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**Meeting:** Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders

**Date:** 16 November 2015

**Subject:** Chiltern Road, Dunstable – Petition regarding Excessive Traffic Speed

**Report of:** Paul Mason, Head of Highways

**Summary:** This report is to note the receipt of a petition submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and suggest a way forward.

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**Contact Officer:** Nick Chapman

**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** Dunstable Central and Northfields

**Function of:** Council

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

#### **Financial:**

There is allocated funding for a Local Safety Scheme, including a round top road hump, junction modifications and waiting restrictions, in the current financial year.

#### **Legal:**

None from this report

#### **Risk Management:**

None from this report

#### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None from this report

#### **Equalities/Human Rights:**

None from this report

#### **Community Safety:**

None from this report

#### **Sustainability:**

None from this report.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**It is recommended that the Executive Member for Community Services notes the petition and that the lead petitioner be informed that the effects of the current scheme need to be evaluated before consideration is given to any additional measures.**

**Background and Information**

1. A petition has been received, signed by 469 residents of Chiltern Road and the immediate area, expressing concerns about the speed of traffic in their road and asking for action to address the issue.
2. There are local concerns that Chiltern Road is being used as an alternative route to avoid speed reduction measures on parallel roads and that there is widespread abuse of the 20mph speed limit.
3. The petition requests:-
  - Regular speed checks
  - Traffic calming and fixed speed cameras
  - Consideration of a pedestrian crossings
4. The Council has funded a Local Safety Scheme in the vicinity of the junctions of Chiltern Road and Union Street and Chiltern Road, West Parade and Worthington Road. This scheme includes junction modifications, a round top road hump and waiting restrictions, which are all aimed at reducing traffic speeds and assisting pedestrians. Details are included in Appendix C. These junctions are on a well-used walking route and the scheme is intended to improve safety for pedestrians, particularly those walking to and from nearby schools. The safety scheme was implemented in late October 2015. There is a possibility of adding a second road hump in Chiltern Road to the south of Worthington Road, but this is dependent on funding being available, which is not expected in the current financial year.
5. It is accepted that Chiltern Road is used as a through-route, but the volume of traffic is such that pedestrians would usually be able to identify suitable gaps to be able to cross safely, particularly if speeds can be lowered. In these circumstances the focus is on providing speed reducing measures, rather than formal pedestrian crossings. There are shops in the vicinity of the identified junctions and pedestrian crossings and their associated no stopping restrictions would probably reduce the availability of on-street parking.
6. Overall, it is felt that the recently implemented safety scheme, together with any further measures that might be provided in the future, will tackle some of the concerns raised by the petitioners. The impact of the scheme will need to be evaluated before the Council gives consideration to any additional measures.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Petition

Appendix B – Location plan

Appendix C – Drawing showing current local safety scheme

## **COMMUNITY PETITION**

### **Stop Speeding on Chiltern Road**

As we are all well aware, speeding on public highways is a criminal offence liable to a ban on driving.

*For causing death by dangerous driving, the maximum penalty is a 14 year prison sentence.*

*Speeding is classed as dangerous driving!*

It has also become apparent since the introduction of the 20mph Speed Limit throughout the residential areas in our location, that Chiltern Road has now become an alternative parallel '**Rat Run**' for motorcyclists and car drivers as they avoid the traffic calming measures in place on Drover's Way.

Every weekday morning and late afternoon, and then frequently during the weekends, we constantly hear and see evidence of flagrant disregard to the 20mph speed limit applied to Chiltern Road.

We, as residents of Chiltern Road, and homes in the immediate locality ask that immediate action be taken by:

- Bedfordshire Police to maintain regular mobile speed checks.
- Bedfordshire Highways Authority implement plans to install traffic calming and fixed speed cameras at locations on Chiltern Road.
- Bedfordshire Highways Authority examine the need for a Pelican Crossing being installed adjacent to the junctions of Worthington Road, Union Street and West Parade. Local shops and an Infant School are situated nearby.
- Bedfordshire Highways Authority examine the need for a Pelican Crossings being installed adjacent to the junctions of Maidenbower Avenue and Victoria Street. Local shops are situated nearby.

TOTAL SIGNATURES 384. 11-9-2015.

TOTAL SIGNATURES 468. 26-10-2015.

