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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting  
**Date:** 20 October 2009  
**Subject:** Petition – Road Safety and Congestion on Heath Road and Heath Park Road, Leighton Buzzard.  
**Report of:** Basil Jackson  
**Summary:** The purpose of this report is to present a petition raised by residents requesting double yellow lines at the junction of Heath Park Road. This petition has been presented at Executive Committee and referred back for further report.

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**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** Leighton Buzzard – Plantation.  
**Function of:** Council

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**that the incoming petition be noted and that the lead petitioner be informed that in respect of parking at Heath Park Road no action is taken to introduce parking restrictions at this location.**

**Background and Information.**

1. In July 2009 a petition was sent by local residents of Heath Park Road and Copper Beech Way requesting double yellow lines on both sides of Heath Park Road at its approach to the junction with Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard.
2. In accordance with the process in operation at that time an acknowledgement was sent to the lead petitioner.
3. The procedure in place at that time was for Bedfordshire Highways staff to undertake investigation into the grounds stated on the petition and to report the petition together with a proposed course of action to the first available meeting of the Bedfordshire County Council Development Control Committee.

4. Due to the changes in local government arrangements in Bedfordshire that were taking place at the time there was no opportunity to do this within the life of the outgoing County Council and the arrangements for presenting to members of the new Central Bedfordshire Council were not available at that time, and indeed for some time subsequently.
5. This petition was reported to Executive Committee on the 15 September 2009 and referred back for a further report.

### **Information**

6. A petition requesting double yellow lines on both sides of Heath Park Road at its approach to the junction with Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard has been received from local residents.
7. Heath Park Road is a residential road located close to Heathwood School and is used by parents to park when dropping off and picking up children using this school.
8. Residents are concerned that vehicles parking along Heath Park Road cause problems for motorists when entering and exiting this junction and causes congestion on Heath Road .
9. Accident records show that between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007, the last three years for which records are available, there have not been any recorded personal injury accidents in the area under consideration.
10. The introduction of waiting restrictions in Heath Park Road is likely to displace vehicles in to other residential roads, with the potential to cause more severe problems elsewhere.
11. Throughout the year Bedfordshire Highways receive a large number of requests for a whole range of works and it is therefore necessary to prioritise such requests by considering the following criteria.
  - Road safety
  - Congestion relief
  - Capacity Improvement
  - Environmental Impact
  - Promotion of integrated transport
  - Improving accessibility
  - Council policy
  - Cost
12. Using these criteria an assessment has been carried out to prioritise this request for the introduction of waiting restrictions. Using a point based assessment form 10 points has been awarded for this request. This is equivalent to 2 stars on the rating system and low priority as set out below.
13. The proposal would provide some benefits to the community. However, at this time, the available funds for this type of work are fully allocated to existing commitments.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

14. Dangerous parking and obstruction of the highway is an offence, residents may consider contacting the Police who may consider using their existing powers of enforcement to resolve the matter.
15. Parking at Heath Park Road is to be monitored and should circumstances change this request is reconsidered under the present assessment scheme.

### CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

**Council Priorities:**

None as a result of this report.

**Financial:**

None as a result of this report.

**Legal:**

None as a result of this report.

**Risk Management:**

None as a result of this report.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None as a result of this report

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

This report and recommendation does not have any implications under the Human Rights Act 1998.

**Community Development/Safety:**

None as a result of this report.

**Sustainability:**

None as a result of this report.

## Background Papers

Copy of Petition.