
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 21st September 2010
Subject: Petition – To provide a Crossing Patrol, 20mph Speed Limit and One Way System in Manor Road Barton-Le-Clay
Report of: Basil Jackson
Summary: The purpose of this report is to present a petition received from Ramsay Lower School and signed by parents requesting the above actions

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Leighton Central and Southcott
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

Approximately £2000 would be required to undertake a traffic study. There is currently a budget within the integrated work programme allocated for the assessment of traffic management requests.

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 Safety:

None as a result of this report

Sustainability:

None as a result of this report

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles is requested to note the contents of the report.

Background and Information.

1. A petition of nearly 200 signatures has been received from the Head Teacher of Ramsay Manor Lower School requesting a school crossing patrol, a 20 mph speed limit at the school and a one way traffic system in Manor Road.
2. In respect of the provision of a school crossing patrol Central Bedfordshire Council such requests are assessed by officers against set criteria. Budgets are limited and only those locations that meet the criteria will be considered for provision. In the case of Ramsay Manor school the assessment has been carried out and currently the site does not meet the criteria but officers are in discussion with the school on regarding the possibility of providing a crossing patrol funded by the school.
3. There is no policy in Central Bedfordshire to implement a 20mph speed limit outside all schools. A policy to do so was originally adopted by the former Bedfordshire County Council.
4. Following the creation of the new unitary authorities the policy was considered by Central Bedfordshire Council but it was agreed that until full detailed information could be provided on the practicality of doing this and the likely cost to the authority that it should not be adopted as policy for the new Council. To date this situation has not changed.
5. Currently where a Safer Routes to School has been identified in the vicinity of a school or schools it is normal practice to consider the creation of a 20mph speed limit as part of the works. It is not appropriate to do this in all cases and will depend upon a range of factors.
6. In the case of Ramsay Manor school there is currently no Safer Routes to School scheme planned for the Manor Road area.
7. Up to date speed data is not available for this location and the collection of this would form part of any future assessment of the site.
8. There has been only one slight injury accident recorded in Manor Road in the last three years involving a pedestrian.
9. The general environment in Manor Road is not one where excessive speeds would be expected as a general rule. There is footway on one side, housing on both sides and a considerable number of driveways. The road has a number of bends that break up the direct drivers line as do parked vehicles.

10. Although relatively narrow in width the road, when uncluttered, is comfortable for most vehicles to pass with ease. It is also not a route where excessive numbers of wide or heavy vehicles would be expected other than for access. It is likely that to make this road into a one way street would appreciably increase the speed of vehicles as driver confidence around bends and obstructions would increase significantly.
11. The road is also generally unsuitable for one way treatment because of its considerable length and, even if only the length in front of the school were to be considered, the resulting diversion for the opposite direction would be tortuous and through residential streets.

Conclusion and The way Forward

12. It is expected that the discussions between officers of the Council and the school will resolve the school crossing patrol situation.
13. It is not recommended that a one way traffic order be considered for Manor Road for the reasons give. In that it would be inappropriate and would be likely to be counter productive to reducing vehicle speed.
14. The implementation of a 20mph zone at the school is not currently proposed. There is no safer routes to school scheme for the area and in the absence of current vehicle speed information and a policy from Central Bedfordshire Council there is no obvious reason why it should be necessary.
15. Given the nature of the road it is expected that speeds will not be excessive in respect of the current 30mph limit and this site will be placed on the list of sites to be assessed.
16. There would seem to be no substantial reason why a 20mph limit could not be introduced here subject to speed data, the appropriate policy and budgetary constraints.