

Traffic Management Sub-Committee

11 June 2025



Reading
Borough Council
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Title	Petition – Wokingham Road Pedestrian Crossing
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report status	Public report
Executive Director/ Statutory Officer Commissioning Report	Emma Gee, Executive Director Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services
Report author	James Penman, Network Services Manager
Lead Councillor	Cllr John Ennis, Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport
Council priority	Deliver a sustainable & healthy environment & reduce Reading's carbon footprint
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Sub-Committee notes the content of this report.2. That officers consider the contents of the petition and make their recommendations in a petition response report to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee.3. That no public inquiry be held into the proposals.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Sub-Committee of a petition that has been received, requesting the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Wokingham Road, near to the junction with Hamilton Road.
- 1.2. Officers recommend considering the content of the petition and making their recommendations in a future 'petition response' report to this Sub-Committee.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1. The Council Plan for the years 2025/28 includes priorities of delivering a sustainable and healthy environment and to reduce our carbon footprint, for which the principles of the Council's Local Transport Plan and Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan support. The principle of enhancing facilities for pedestrians and removing potential barriers to residents and visitors using sustainable, active transport modes aligns with these strategies.

3. The Proposal

Current Position

- 3.1. On 18 May 2025 a petition was submitted to the Council containing counted indications of support from 180 individuals, which stated:

Wokingham Road Pedestrian Crossing

We the undersigned request that a safe crossing be installed on Wokingham Rd close to the Hamilton Road bus stop (by the cemetery wall).

Many residents have expressed their concerns about the dangers of crossing there. In particular elderly, disabled people and those with young children find it challenging to cross the road when high volumes of cars travel at speed. A safe crossing would be a clear signal to drivers that pedestrians are trying to cross the road. We urge you to implement this important measure for the benefit of the people of Park Ward.

The Local Labour Team for Park Ward Matt Rodda MP – Labour MP for Reading Central

- 3.2. At the desired location, Wokingham Road is a 30mph street with two westbound traffic lanes (a bus lane and a general traffic lane) and an eastbound general traffic lane with an advisory cycle lane alongside.

Both sides of the road have Red Route 'no stopping at any time' restrictions in place, with the cemetery on the northern side and residential properties – some with off street parking access – on the southern side.

Options Considered

- 3.3. It is recommended that officers consider the requested change and undertake a high level desktop study in order to make recommendations to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee.

It is likely that such a requested change will need to be considered for entry on the Council's regularly reported 'Requests for Traffic Management Measures' as there is currently no identified funding nor staffing resource to commence development of a scheme at the time of writing.

Other Options Considered

- 3.4. None at this time.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 4.1. The Council Plan has established five priorities for the years 2025/28. These priorities are:

- Promote more equal communities in Reading
- Secure Reading's economic and cultural success
- Deliver a sustainable and healthy environment and reduce our carbon footprint
- Safeguard and support the health and wellbeing of Reading's adults and children
- Ensure Reading Borough Council is fit for the future

- 4.2. In delivering these priorities, we will be guided by the following set of principles:

- Putting residents first
- Building on strong foundations
- Recognising, respecting, and nurturing all our diverse communities
- Involving, collaborating, and empowering residents
- Being proudly ambitious for Reading

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

- 4.4. The recommendations in this report, if agreed, do not directly lead to a change being introduced. However, the nature of the request align most closely with the following priority:

Deliver a sustainable and healthy environment and reduce our carbon footprint

The appropriate provision of facilities to support walking, and/or removing potential barriers to walking, can lead to an uptake in this active travel mode and to using public transport options (walking to a bus stop). This can support reducing pollution, improving air quality and creating spaces where people feel the benefits of clean air and active travel.

These provisions also support accessibility and mobility, which are key to thriving, connected communities, ensuring everyone including the vulnerable can safely use public spaces, regardless of age or ability.

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 recommendations of this report will not directly lead to changes being introduced, 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. Traffic Management Sub-Committee is a public meeting. The agendas, reports, meeting minutes and recordings of the meetings are available to view from the Council's website.

7. Equality Implications

- 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 recommendations do not directly lead to any physical changes being introduced.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

- 8.1. There are none.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. There are no foreseen legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.
- 9.2. Patricia Tavernier has cleared these Legal Implications.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

11. Timetable for Implementation

- 11.1. Not applicable.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1. There are none.