

HERCIES ROAD AND HONEYCROFT HILL, HILLINGDON - PETITION ASKING FOR SPEED MITIGATION MEASURES TO REDUCE VEHICLE SPEEDS.

Cabinet Member	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport
Officer Contact	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 consider measures to reduce traffic speeds on Hercies Road and Honeycroft Hill, Hillingdon.
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	Property, Highways & Transport Select Committee
Relevant Wards	Uxbridge, Hillingdon East & Hillingdon West

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:

- 1) meets with petitioners and listens to their request to introduce measures to reduce vehicle speeds on Hercies Road and Honeycroft Hill, Hillingdon; and
- 2) subject to the outcome of the above, asks officers to commission independent 24/7 traffic and speed surveys on both roads 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 59 valid signatures, signed mainly by residents who either live on or close to Hercies Road, Hillingdon has been submitted to the Council under the following heading:

"Reduce excessive speeds on Hercies Road."

2. In an accompanying statement and photographs submitted by the lead petitioner, they helpfully provided the following additional information:

"I live on Hercies Road which is a relatively straight road. As a result, drivers tend to drive extremely fast up and down Hercies Road as well as on Honeycroft Hill.

This poses a great danger to the residents who live here and we have to be very careful when we use this road daily, at all times of the day. Many people walk their dogs on the road as well as taking children to and from school.

The chicane effect only aggravates the situation as drivers race around the bends at high speeds, often losing control of their vehicles as a result (as the pictures below evidence).

Over the course of three weeks, I have personally witnessed three accidents – photos of which are below. Residents have advised that there have been many more accidents recently.

All of my neighbours and many residents on Hercies Road would like to request urgent installation of speed bumps on Hercies Road to slow down these speeding cars and motorcycles. We are happy to get a petition signed to ensure that these speed bumps are installed.

This is a matter of utmost urgency. Someone will probably get killed if nothing is done."

3. Hercies Road and Honeycroft Hill are contiguous, mainly residential, roads that connect Uxbridge to Hillingdon Circus and form part of the 'U2' bus route. At the Hillingdon Circus end of Hercies Road there are parades of local shops, Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, and other local amenities. A location plan is attached as Appendix A.
4. In light of the testimony made by residents, not only through the petition, but also during the meeting, the Cabinet Member may be minded to instruct officers to commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys in both roads 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, but 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, has a range of possible traffic calming measures it is prepared to consider when developing traffic speed mitigation measures but where appropriate these will need to be supported by the local community. Should 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. The Cabinet Member may also wish to advise petitioners that experience in some other locations (especially where traffic levels are higher) has shown that unfortunately there is often a trade-off to be considered between, on the one hand, the possible reduction of general traffic speeds, against on the other hand, the strong likelihood of a significant increase in vehicle generated noise, in particular that caused by larger vehicles and most notably skip lorries with un-secured chains.
8. 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 enforceable, 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.
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 three years for which these records are available, one incident classified as 'slight' occurred on Honeycroft Hill in June 2020 near the junction of North Way. Another incident also occurred in June 2020 on Hercies Road near the junction of Honey Hill which was recorded as 'serious' and a final collision close to 131 Hercies Road in November 2020 classified as slight. The current data available to the Council will not include the recent incidents helpfully captured by the lead petitioner.
10. In conclusion, 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