

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	13 SEPTEMBER 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	6
TITLE:	PETITION TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE THE ROAD AT THE JUNCTION OF SANDCROFT AND KIDMORE ROAD - UPDATE REPORT		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	MAPLEDURHAM/THAMES
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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the Sub-Committee following the receipt of a petition asking the Council to permanently close the road at the junction of Sandcroft Road and Kidmore Road.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the issues raised by the petition be investigated as part of the waiting restriction review programme 2017B.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of waiting/parking restrictions is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

#### 4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Council received a petition from residents containing 38 signatures, which was reported to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The petition called for a permanent road closure at the Sandcroft Road/Kidmore Road junction, due to poor visibility when entering and leaving Sandcroft Road as well as the poor structure under the road. A covering letter was included

with the petition stating that a resident of Sandcroft Road attended a meeting between the Council and Thames Water regarding the sinkhole and questions were raised about the danger this junction poses. Following receipt of this petition, the Council also received an objection to the petition from a resident of Kidmore Road.

- 4.2 Officers appreciate that residents have concerns about the safety of Sandcroft Road and have investigated the issues raised by the petition.
- 4.3 The visibility around this junction could be improved with the introduction of waiting restrictions such as double yellow lines. As agreed by the Sub-Committee, the Sandcroft Road /Kidmore Road junction has now been included in the next Waiting Restriction Review programme (2017B) which begins this month. The programme will allow for this to be investigated further and for residents to provide their feedback on any proposals which are put forward to consultation.
- 4.3 Our Highways Team has been working closely with Thames Water to facilitate an appropriate repair that will ensure that the public highway is returned to an acceptable and serviceable condition, following the discovery of the sinkhole.

The two shallow solution features (adjacent 4/6 Sandcroft and on the verge in front of 179 Kidmore Road) have been repaired with a resin injection material and the two remaining deep solution features are scheduled for cementitious grouting repair in the coming weeks. These repair solutions are recognised industry standard repair techniques that will provide the necessary carriageway strength to carry public transport, therefore there will be no need to neither close the road to future vehicular traffic nor impose a weight restriction.

The Council continues to work with and support Thames Water to bring these essential strengthening works to a successful conclusion. On completion of the works, Sandcroft Road will be added to the future road resurfacing programme to seal the carriageway

- 4.4 The accident statistics have been checked for Sandcroft Road and its junction with Kidmore Road. No accidents have been recorded in this area during the latest 3-year period.
- 4.5 A full road closure of this junction would affect a number of neighboring streets. Funding would also need to be secured. As there have been no accidents in the last three years and with the possible introduction of waiting restrictions in the area, officers do not

recommend a full road closure at this time. Following the completion of the highway work and the waiting restriction review programme, we believe that the concerns of the residents will be addressed.

## **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 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 proposing the introduction of any changes to waiting restrictions.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None arising from this report.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

## 10.1 June 2017 Traffic Management Sub-Committee.