

# EDINBURGH DRIVE, ICKENHAM - PETITION REQUESTING THE INTRODUCTION OF MEASURES TO REDUCE THE SPEED OF TRAFFIC

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Steven Austin – Place Directorate
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A – Location Plan

## HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from residents of Edinburgh Drive, Ickenham requesting the introduction of measures to reduce the speed of traffic.
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>  <b>Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026</b>	<p>This report supports our ambition for residents/ the Council of: Live in good quality, affordable homes in connected communities.</p> <p>This report supports our commitments to residents of: Safe and Strong Communities.</p>
<b>Financial Cost</b>	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.
<b>Relevant Select Committee</b>	Property, Highways and Transport Select Committee.
<b>Relevant Ward</b>	Ickenham and South Harefield.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:

- 1) Meets with petitioners and listens to their request for the Council to introduce measures to reduce the speed of traffic on Edinburgh Drive; and
- 2) Subject to the above, asks officers to commission independent 24/7 traffic and speed surveys on Edinburgh Drive at locations agreed with petitioners and Ward Councillors.

## 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 41 valid signatures has been submitted to the Council signed under the following heading:

*“Cars are driving too fast down Edinburgh Drive, using it as a cut-through to avoid traffic on Long Lane. This is a residential road housing families with young children and pets as well as a large secondary school of over 1500 children.*

*Yesterday, our beloved family cat was run over and killed in a hit-and-run. Fortunately, a mum and her young son (on a scooter) were passing and stopped to help but in spite of us getting her to the vet immediately, she was too injured to save with multiple fractures of the pelvis. Luna was 2 years old with a kitten of her own who was far too young to die in such a painful, horrifying way. Our 5 children are traumatised and devastated, as were the witness to the accident.*

*If we don't take action now, how many more families will suffer the consequences of high speed drivers more concerned with shaving a couple of minutes off their commute than driving safely”.*

- 2) Edinburgh Drive is a mainly residential road that links Long Lane to Glebe Avenue comprising a mixture of detached but predominantly, semi-detached properties, most of which appear to benefit from off-street parking. A plan of the area is attached as Appendix A.
- 3) At the northern end of Edinburgh Drive, there is a local shopping parade and businesses. Ickenham Underground Station and village centre are all within easy walking distance. As mentioned by the lead petitioner, an entrance to The Douay Martyrs School is located towards the southern section of the road.
- 4) The width of the carriageway of Edinburgh Drive varies between around 4.8 metres at its narrowest point to approximately 5.7 metres, bounded on both sides by footways. Due to the close proximity of the station and other local amenities, Edinburgh Drive forms part of the Ickenham Parking Management Scheme 'Zone IC' with operational hours of Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. On Ickenham Drive the parking bays are mainly marked on the east side of the carriageway, with the rest of the road either marked with single or double yellow lines.

- 5) In context with the understandable concerns about speeding in the vicinity of the school but also in the road generally, the Cabinet Member may wish to point out that the principal body involved in enforcing speed limits remains, as it always has been, the Metropolitan Police. The Council has no comparable powers of enforcement and unless and until there are any changes in Primary (National Government) legislation, this situation is unlikely to change. Clearly the Council is not in a position to dictate resourcing priorities to the Police, who have many competing demands, but the simple fact remains that the Police have a fundamental role in governing traffic speeds through enforcement.
- 6) Officers have interrogated the Police Road Traffic Collision (RTC) Database, which contains reports by police officers who have attended the scene of an RTC, and from the latest available data, it is evident that there have been no recorded incidents in the last five years in Edinburgh Drive.
- 7) As the petition is requesting measures to reduce traffic speeds and as result of testimonies made by petitioners, the Cabinet Member may be minded to instruct officers to commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys at locations agreed with residents and Ward Councillors.
- 8) As the Cabinet Member will be aware, independent traffic surveys are a reliable and well-established means to help 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 speed at any given time, but also records the size and type of vehicle, from motorcycles to large multi-axled lorries.
- 9) In addition to possible engineering measures, the Cabinet Member will know that the Council's Road Safety and School Travel Team actively works with several schools across Hillingdon to develop their school travel plans. This dialogue can not only result in the development of physical measures but can also help the school engage with children, parents and carers to consider how they travel to and from school and to start to embed positive change to more sustainable modes of transport.
- 10) Currently Douay Martyrs School have not taken the opportunity to work with the Council's Road Safety and School Travel Team on road safety initiatives, although there have been overtures from the team to the school to try to encourage them to engage with the broader work of the team and to be able to reap the many benefits to the school and the wider community that this work can offer.
- 11) It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member meets with petitioners and discusses their concerns and possible options to address their concerns in Edinburgh Drive.

## **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. 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 confirm that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petition received.

## **TITLE OF ANY APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Location plan