

HARMONDSWORTH ROAD, WEST DRAYTON - PETITION REQUESTING THE REMOVAL OF DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AND THAT PART OF THE GRASS VERGE BE REPLACED WITH PARKING BAYS

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Property, Highways & Transport
Officer Contact(s)	Steven Austin, Place Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A – Location Plan

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received mainly from residents who live in the service road fronting Nos. 13 – 19 Harmondsworth Road and business occupiers and visitors to the nearby shopping parade asking for the grass verge to be replaced with parking bays and for some of the existing double yellow lines on Harmondsworth Road to be removed.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the Council objective of <i>Our People</i> . The request can be considered as part of the Council's annual programme of road safety initiatives.
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Select Committee	Property, Highways & Transport Select Committee.
Relevant Ward(s)	Heathrow Villages & on West Drayton border

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways & Transport:

- 1) Meets with petitioners and listens to their request to remove part of the grass verge between the service road and main carriageway fronting Nos. 13-19 Harmondsworth Road;
- 2) Subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers in the Council's Highways Team to investigate the feasibility of this request and to report back to him; and
- 3) Advises petitioners that it is not possible to agree to their request to remove part of the existing double yellow line on the main carriageway.

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 44 signatures has been submitted to the Council from residents who live adjacent to the service road, local businesses, their customers, and visitors requesting the removal of part of the grass verge to provide additional parking spaces and the removal of some double yellow lines on the main carriageway of Harmondsworth Road.
2. Petitioners have helpfully set out their concerns as the following:

“The service road o/s 13/15/17 & 19 Harmondsworth Rd, WD is constantly congested/double parked/ on the pavement/ across drives and on the grass verge. The double yellow lined main road is also used.

The drivers blast horns/swear & shout/push cars/ ring doorbells to try to find drivers of badly parked vehicles. Road & pavement safety significantly compromised.

Petitioners have also helpfully supplied some possible solutions they would like the Council to consider which are outlined below:

As neighbours we are requesting that the grass verge opposite 13/15/17/19 is paved over and divided into parking bays allowing shoppers to safely park whilst visiting 1/3/5/7/9 & 11 (commercial premises). This will reduce noise & damage to vehicles and property, improve safety for pedestrians and drivers. Resident’s parking will only assist a small number of users, yellow lines will make matters worse. Removal of the double yellow lines (as per diagram) will help. The grass verge is used for parking, is an eyesore and not fit for purpose. Due to inconsiderate parking this verge is blocked and increases danger of car users and blocks the vision of cars exiting the service road.”

3. Harmondsworth Road is one of the main north-south thoroughfare that connects West Drayton Station and Town Centre to the north, and Sipson and Harmondsworth Villages to the south. Harmondsworth Road forms part of the U3 and 350 bus routes. On Harmondsworth Road.
4. There are two aspects to the petition so it may be useful for the Cabinet Member to try to provide commentary on each item separately.
5. Petitioners have requested the *“Removal of the double yellow lines (as per an attached diagram) will help”* and appear to refer to the section of double yellow lines on the main

carriageway of Harmondsworth Road adjacent to the service road fronting the shops. On this section of highway between Sipson Road and the access to the service road there is an on-carriageway cycle lane and from that point it changes to an off-street cycle path to Wordsworth Way. There is no opportunity to move the cycle lane off the carriageway adjacent to the service road and the double yellow lines need to be maintained here to allow unimpeded access to cyclists using this route. From residents' observations it seems that some drivers deliberately chose to ignore the current restrictions but that in itself is not good reason to remove them all together. Given the importance of this strategic route for busses and for the safety of cyclists, it is officers' opinion that the removal of the double yellow lines cannot be recommended.

6. The other element of the petition which residents have requested is for *"the grass verge opposite 13/15/17/19 is paved over and divided into parking bays to allow shoppers to safely park"*. As the Cabinet Member is aware, it is not the Council's usual policy to install parking spaces at the expense of green spaces. There are several challenges when considering such requests including the significant costs in widening the carriageway, taking up and realigning kerbs tying in full-depth road construction, possible altering footways, drainage, services, street lighting, removing trees and of course any compromise to forward visibility and road safety.
7. However, from the information submitted by residents and from officers' own site observations, the condition of the grass verge at this location was found to be in poor condition which is likely to have occurred due to vehicles parking on it. In light of the above and from the testimony given by petitioners', the Cabinet Member may be minded to ask officers from the Council's Highways Team to fully investigate the viability of this request and to report back to him.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report.

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.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received.

TITLE OF ANY APPENDICES

Appendix A - Location Plan