

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	4 NOVEMBER 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	6
TITLE:	PETITION FROM RESIDENTS OF HOLMES ROAD - REQUESTING REDUCTION IN SPEEDING AND ONE WAY PLUG - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	PARK
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 Holmes Road requesting that access to Holmes Road in East Reading is restricted through the use of a one way plug and to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling within the road which was reported to Traffic Management Sub Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That Holmes Road continues to be monitored as part of the Council's ongoing road safety strategy and the Vehicle Activated Sign be used when possible as part of the annual sign rotation schedule.
- 2.3 That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of road closures and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

#### 4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 A petition signed by 12 residents of Holmes Road was received requesting the installation of a one way plug to prevent speeding traffic entering Holmes Road. The petition was reported to Traffic Management Sub-Committee in September 2014 for further investigation.
- 4.2 The petition reads:- "The residents of Holmes Road, who have signed below are petitioning for the installation of a one-way plug to prevent speeding traffic entering Holmes Road from the Wokingham Road, the current volume and speed of traffic in Holmes Road is putting lives at risk. We believe that this plug should go some way to alleviating the risk of serious accidents in Holmes Road".
- 4.3 Holmes Road is a standard width two-way road that is subject to a 30mph speed limit with street lighting. The road provides a link between Wokingham Road and Whiteknights Road.
- 4.4 The duty of the highway authority is to ensure that the highway is as safe as reasonably practicable. This is achieved by using accident data supplied by the police where the Council can identify a pattern of those locations that have the worst record. The accident statistics have been checked for Holmes Road where no injury accidents have been recorded within its entire length during the latest 5-year period. It is a sad reality, but there are several locations within the Borough where high levels of injury accidents have occurred and these will always be treated as a priority.
- 4.5 The request to close the road has been investigated and whilst it may be possible (subject to full support from residents and completion of a legal process), access to the road by large vehicles such as refuse collections has to be protected. This is normally achieved by creating turning heads to allow for the turning manoeuvres. The current alignment may make such facilities difficult, and a full design and cost assessment would be required before the Council can formally endorse such a change.
- 4.6 The Council has invested in some Vehicle Activated Signs that provide a good reminder to drivers exceeding a speed limit. The signs are regularly moved to different locations around the Borough and are normally in position for a period of four weeks. Holmes Road can be included as part of the rotation schedule. These signs also record the number of activation during the period they are on site, thus assisting in providing speed data in the road.

4.7 Based on the initial investigations undertaken, it is recommended that the road continues to be monitored as part of the Council's ongoing road safety strategy, and that the Vehicle Activated Sign be used on the road when possible as part of the annual rotation schedule.

## **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 will carry out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise prior to submitting the update report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None arising from this report.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 TM Sub Committee 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 petition submission.