
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 20th October 2009
Subject: Petition to Improve Road Safety in Richmond Road Leighton Buzzard.

Report of: Basil Jackson

Summary: To report to the portfolio holder for safer and stronger communities that a petition has been received from residents in the Richmond Road area requesting traffic management measures to improve safety and to recommend that this be noted and the lead petitioner be advised that it is not recommended to take any further action at the present time.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
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Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Leighton Linlade

Function of: Council

Reason for urgency
(if appropriate)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

that the contents of the petition be noted and the lead petitioner be advised that proposals to implement traffic management on Richmond Road are not planned at the current time.

Background

1. In late 2008 a petition was sent to Bedfordshire County Council on behalf of residents of Richmond Road, Leighton Buzzard regarding the need for a one way street order on Richmond Road Leighton Buzzard. In accordance with the process in operation at that time an acknowledgement was sent to the lead petitioner.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. This petition was reported to Executive Committee on the 15 September 2009 and referred back for a further report.
5. Richmond Road is a closed loop on a residential estate in Leighton Buzzard and, as a result, does not have any traffic other than local people and deliveries.
6. In common with many such estates, the houses were not constructed with off road parking and as a result on street parking has increased in accordance with vehicle ownership levels to the extent that on occasions the road is likely to be congested.
7. Some of the properties have constructed off road parking but these are in a minority. Most of the properties fronting Richmond Road do have the opportunity to do this and this would address much of the problem.
8. The implementation of a one way system in a closed loop such as this is not recommended. Vehicle owners close to the ends of the loop have a tendency to drive contrary to the flow rather than all the way round the loop to access premises.
9. It is true that residential congestion may cause difficulties for large vehicles requiring access and this may include emergency service vehicles but this is true in many residential streets and it is not feasible to address all of these through engineering or traffic management methods. In this case the resident's vehicles and their visitors are generally the cause of the problem and the solution is at least partly within their own control with off-street parking a possibility.
10. The Council is currently developing a parking policy document and that will specifically look at parking congestion issues and the introduction of verge parking in residential estates. Central Bedfordshire does not currently have a policy relating to this. Residents should, in any case, be encouraged to address parking issues where possible by the creation of private off road parking.

Conclusion and Next Steps

11. No further action is recommended to be taken at this time.

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:

None as a result of this report.

Community Development/Safety:

None as a result of this report

Sustainability:

None as a result of this report

Background Papers.

Copy of petition