

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	15 JUNE 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	6
TITLE:	REVIEW OF THE SAFETY & SIGNAGE OF THE ZEBRA CROSSING IN PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM - UPDATE		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the Sub-Committee following the receipt of a petition submitted to Policy Committee and passed to TM Sub-committee asking the Council to review the safety and signage of the zebra crossing in Prospect Street, Caversham as a matter of urgency, including investigating an upgrade to a pelican crossing.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 Improving road safety through the reduction of casualties is a statutory duty of the council as highway authority.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 A petition received at Policy Committee asks for the Council to review the safety and signage of the zebra crossing in Prospect Street, Caversham as a matter of urgency, including investigating an upgrade to a pelican crossing was passed to TM Sub-committee in March 2016. The petition highlighted a serious incident on 11 January

2016 in which a woman on the crossing was knocked down by a lorry, sustaining life threatening injuries and rushed to hospital.

- 4.2 As part of our statutory duty placed upon us, as highway authority, to improve road safety we consider work undertaken by Thames Valley Police in determining the causation factor(s) of accidents. In this case the police report does not suggest that the layout of the road or visibility of the zebra crossing contributed in any way to the accident that occurred on 11th January 2016. Prior to this particular accident this zebra crossing had a very good safety record without any reported casualties since we became highway authority in 1998.
- 4.3 The police investigation, at the time of writing this report, remained incomplete. From the information shared with Officers to date, there is a suggestion that the causation factors are beyond the scope of any road or crossing improvement. Whilst there was an initial suggestion that this zebra crossing needs to be altered, or additional signing is required, the circumstances of this accident indicate that it may have happened regardless of the type of crossing facility.
- 4.4 There is a desire to pursue the lower 20mph speed limit across parts of Lower Caversham in particular. The central Caversham area is a prime candidate for a 20mph limit improving the experience of those walking and cycling. As a part of the review of this zebra crossing in Prospect Street it is intended to engage with Caversham and District Residents Association (CADRA), in light of their comments on this crossing made at the March meeting of the Sub-committee, on a reduction of the speed limit to 20mph. How the lower 20mph speed limit may be presented and its impact in Caversham will be presented at 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 contributes to the Council's strategic aims, as set out below:
 - 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 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 March 2016 TM Sub-committee.