

CHILTERN VIEW ROAD, UXBRIDGE - PETITION REQUESTING “TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES”

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

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from residents who live on Chiltern View Road, Uxbridge requesting “ <i>Traffic Calming Measures in Chiltern View Road</i> ”.
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 for on-street parking controls.
Financial Cost	Should speed and traffic surveys be commissioned, costs will be c.£85 per location, managed within existing Transportation Service revenue budgets.
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources and Infrastructure Select Committee.
Relevant Ward	Uxbridge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:

- 1) Meets with petitioners and listens to their request for “*Traffic Calming Measures on Chiltern View Road*” Uxbridge; and
- 2) Also subject to the outcome of the above, decides if officers should commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys on Chiltern View Road 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 regarding 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 23 signatures has been submitted to the Council by residents who live on or close to Chiltern View Road, signed under the following heading:

“Traffic Calming measures on Chiltern View Road”.

The lead petitioner has helpfully provided the following additional information:

“We, the undersigned residents and concerned citizens, are writing to petition for the installation of traffic calming measures, specifically speed bumps, along Chiltern View Road. The increasing traffic volume and speed have become a significant safety concern for our community, necessitating immediate action. Since the installation of the traffic calming measures some years ago, there has been a notable diversion of traffic to Chiltern View Road. This road has unfortunately become a raceway for vehicles, particularly from the traffic lights on Cowley Road. It is common to witness individual cars and motorbikes, and often a collection of motorbikes, speeding excessively and seemingly doing circuits around the area.

Justification

The consequences of this increased traffic and high speeds are alarming:

Safety Risks: The high speeds at which vehicles travel pose a severe risk to pedestrians, including children and elderly residents. The potential for accidents and injuries is high.

Noise Pollution: The noise generated by racing vehicles, especially motorbikes, disrupts the peace and tranquillity of our neighbourhood, affecting the quality of life.

Environment Impact: The increased traffic contributes to higher emissions and environmental degradation in our area.

To address these pressing issues, we propose the following measures:

Installation of speed bumps at strategic locations along Chiltern View Road.

Enhanced signage to alert drivers of the speed bumps and the enforced speed limits.

Increased monitoring and enforcement of traffic regulations by local authorities.

The measures will help to:

Reduce vehicles speeds, making Chiltern View Road safer for pedestrians and residents.

Discourage the use of our road as a racetrack.

Restore the quiet and peaceful environment of our neighbourhood.

We believe that implementing these traffic calming measures is crucial for the safety and well-being of our community. We urge you to consider our petition seriously and take swift action to address this issue.”

- 2) Chiltern View Road is a mainly residential road linking Cowley Road in the west to Whitehall Road on the east. In the eastern section of the road between Caxton Drive and Cowley Road there is a one-way working in force. A plan of the area is attached as Appendix A.
- 3) Chiltern View Road is within a Parking Management Scheme 'Zone U5'. There are parking places on the northern side of the carriageway up to Alexandra Road and then they transfer to the opposite side of the road for the remaining section of carriageway with the exception of the last bay close to Whitehall Road.
- 4) Officers have interrogated the most recent police recorded collision data for Chiltern View Road for the last five years and there have been no recorded incidents. However, in light of the petition, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member may wish to hear the testimony of petitioners and their local Ward Councillors to understand in greater detail their road safety concerns.
- 5) Various forms of traffic calming measures can be considered, including so-called 'speed tables'. However, petitioners may wish to consider that such features can sometimes have the unintended effect of increasing noise from passing traffic, notably skip lorries and similar commercial vehicles which may carry loose loads. Horizontal traffic calming measures such as chicanes and similar measures are seldom suitable for a residential road; they can cause loss of parking, visual intrusion and are less effective at actually reducing the speeds of cars and vans in particular. The Cabinet Member may wish to advise the petitioners to consider these factors in their own deliberations and it should be noted that any form of physical measures can be popular or unpopular in equal measures.
- 6) Subject to the above, the Cabinet Member may be minded to commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys on Grosvenor Avenue at locations agreed with petitioners and Ward Councillors.
- 7) 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. These 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 or 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, but it also records the size and type of vehicles, from motorcycles to large multi-axle lorries.
- 8) It is also strongly recommended that, if they have not yet done so, residents raise their concerns directly with the Metropolitan Police because they alone have the necessary powers to tackle speeding and inconsiderate driving in general if this is the case in Chiltern View Road. Physical traffic calming can be an effective tool, but it can also have unwelcome side effects such as an increase in noise caused by traffic passing through, such as skip lorries and larger vehicles.

Financial Implications

Subject to the outcome of discussions with petitioners, the Cabinet Member may request the commissioning of speed and traffic surveys. The current cost of these is c.£85 per location, with spend managed within existing Transportation revenue budgets.

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. Whenever necessary legal advice is given in relation to specific issues as they arise to ensure that the Council always meets its legal obligations.

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