

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	15 JUNE 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	5G
TITLE:	PETITION FOR TRAFFIC CALMING IN NORTHCOURT AVENUE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	CHURCH
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Sub-Committee the receipt of two petitions asking the Council to introduce traffic calming measures in Northcourt Avenue.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That Officers investigate the proposals in the petitions and present their recommendations to a future Sub-Committee meeting.
- 2.3 That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision for the introduction of traffic calming measures is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 The Council has received a petition from residents of Northcourt Avenue, Wellington Avenue and Stansfield Close, which contains 162 signatures.

4.2 The wording of the petition reads:

'We the undersigned are very concerned with the speed of traffic in Northcourt Avenue and are asking the Council to consider raising the carriageway to footway level to create priority for crossing pedestrians and encourage drivers to slow down to 20mph at the following locations:

- 1. Cressingham Road - north arm*
- 2. Stansfield Close junction*
- 3. Ennerdale Road junction*
- 4. Wellington Avenue junction*
- 5. Sherfield and Benyon Halls access road junction*
- 6. Christchurch Road - south arm'*

4.3 The lead petitioner states *'This petition is as a result of increasing traffic flow through the avenue most of which travels in excess of the 30mph limit as recently recorded by Thames Valley Police collected by data from their cameras.*

The Residents' initial request is to ask the Council to raise the carriageway to footway level at the junctions to encourage drivers to slow down to 20mph & also to enable pedestrians & vulnerable road users to cross the road more safely.'

4.4 The Council has received a letter from Northcourt Avenue Residents Association (NARA), requesting the Council to install traffic calming on Northcourt Avenue.

4.5 The letter contains one signature - that of the Deputy Chairman of NARA - but no indication of the number of members that are represented.

4.6 The wording of this letter reads:

'TRAFFIC CALMING PETITION in Northcourt Avenue, Church Ward

Northcourt Avenue Residents Association (NARA) wishes to request the Council to take physical measures to calm the traffic in Northcourt Avenue.

This request comes as a result of sustained growth in the volume and speed of vehicles following the measures to restrain traffic capacity on Reading's arterial A327 Shinfield Road.

Residents' recent observations suggest that thousands of vehicles are now using the Avenues every day, most of which travel in excess of the 30mph limit. This was recorded recently by data collected from cameras by Thames Valley police.

Our initial request is for the raising of the carriageway to footway level at the junctions. This will not only slow down drivers at locations where they should be paying attention anyway, but also - most importantly - facilitate pedestrians and vulnerable road users to cross safely without intimidation.

The matter was considered at length during the Annual General Meeting of the Northcourt Avenue Residents Association. The AGM was unanimous in requesting the Council to take the measures necessary to reduce the speed and volume of vehicles in the Avenue, which is, in fact, supposed to be a quiet suburban (unclassified) residential road.

Additionally, NARA supports the Residents in Northcourt Avenue and Wellington Avenue in their TRAFFIC CALMING Petition. The strength of feeling must be evident from the 162 signatures on the petition which is being submitted separately. NARA looks forward to your favourable consideration of what we consider to be a reasonable request.'

- 4.7 The Sub-committee is asked to note the contents of Items 4.2 and 4.6 and officers will report back their response to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 This proposal supports the aims and objectives of the Local Transport Plan and helps to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

- Keeping the town clean, green and active.
- Providing infrastructure to support the economy.
- Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 The lead petitioners' 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 None.