

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	11 SEPTEMBER 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	PETITION FOR A ZEBRA CROSSING ON SOUTHCOTE LANE - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	SOUTHCOTE
LEAD OFFICER:	GRACE WARREN	TEL:	0118 937 2906
JOB TITLE:	NETWORK MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN	E-MAIL:	grace.warren@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the Sub-Committee on the review of the petition received from residents of Southcote requesting a zebra crossing on Southcote Lane near Circuit Lane roundabout.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the existing traffic island on Southcote Lane near Circuit Lane be upgraded to a pedestrian refuge island.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of pedestrian crossing facilities and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 A petition containing approximately 600 signatures has been received from some residents of Southcote requesting a zebra crossing on

Southcote Lane to the west of Circuit Lane roundabout opposite Maker Close footpath.

- 4.2 The petition read - *“We, the undersigned, call upon the Traffic Management Network Department, to install a zebra crossing in Southcote Lane, to be situated west of Circuit Lane roundabout, opposite Maker Close footpath.*

*This installation will ensure a safe crossing for the many school children and other people on what is a very busy and sometimes dangerous road. Although there are several schools, a child centre, two health surgeries, shops, library and other community establishments within Southcote, there are no safe crossings other than the existing traffic islands, which cannot accommodate pedestrian volumes during busy times.*

*There is a definite need for a crossing as Southcote Lane suffers a heavy flow of traffic which often travels in excess of the speed limit.*

*We, the signatories, would like the Traffic Network Management to install a zebra crossing in Southcote Lane to help with the safe crossing of all pedestrians”.*

- 4.3 Councillor Page as Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport asked officers to investigate the request and provide a response to a future Traffic Management Sub-committee. This report is the response as requested.
- 4.4 The requirements for pedestrian facilities are laid down by central government where we are obliged to measure the demand by a pedestrian/vehicle count (PV<sup>2</sup>). This count determines the type of facility to cater for the demand.
- 4.5 A PV<sup>2</sup> count was undertaken from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June, between the hours of 0700-1000 and 1400-1800.
- 4.6 Unfortunately, in accordance with the Department for Transport PV<sup>2</sup> criteria, the results of the survey demonstrate that the pedestrian crossing demand does not justify a formal zebra or puffin crossing.
- 4.7 However, Officers recommend improving the existing traffic island by enhancing the crossing point and upgrading the facility to a pedestrian refuge island. This will include installing tactile paving, widening the crossing area whilst maintaining 3 metre carriageway widths, and implementing “dragon’s teeth” road markings on the approaches to the islands to help reduce vehicle speeds and warn of

pedestrians crossing ahead. These proposed improvements are shown in Appendix 1.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

## **6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

- 6.1 The lead petitioner will be informed of the findings of the Sub-Committee.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 8.2 The Council has carried out a equality impact assessment scoping exercise, and considers that the proposals do not have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 None arising from this report.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 TM Sub Committee 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 petition submission.  
TM Sub Committee 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 petition update.