

Traffic Management Sub-Committee

13 November 2023



Reading
Borough Council
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Title	Petition – Holmes Road Traffic Plug
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report status	Public report
Report author	James Penman, Network Services Manager, Network Services
Lead councillor	John Ennis
Corporate priority	Healthy Environment
Recommendations	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Note the content of this report.2. Agree to the existing entry on the 'Requests for Traffic Management Measures' report being updated to reflect the receipt of this petition.3. Agree to the lead petitioner being informed of the decisions of the Sub-Committee, following publication of the agreed minutes of the meeting.4. Agree that no public inquiry be held into the proposals.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1. To report to the Sub-Committee the receipt of a petition requesting the Council to install a one-way traffic plug on Holmes Road, at its junction with Wokingham Road, to tackle reported issues of speeding and through- traffic.
- 1.2. The report notes that there is an existing entry on the regularly reported 'Requests for Traffic Management Measures' and recommends that this entry is updated to reflect the receipt of this petition. This report entry is recorded for future funding allocation and the next report update is expected at the March 2024 meeting of this Sub-Committee.

2. Policy context

- 2.1. The recommendations of this report will not directly lead to changes being introduced. However, the implementation of such a traffic calming scheme would be expected to align with the following theme in the Council's Corporate Plan for the years 2022/25:
 - Healthy Environment

3. The proposal

Current Position

- 3.1. On 2 November 2023, a petition was submitted to the Council containing 27 signatories.

The wording of the petition stated the following:

The residents of Holmes Road, who have signed below are petitioning for the installation of a one-way plug to prevent speeding traffic entering Holmes Rd. from the Wokingham Rd. The current volumes and speed of traffic in Holmes Rd is putting lives at risk. We believe that a plug would go some way to reducing the risk of serious accidents in Holmes Rd.

Appendix 1 contains the following:

- The front page of the petition, with personal data redacted;
- Supplementary document that was provided with the petition; and
- Photographs and illustration that were provided with the petition.

The Sub-Committee is asked to note that photographs of a recent casualty incident were also included with the petition, which have not been included as part of this public report.

- 3.2. The 'Requests for Traffic Management Measures' report that comes to this Sub-Committee twice-annually contains an entry for the one-way plug requested in this petition. The latest update for this report is at this Sub-Committee meeting, where the entry can be found as item 84 on Appendix 3 (report available [here](#)).

This report captures requests for traffic management schemes that do not currently have identified funding. Schemes originating from this list have attracted funding nominations, including those from Local 15% Community Infrastructure Levy and successful government funding bids, such as the Active Travel Tranche 4.

Options proposed

- 3.3. Officers acknowledge the concerns that have been raised in this petition, however, there is currently no allocated funding for the development nor delivery of this requested feature.
- 3.4. It is recommended that the report entry referred in Item 3.2 be updated to reflect the receipt of this petition, with expectation that scheme development can be programmed once funding has been identified.

Other options considered

- 3.5. None at this time.

4. Contribution to strategic aims

- 4.1. The Council's new Corporate Plan has established three themes for the years 2022/25. These themes are:

- Healthy Environment
- Thriving Communities
- Inclusive Economy

- 4.2. These themes are underpinned by "Our Foundations" explaining the ways we work at the Council:

- People first
- Digital transformation
- Building self-reliance
- Getting the best value
- Collaborating with others

- 4.3. Full details of the Council's Corporate Plan and the projects which will deliver these priorities are published on the [Council's website](#). These priorities and the Corporate Plan demonstrate how the Council meets its legal obligation to be efficient, effective and economical.

- 4.4. The recommendation of this report does not directly deliver changes. Requests for new traffic management measures would need to be considered alongside the Borough Council's Strategic Aims, the Local Transport Plan (LTP), and Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

5. Environmental and climate implications

- 5.1. The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 5.2. The recommendation of this report does not directly deliver changes, so a Climate Impact Assessment has not been considered necessary at this time.

6. Community engagement

- 6.1. The lead petitioner will be informed of the decision of the Sub-Committee regarding the request that they have made, following publication of the meeting minutes.
- 6.2. Meeting reports and minutes are published on the Council's website and Traffic Management Sub-Committee is a public meeting that can be attended. Recordings of the meetings are also available via the Council's website (www.reading.gov.uk).

7. Equality impact assessment

- 7.1. Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, 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.
- 7.2. It is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment is relevant at this time as the report recommendation does not directly lead to any physical change. Assessment will be considered once funding for development and delivery of a scheme is identified.

8. Other relevant considerations

- 8.1. None expected from the recommendations and decisions for this report.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. There are no foreseen legal implications relating to the recommendation of this report.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1. None arising from the recommendation of this report.

11. Timetable for implementation

- 11.1. Not applicable.

12. Background papers

- 12.1. There are none.

Appendices –

1. Redacted petition sheet and supplementary documents included with the petition submission.