

THE AVENUE – PETITION REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES & 20 MPH ZONE

Cabinet Member	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio	Planning and Transportation
Report Author	Brendan Gillman, Environment and Consumer Protection
Papers with report	Appendix A Appendix B

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	This report advises the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from the residents of The Avenue, Northwood requesting a 20 mph zone and associated traffic calming measures in their street.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport Strategy• Community Plan• Local Implementation Plan
Financial Cost	The funding for the speed and volume surveys could be obtained from the Council's 2009/10 Road Safety Programme.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Northwood

RECOMMENDATION

That the cabinet Member:

1. Notes the petitions requests and meets with petitioners to discuss in greater detail the concerns they have;
2. Asks officers to conduct a new 24 hour/seven day speed and volume survey in The Avenue to verify the results of the previously conducted survey;
3. Subject to the concerns raised by petitioners and the results of the survey, considers instructing officers to conduct further investigations into possible traffic calming measures under the Road Safety Programme;

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The petitioners are concerned with the volume and speed of vehicles in their road. The recommendations will explore the extent of their concerns and look at possible solutions to mitigate these concerns.

Alternative options considered

No other options have been considered, as the recommendations ask officers to gather further information before considering feasible solutions.

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 25 signatures has been received from residents of The Avenue, Northwood requesting the Council reduce the speed limit in this road to 20 mph and install suitable traffic calming measures to support the new limit.
2. The petition stated: *'We the undersigned are appalled at the manner and speed of drivers using The Avenue, Northwood, as a rat-run between the Rickmansworth Road and Ducks Hill Road... We strongly request the London Borough of Hillingdon to urgently re-classify The Avenue as a 20 mph road and install suitable calming measures to ensure that traffic along the road is slowed and controlled, in order to*
 - *Avoid further damage to property and parked cars*
 - *Improve the quality of life for residents*
 - *Minimise the harm from accidents involving pedestrians and pets'*
3. The Avenue, Northwood is a residential road that forms a link between Rickmansworth Road to the southeast and Ducks Hill Road to the northwest. To restrict the number of HGV's in the Avenue the Council has previously installed a width restriction approximately 55 metres from it's junction with Ducks Hill Road. In order to discourage 'rat running' vehicles travelling southeast are only permitted to turn left into Rickmansworth Road. Appendix A shows a location plan of the above area.
4. As part of the Road Safety Programme a traffic survey measuring the speed and volume of vehicles in The Avenue was conducted between the 21st March 2007 and 27th March 2007. A summary of the results can be found in Appendix B.
5. The survey showed that vehicles travelling in the northwest direction had a mean speed of 27.6 mph with an "85th percentile" (85%ile) speed of 32.4mph. Vehicles travelling in a southeast direction recorded lower speeds with a mean of 24.6 mph and an 85%ile of 31.5 mph. An '85th percentile speed' is the speed below which 85 percent of all recorded traffic travelled at, and is a reliable statistical tool used in the assessment of the need for speed reduction measures. Isolated incidents of speeding in the range 30-40mph were recorded, but these were very rare in proportion to the overall numbers.
6. Detailed analysis of the volume survey showed the evening week day peak to take place between 4pm and 6pm. The number of vehicles travelling in the northwest direction averaged at 190 vehicles per hour during this time. However this varied little from the

week day, day time average (7am – 7pm) of 170 vehicles per hour. There was only one instance where 50 or more vehicles were recorded travelling in the southeast direction. With a week day, day time average (7am – 7pm) of 20 vehicles per hour.

7. Although the number of vehicles travelling in the northwest direction is slightly high, these speeds and volumes are considered acceptable when compared to other 30 mph roads in the borough. Therefore no further action was recommended at the time.
8. Residents clearly remain concerned with the speed of vehicles in their street. It is therefore suggested that the Cabinet Member may wish to consider commissioning a second survey to establish if the patterns of speed and volume indicated in the March 2007 survey were correct. Residents may have their own view on which period would be the most representative for such a survey, and so their comments may be invited when their petition is being heard.
9. The Cabinet Member will also be aware that the Council operates a Road Safety Programme, funded from the Council's own capital reserves, and this programme allows the Council to explore road safety measures which fall outside the TfL criteria. The Cabinet Member may therefore wish to consider including The Avenue within that programme for further study, once he has heard the concerns of the petitioners.
10. The Cabinet Member will be further aware that officers are in regular communication with counterparts within the Police 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' who are able to investigate issues of community concern and share their findings with the Council. This report will be shared with the Northwood SNT and their input further sought in the development of any measures deemed appropriate under the Road Safety Programme.

Financial Implications

The funding for the speed and volume surveys will be met from the Council's 2009/10 Road Safety Programme budget.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The recommendations will identify the extent of the petitioners concerns and look at possible solutions to mitigate these concerns.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Ward Councillors were asked to comment on this petition as part of the report writing process.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

None at this stage

Legal

There are no special legal implications. Should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered.

Corporate Property

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received 09th January 2009.

APPENDIX A – LOCATION PLAN



APPENDIX B – TRAFFIC SPEED AND VOLUME SURVEY, SUMMARY

Direction - Northwest

Day	Date	Mean	Vpp 85	Total Vehicles	Day Time Flow (07-19)	Average Day Time Flow	Peak Total (16-18)	Peak Average
Wed	21/03/2007	28.1	32.7	2559	2026	169	594	198
Thur	22/03/2007	27.7	32.4	2680	2130	178	609	203
Fri	23/03/2007	27.5	32	2497	2001	167	565	188
Sat	24/03/2007	27.5	32.7	2165	1747	146	411	137
Sun	25/03/2007	27.8	32.7	1719	1408	117	318	106
Mon	26/03/2007	27.8	32.7	2565	2022	169	534	178
Tue	27/03/2007	26.8	31.8	2520	1965	164	541	180
Average		27.6	32.4	2386	1900	158	510	170
Weekday Average		27.6	32.3	2564	2029	169	569	190

Direction - Southeast

Day	Date	Mean	Vpp 85	Total Vehicles	Day Time Flow (07-19)	Average Day Time Flow	Peak Total (16-18)	Peak Average
Wed	21/03/2007	24.9	32.2	340	256	21	73	24
Thur	22/03/2007	25.1	31.8	353	279	23	89	30
Fri	23/03/2007	25.2	31.5	282	227	19	69	23
Sat	24/03/2007	24.2	31.1	288	215	18	60	20
Sun	25/03/2007	22.6	29.5	215	167	14	39	13
Mon	26/03/2007	25	32.4	300	220	18	72	24
Tue	27/03/2007	24.7	31.5	291	222	19	77	26
Average		24.6	31.5	296	227	19	68	23
Weekday Average		25.0	31.9	313	241	20	76	25