

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	4 NOVEMBER 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	RECREATION ROAD & BLUNDELLS ROAD - PETITION UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	TILEHURST/KENTWOOD
LEAD OFFICER:	JIM CHEN	TEL:	0118 937 2198
JOB TITLE:	NETWORK MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN	E-MAIL:	Jim.chen@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform the Sub-Committee of the investigation that has been carried out within Recreation Road and Blundells Road following the receipt of a petition from some Residents of Tilehurst which was reported to Traffic Management Sub-Committee on the 11th September 2014.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That Recreation Road and Blundells Road continue 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 speed awareness sign rotation schedule.
- 2.3 That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of traffic management, speed calming measure and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 A petition containing approximately 100 signatures from resident of Tilehurst has been received requesting that the Council investigate and resolve traffic safety issues in Recreation Road and Blundells Road.

The petition reads - We, the undersigned residents of Tilehurst hereby call on Reading Borough Council to investigate ways of making our roads safer and slowing down the traffic that uses Recreation Road and Blundells Road as rat runs to avoid the traffic lights in School Road. Recreation Road serves entrances to both Blagrove Nursery and park so there are often parents with small children crossing the road. Our preferred options are for a 20mph limit along our roads and one-way plug at the junction of Blundells Road and Norcot Road.

Other ideas (e.g. speed humps and better enforcement) may also be worth considering but the numbers of cars and the speed they travel along our streets is not acceptable to residents and we want the council to act to calm the traffic, to prevent cars using our roads as a rat run and to make our streets safer for everyone. We call on the council to review the issue of traffic along Recreation Road and to present plan for improving road safety along this dangerous road.

- 4.2 Recreation Road and Blundells Road are standard width two-way roads with street lights. Both roads are subject to a 30mph speed limit and with parking on both sides of the road.
- 4.3 The duty of the highway authority is to ensure that the highway is as safe as reasonably practical. 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 Recreation Road and Blundells Road where two slight injury accidents have been recorded; one within Recreation Road and one within Blundells Road 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.
- 4.4 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. Recreation Road and Blundells Road can be included as part of the rotation schedule.

- 4.5 Based on the initial investigations undertaken, it is recommended that the roads continue 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 Traffic Management Sub-Committee 11th September 2014.