

**READING BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	2 NOVEMBER 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	HIGHMOOR ROAD JUNCTION WITH ALBERT ROAD - ROAD SAFETY UPDATE REPORT		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Sub-committee is asked to support the proposal to introduce priority junction markings (Give Way) on the Albert Road approaches to the junction. This is in addition to changes already endorsed by the Sub-committee in June 2017. The proposal to add priority junction markings on the Albert Road approaches is in agreement with community groups as highlighted within this report.
- 1.2 To fully understand the context of this report the Sub-committee is reminded of the previous reports to which section 10 BACKGROUND PAPERS refer.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-committee note the contents of this report.
- 2.2 That in addition to the changes already agreed at the June meeting of the Sub-committee, members are asked to support the proposal to introduce priority junctions (Give Ways) to both Albert Road approaches at the junction.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The government expects Local Authorities to implement road safety schemes to address sites with a history of personal injury collisions,

and where possible link these with the promotion of sustainable travel.

- 3.2 Under the 1988 Road Traffic Act, the Highway Authority has a duty to take steps to both reduce and prevent collisions on the road network. In addition under the Traffic Management Act 2004 the authority has a duty to maintain and manage the road network and secure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic. (Traffic is defined to include pedestrians). It is therefore imperative that the authority continues to strive to reduce road casualties to ensure the network is safe for all users.

4.0 PREVIOUSLY AGREED ACTIONS

- 4.1 The June 2017 Sub-Committee agreed that additional dragons teeth markings be applied to the southbound Albert Road approach to the junction following the positive impact of the work carried out to date.
- 4.2 The June 2017 Sub-committee also requested that further costed proposals be prepared for introducing speed calming measures on Albert Road. This work was completed and reported to the September meeting of the Sub-committee.
- 4.3 Following representation by Ms Lucy Holt (HARC) and Mr Paul Matthews (CADRA) the Sub-committee asked that officers meet with both community groups to consider the forensics report, which appeared to contradict the Thames Valley Police report of the events leading to the fatality at the junction.

5.0 ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

- 5.1 A meeting was held on 18th September 2017 between officers, HARC and CADRA where it was concluded that the introduction of priority junctions (GIVE WAYS) to both Albert Road approaches was worth pursuing.
- 5.2 To introduce priority junctions on Albert Road in addition to the current requirement to STOP on Highmoor Road should further reduce the potential for vehicle conflict. The most recent edition of the Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions (TSRGD) 2016 encourages more local highway authority discretion than previously. Therefore, the addition of priority junctions on both Albert Road approaches is entirely at the discretion of the Council as local highway authority.
- 4.6 The introduction of GIVE WAYS requires change to road markings and vertical road signs. Vertical road signs require illumination. Officers will consider the position of existing street furniture and electric supplies so not to compromise sight lines further at the junction.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Whilst the use of discretionary road markings is delegated to officers, due to the recent casualty history at this junction, the Sub-committee is asked to endorse the introduction of priority junctions on both Albert Road approaches.

5.2 The expected cost of this change (subject to detailed design) is expected to be in the region of £4K. The existing traffic management and road safety budget will be used to carry out this change.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

6.1 The delivery of road safety and casualty reduction schemes help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

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

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 Our road safety and casualty reduction policies form part of our Local Transport Plan which was last consulted upon in 2010. Some locally promoted changes may require a public consultation process in line with the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedure) (England & Wales) Regulations 1996.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None as a result of this report.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 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.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The changes suggested within this report are relatively low cost and will be funded from existing transport budgets.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 TM Sub Committee 16th January 2014 petition submission. TM Sub Committee 13th March 2014 Annual Road Safety Review. TM Sub Committee 11th September 2014. TM Sub Committee 4th November 2014. TM Sub-committee 15th January 2016. TM Sub-committee 15th June 2016. TM Sub-committee 14th September 2016. TM Sub-committee 3rd November 2016. TM Sub-committee June 2017.