



MAHLON AVENUE, SOUTH RUISLIP - PETITION ASKING THE COUNCIL FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AND A 20 MPH ZONE

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 for traffic calming measures and a 20mph speed limit in Mahlon Avenue, South Ruislip.
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	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 and Transport Select Committee
Relevant Ward	South Ruislip

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:

- 1) **meets with petitioners and listens to their request for the Council to implement traffic calming measures and a 20mph speed limit on Mahlon Avenue, South Ruislip; and**
- 2) **subject to the outcome of the above, decides if officers should commission independent 24/7 traffic and speed surveys on Mahlon Avenue 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 25 signatures signed by residents of Mahlon Avenue, has been submitted to the Council under the following heading:

"Speed control measures – speed bumps with a 20mph speed limit. (Road safety)."

Petitioners have highlighted that the main area of concern is from Station Approach to Edwards Avenue.

2. Mahlon Avenue is a mainly residential road close to local shops, businesses, and other community amenities. South Ruislip Central Line and Chiltern Line Station is a short walk away. Mahlon Avenue benefits from a Parking Management Scheme operational Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. At the junction of Mahlon Avenue, where it meets Edwards Avenue, there is an emergency access gate that separates the northern section of Mahlon Avenue to its southern section. A location plan is attached as Appendix A.
3. Although cars were observed to be parked on both sides of Mahlon Avenue, in a manner which often acts as an unintended traffic calming measure, residents are clearly concerned at perceived vehicle speeds in their 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 Mahlon Avenue at locations agreed with petitioners and Ward Councillors. The views of the Metropolitan Police would also be sought, because it is they and they alone who have the necessary enforcement powers to tackle speeding in general, as 'speeding' is an endorsable offence, which can lead to points on a driver's licence as well as potential prosecution.
4. 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 discreet 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.

5. 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 and speed cushions, where they are 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 commission, they would be subject to an appropriate public consultation.

Financial Implications

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. 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

Legal Services 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