
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders
Date: 4 February 2016
Subject: Pine View Park, A507 Maulden – Petition requesting a Pedestrian Crossing
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.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Ampthill
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

There is no highways budget available to undertake any work 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 of the outcome of the meeting.

Background and Information

1. A petition has been received, signed by 56 residents of Pine View requesting a pedestrian crossing of the A507 Maulden bypass.
2. A covering letter with the petition expresses concerns that traffic speeds continue to increase despite the introduction of a 40mph speed limit. The petition organiser has pointed out that in 2009 the Council did state that the location would be added to the five year pedestrian crossing programme.
3. At similar petition was received in 2011 and considered at the Traffic Management Meeting on 26 September 2011. The decision was that the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services noted the contents of the report and agreed to the following:-
 - a) a radar box survey be carried out
 - b) the visibility splays be maintained
 - c) the street lights and the advisory signs be illuminated
 - d) that following completion of the radar box survey that the speed limit be considered for reduction to 40mph.

These actions were undertaken in the months following the meeting.

4. Traffic flows on A507 Maulden bypass are high, particularly during peak periods. A 40mph speed limit on the A507 from the A6 at Clophill to west of Pine View Park was introduced in April 2015. Speed data has not been measured since the 40mph limit was introduced, but the reduction from the national speed limit (60mph for cars) to 40mph is likely to have led to lower actual speeds, albeit a fairly modest reduction. In addition, the Council has installed “Elderly people” warning signs on both approaches to the crossing point, which should alert drivers to the potential for pedestrians being in the road.
5. Despite the reduction of the speed limit to 40mph vehicle speeds are sufficiently high that the only safe form of pedestrian crossing would be a signalised facility. This is likely to cost in the region for £75,000. A pedestrian crossing survey has not been undertaken, but it is expected that the number of people crossing at this point would be fairly low. There are very few facilities within a comfortable walking distance of Pine View Park and it is anticipated that most journeys to and from the site would be by motor vehicle.
6. Given the expected low usage of any pedestrian facility and likely cost, the provision of a crossing at this location is not likely to be a priority when compared to other potential sites in Central Bedfordshire. Consequently, unless outside sources of funding come forward, officers are unable to recommend that a pedestrian crossing be pursued at this location.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Petition and covering letter

Appendix B – Location plan

Appendix A

PINE VIEW PARK	
MAULDEN	
<u>TRAFFIC LIGHT</u>	
<u>PEDESTRIAN CROSSING</u>	
ON.	30th Sept 2015
A 507	
NAME	ADDRESS

Please find enclosed copies of relevant information for a traffic light Pedestrian crossing outside Pine View Park on the A507 which Paul Duckett has asked us to do for you.

In March this year the road speed on section between Flying Horse roundabout & MAULDON TURN was reduced to 40mph to get the crossing approved.

This crossing is on a 5yr programme, which has expired (see enclosed letter) This crossing is desperate as traffic is increasing, some vehicles are not adhering to the 40mph, especially motor bikes who think it's Brando Hatch.

We will be reporting to the police this information, although we believe they were out with the speed gun earlier this year.

Complaints of car & especially bike noise from residents living in Clophill road has reached Paul Duckett's ears.

This is a very busy & dangerous stretch of road. 2 of our residents have moved off the park to live in a safer area.

Paul Duckett & ourselves will gladly meet with you to discuss this situation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Appendix B

