

CRANE GARDENS, HAYES - PETITION REQUESTING THE INSTALLATION OF 'SPEED HUMPS'

Cabinet Member & Portfolio	Cllr Steve Tuckwell, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth
Responsible Officer	Karrie Whelan - Corporate Director - Place
Report Author & Directorate	Steven Austin – Place Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A – Location Plan

HEADLINES

Summary	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received requesting 'Speed Humps' on Crane Gardens, Hayes.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	<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> <p>The request can be considered as part of the Council's annual programme for road safety measures.</p>
Financial Cost	Should speed and traffic surveys be commissioned, costs will be c.£85 per location, managed within existing Transportation Services revenue budgets.
Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure Select Committee.
Ward(s)	Pinkwell

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1) Meets with petitioners and listens to their request for 'Speed Humps' on Crane Gardens, Hayes; and
- 2) Subject to the outcome of the above, decides if officers should commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys on Crane Gardens, 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 21 signatures has been submitted to the Council by residents, most of whom live on Crane Gardens. The petition is signed under the following heading:

“We the undersigned petition Hillingdon Council to formally request the installation of speed humps along our street to control the speed of traffic and improve safety in our neighbourhood.”

The lead petitioner has helpfully provided the following additional information:

“In recent years, traffic along North Hyde Road has significantly increased, and as a result, Crane Gardens has been excessively used as a cut-through by drivers seeking to avoid congestion. This increased traffic has led to many vehicles speeding through our narrow road, putting residents and their property at risk.

There have been numerous incidents where resident vehicles have been damaged by passing cars, often due to drivers misjudging the width of the road. These incidents typically go unreported, leaving residents to bear the costs of the damage. Moreover, the high speed of some drivers greatly increases the likelihood of more serious accidents, including potential harm to pedestrians, children and cyclists who regularly use the street.

We strongly believe that installing speed humps in Crane Gardens will:

Act as an effective measure to reduce vehicle speeds.

Discourage non-local drivers from using our street as a shortcut.

Reduce the risk of property damage and personal injury.

Create a safer and more pleasant environment for all residents.

The growing problem of speeding and increased traffic in our area is a pressing safety concern. Therefore, we urgently request that Hillingdon Council consider the installation of speed humps in Crane Gardens to protect our community.”

2. Crane Gardens is a mainly residential road close to Hayes and Harlington Station, Hayes Town Centre with its diverse range of shops and many other local amenities. The average width of the carriageway is approximately 4.5 metres and is bounded on both sides by a

footway measuring approximately 3 metres. The road is approximately 115 metres in length.

3. The Cabinet Member may be aware that, since November 1987, footway parking is allowed in Crane Gardens following a petition received from residents.
4. Officers have interrogated the most recent police recorded collision data for the last five years and there has been once recorded incident on North Hyde Road at the junction of Crane Gardens which occurred in May 2022 and was classified as 'Serious'.
5. Although the petition mentions so called 'speed humps' and if by these, petitioners are thinking of the older type of round-topped narrow transverse road humps – often known colloquially in the past as 'sleeping policemen' - then the Cabinet Member will be aware that the vast majority of councils, Hillingdon included, have not introduced these particular types of measure for many years.
6. Having said that, various forms of traffic calming features could be considered, where appropriate, if there is a case for them. 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.
7. Horizontal traffic calming measures, such as chicanes and similar measures, are seldom suitable for the average residential road; they can cause loss of parking, are visually intrusive 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 prove to be 'popular' and 'unpopular' in equal measure.
8. Subject to the above, the Cabinet Member may be minded to commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys on Crane Gardens at locations agreed with petitioners and Ward Councillors.
9. 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 it also records the size and type of vehicles, from motorcycles to large multi-axel lorries.
10. It is also recommended that, if they have not already 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 Crane Gardens) through enforcement. Physical traffic calming can be an effective tool but, as mentioned previously, 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 discussion 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 through the 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 & Engagement 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

There are no legal impediments to the recommendations set out within the report.

Comments from other relevant service areas

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Individual consultation responses

TITLE OF ANY APPENDICES

Appendix A - Location Plan.