

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	11 JANUARY 2018	AGENDA ITEM:	6
TITLE:	PEDESTRIAN CROSSING PETITIONS UPDATE		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 To report to the Sub-Committee an initial response to the petitions received asking the Council for improved pedestrian crossing facilities at the following locations:

- Junction of Bridge Street, Church Street and Church Road;
- Junction of Peppard Road, Prospect Street, Henley Road and Westfield Road; and
- Moorlands Primary School (Church End Lane).

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.

2.2 That the requests for improved pedestrian crossing facilities be added to the 'Requests for Traffic Management Measures' report.

2.3 That the lead petitioners be informed accordingly.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The provision of pedestrian crossings is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bridge Street/Church Road/Church Street and Peppard Road/Prospect Street/Westfield Road/Henley Road petitions

- 4.1 Officers understand the perceived safety concerns at these junctions and have a statutory duty placed upon us, as the highway authority, to improve road safety through the reduction of casualties. We do this by analysing casualty data supplied to us by Thames Valley Police. An incident was recorded involving a pedestrian on 17th June 2016 on Church Road, with a number of causation factors reportedly contributing to the incident. This is the only casualty report at these junctions within the latest 3 year period of data that we hold, which suggests that these junctions have a very good Highway safety record.
- 4.2 These are very traffic-sensitive junctions, with the meeting of some major streets and one-of-two river crossings (Bridge Street/Church Road). The addition of an 'all-red-to-traffic' pedestrian phase to the junctions will have a significant impact on traffic flow. The recent Thames Water works on Church Street, requiring an additional traffic signal phase (from the current 2-phase junction to a temporary 3-phase junction) demonstrated the traffic sensitivity of this particular junction, with widespread congestion being experienced.
- 4.3 Any proposals will have to be traffic-modelled, so that the likely impact can be assessed and considered. This will require external resource to be employed. Funding will need to be identified for the investigation and modelling, as well as any implementation of the proposals. It is recommended that these requests be added to the regular 'Requests for Traffic Management Measures' report for unfunded schemes.

Moorlands School, Church End Lane petition

- 4.4 Potential investment in Moorlands Primary School could make funding available for the instillation of facilities to assist pedestrians. Options can be considered once funding is identified.
- 4.5 Analysis of the Police-supplied casualty data suggests that Church End Lane has a very good Highway safety record, with no pedestrian related incidents recorded within the latest 3 year period of data.
- 4.6 It is recommended that this request be added to the regular 'Requests for Traffic Management Measures' report for unfunded schemes.

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:

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

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 The lead petitioners will be informed on the findings of the Sub-Committee, following publication of the meeting minutes.

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 the Highway.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising from this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Petition for a Pedestrian Crossing at the junction of Bridge Street, Church Road and Church Street (Traffic Management Sub-Committee - November 2017).
- 10.2 Petition for a Pedestrian Crossing at the junction of Peppard Road/Prospect Street/Henley Road/Westfield Road (Traffic Management Sub-Committee - November 2017).
- 10.3 Other Petitions (Moorlands Primary School) (Traffic Management Sub-Committee - November 2017).