounded on both sides by a wide footway averaging around 3 metres wide. Although many properties appear to benefit from off-street parking, from officers site observations, the road appeared to be heavily parked. Following a petition submitted by residents, in August 2002 the Council suspended the enforcement of footway parking which allowed vehicles to park with two wheels on the footway to increase parking capacity in the area and to still maintain access for emergency and refuse vehicles. A location plan is attached as Appendix A.
4. Although cars were observed to be parked on both sides of North Road, which often act as an unintended traffic calming measure, residents are clearly concerned at vehicle

speeds in North Road. In light of the testimony made by residents, not only in the petition and accompanying letter, but also during the meeting, the Cabinet Member may be minded to instruct officers to commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys on North Road at locations agreed with petitioners and ward councillors.

5. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, independent traffic surveys are a reliable and well-established means to understand the real situation on the ground. The surveys generally use specialist equipment, including pneumatic tubes which are mounted temporarily on the road surface, fitted transversely across the whole width of the carriageway. These devices are installed for a period of at least a week to ten days and monitor traffic movements on a '24/7' basis. The equipment is sufficiently sophisticated that not only can it record traffic speeds at any given time, it also records the size and type of vehicle, from motorcycles to large multi-axled lorries.
6. The Cabinet Member will be aware that the Council, like most local authorities, no longer introduces the older type of round-topped hump (which petitioners have referred to as 'speed bumps' but in some cases, where evidence and support is evident, it is prepared to consider other measures such as flat-topped speed tables or speed cushions, where appropriate and supported by the community. Should such measures become a future recommendation arising from the survey work the Cabinet Member may instruct officers to undertake, they would be subject to an appropriate public consultation.
7. In the meantime, as the Cabinet Member will be aware, it is vitally important for residents concerned about speeding in their road to approach the Metropolitan Police, which remains the only body able to actually enforce against excess speeds. This is because the offences concerned are endorsable, with possible penalty charges and points on a driver's licence; whilst the Council can explore the potential for physical measures on street as the petitioners have suggested, the Police are potential allies in the battle against inconsiderate driving.
8. Unfortunately, incidents of driving without due care and attention, or of drivers impaired through alcohol or drugs, are all too common, and if this is an issue in the North Road area then the Police should be asked to consider taking their own action, resources permitting.
9. In the meantime, officers have checked the Police Accident Database, which as the Cabinet Member will be aware, records all known road traffic incidents where the Police have attended, and it may be noted that in the most recent five years for which these records are available, there have, fortunately, been only two in North Road, both categorised by the Police as 'slight'; one in June 2018 (in the straight section south of the Thornton Avenue junction) and the other near the Bell Avenue junction in January 2020.
10. In conclusion, therefore, the Cabinet Member may wish to meet the petitioners and hear their testimony, supported as appropriate by their local ward councillors, and to then consider the technical advice and recommendations set out in this report.

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 is expected to be managed through

existing revenue budgets within the Transportation service. If works are subsequently required, funding would need to be identified from a suitable source.

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