

MINET DRIVE, HAYES - PETITION REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

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

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received requesting Traffic Calming Measures in Minet Drive.
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 road safety measures.
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	Hayes Town

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:

- 1) Meets with petitioners and listens to their request for Traffic Calming Measures on Minet Drive, Hayes; and**
- 2) Also subject to the outcome of the above, decides if officers should commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys on Minety 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 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 22 signatures has been submitted to the Council by residents. 17 are residents of Minet Drive, representing 10 households out of 119 properties. The petition is signed under the following heading:

“installation of Speedbumps on Minet Drive for enhanced safety”.

The lead petitioner has helpfully provided the following additional information:

“We, the undersigned petition Hillingdon Council to the immediate installation of speedhumps along key points of Minet Drive. Speedbumps are a proven measure to effectively reduce vehicle speeds and enhance road safety. By implementing this solution, the Council can ensure vehicles adhere to the speed limit, protecting all road users. Reduce the likelihood of accidents, particularly those involving young children. Enhance overall safety and well-being of the Minet Drive community.

Justification

Minet Drive is currently experiencing an alarming increase in the number of vehicles exceeding the 30 miles per hour speed limit. This poses a significant risk to all residents, particularly families with small children, who are deeply concerned about the potential for accidents and injuries.

This petition will address:

Excessive Speeding

Safety of Children

Community Well-being

- 2) Minet Drive is a mainly residential road close to Hayes Town Centre, with its multiple shops, local businesses, Hayes and Harlington Station and other local amenities. The width of the carriageway is on average just over five metres wide, bounded on both sides by a footway. A plan of the area is attached as Appendix A.
- 3) From officers' site investigations, on-street parking takes place one side of the road for the majority of Minet Drive, effectively reducing the carriageway to one running lane. The Cabinet Member will be aware that the Council is currently consulting with residents of Minet Drive and other nearby roads on a possible Parking Management Scheme.
- 4) Officers have interrogated the most recent police recorded collision date for Minet Drive for the last five years. There was one recorded incident in October 2019 which involved one vehicle and was classified as slight, although some collisions were recorded on Coldharbour Lane close to the junction with Minet Drive. 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 'speedbumps'. 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 Minet Drive 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 such that not only can it record traffic speeds at any given time, but also records the size and type of vehicles, from motorcycles to large multi-axel 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 Minet Drive). Physical traffic calming can be an effective tool, but it can also have unwelcome side effects including 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