

# CLIFTON GARDENS, HILLINGDON - PETITION REQUESTING 'TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES'

<b>Cabinet Member &amp; Portfolio</b>	Councillor Steve Tuckwell Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Dan Kennedy – Corporate Director of Residents Services
<b>Report Author &amp; Directorate</b>	Steven Austin – Residents Services Directorate.
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A

## HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received requesting traffic calming measures for Clifton Gardens, Hillingdon.
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>  <b>Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026</b>	<a href="#">This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Be / feel safe from harm</a>
<b>Financial Cost</b>	Should speed and traffic surveys be commissioned, costs will be c.£85 per location, managed within existing Transportation Services revenue budgets, subject to the Council's required spend control approvals.
<b>Select Committee</b>	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure Select Committee
<b>Ward(s)</b>	Hillingdon East

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing & Growth:

- 1) **Meets with petitioners and listens to their request for traffic calming measures for Clifton Gardens, Hillingdon;**
- 2) **Subject to the outcome of the above, decides if officers should commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys on Clifton Gardens, at locations agreed with petitioners and Ward Councillors; and**
- 3) **Asks the Council's Road Safety and School Travel Team (STaRS) to continue to try to engage with the schools to promote their School Travel Plan, with the support of the Ward Councillors.**

## Reasons for recommendation(s)

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 valid petition, with 55 signatures has been submitted to the Council signed under the following heading:

*“Traffic Calming Measures in Clifton Gardens”*

Petitioners have indicated their desired outcome to be;

*“Desired outcome is to reduce the speed of the traffic that comes up and down the road, day and night going to and from the school.”*

2. Clifton Gardens is a mainly residential road mainly comprising of semi-detached properties. Although all of the properties appear to benefit from off-street parking, from officers’ observations, the demand for the on-street parking provision is high. In 1994, the enforcement of footway parking was suspended by the then, Parking Sub-Committee following a petition submitted by residents.
3. At the end of Clifton Gardens there is an entrance to Swakeleys School for Girls, Oakwood Sixth Form College and access to Oakwood School.
4. Officers have interrogated the most recently available official police recorded collision data for the last five years and there has been one recorded collision on Clifton Gardens, classified as ‘slight’. However, this data may not include any recent collisions or crashes that the emergency services do not attend and so do not form part of the Police database records.
5. The petition mentions ‘traffic calming measures’, and various forms of traffic calming features could be considered, where appropriate, and only 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 although as there is likely to be little through traffic on Clifton Gardens, this may not be such an issue but should be highlighted to petitioners.
6. 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 measures.

7. Subject to the above the Cabinet Member may be minded to commission independent 24/7 speed and traffic surveys on Botwell Lane at locations agreed with petitioners and Ward Councillors.
8. 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-axle lorries.
9. 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 Clifton Gardens) through enforcement. Physical traffic calming and traffic management can be effective tools, but as mentioned previously, it can also have unwelcome side effects including an increase in noise caused by traffic passing through.
10. As the Cabinet Member will be aware, the STaRS team actively works with several schools across Hillingdon to develop their school travel plans (STPs). 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.
11. In addition, the STARS team offers free education, training and publicity to all schools in Hillingdon to improve safety and sustainability through travel plans, campaigns, projects and initiatives.
  - Support for 'Walk to School week/ month'
  - 'Bikeability' training
  - Funding for scooter and cycle storage facilities,
  - Support for 'Junior and Youth Travel Ambassadors',
  - Delivering active and safe travel assemblies and classroom talks
  - Practical pedestrian training
  - 'Moving On' to secondary school presentations
  - 'Theatre in Education' productions
12. The STaRS have been in contact with Swakeleys School previously and there have been some positive indications that the school want to progress work on their STP. For example, some useful engagement took place when some road safety engineering measures were developed for Clifton Gardens in 2024. However, it seems the school are not fully engaging with the STaRS Team although it seems that that they are still working on road safety initiatives within the school. It may be that the Ward Councillors could helpfully intervene to encourage the school to work more closely with the STaRS Team to promote the work the school may already be doing and receive the expert support the team can provide.

## **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, which subject to the Council's spend control measures, could be funded 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**

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal implications to following the recommendations within this report in relation to the petition received for traffic-calming measures at Clifton Gardens, Hillingdon. The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 provides the Council with powers to regulate or restrict traffic on roads within Hillingdon, which may include introducing certain traffic-calming measures after following due consultation and order-making processes. Further powers to introduce traffic-calming measures are included in the Highways Act 1980.

Moreover, the Council has various statutory duties in relation to road safety, such as under section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, which are relevant when deciding on road traffic measures. To this end, the report refers to the work of the STaRS Team and recommends their continued engagement with Swakeleys School.

A meeting with the petitioners is in line with the Council's constitution and is a perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise, especially where consideration of the policy, factual and engineering issues are still at a formative stage. Public law principles provide that there must be no predetermination of a decision in advance of completion of any wider planned consultation. Therefore, decision makers must ensure there is a full consideration of all representations arising, including those which do not accord with their own.

Should there be a decision that the traffic-calming measures at Clifton Gardens, Hillingdon are to be considered further, then the relevant statutory provisions and processes for these will have to be considered and followed. To this end, more specific legal comments will be provided in subsequent reports as the proposal progresses.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petition

## **TITLE OF ANY APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Location plan