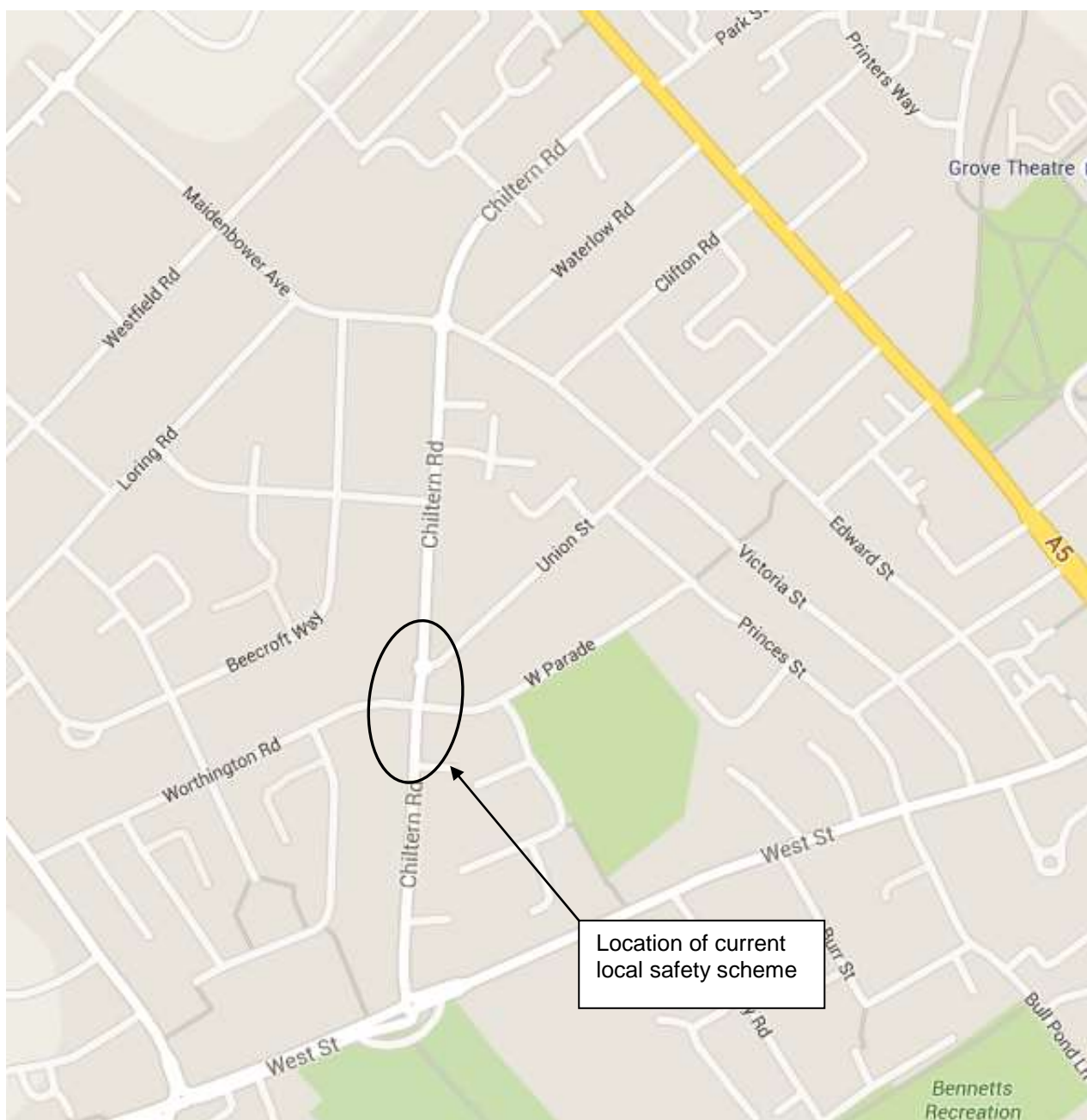
# **COMMUNITY PETITION**

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## **Stop Speeding on Chiltern Road**

I, as a resident of Chiltern Road / a home in the immediate locality do sign this Community Petition as confirmation that I agree with the objectives of the said Community Petition.

### **Appendix B**



## Appendix C

