
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders
Date: 1 June 2016
Subject: Woburn Street Ampthill – Petition requesting the construction of a new footway
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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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Ampthill
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The petition is in relation to the safe and efficient use of the highway network

Financial:

It is possible that work can be funded via the Council's Rural Match Funding process

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 design of a suitable footway be undertaken during the current financial year with a view to implementation during the 2017-18 financial year and that the lead petitioner be informed of the outcome of the meeting

Background and Information

1. A petition has been received, signed by 367 people, requesting the provision of a footway along the south side of Woburn Street, Ampthill from its junction with Moore Pond Piece to the entrance to the bridleway for Coopers Hill and the Firs Nature Reserve. This length of road is used by pedestrians travelling to and from local facilities, such as Alameda Middle School and the nearby rugby club.
2. There are laybys located along this length of road and people accessing their vehicle generally walk along a strip of verge between the lay-bys and the woods that border the road. The verge is not surfaced and therefore becomes muddy during periods of poor weather.
3. Observations would suggest that this length of verge is well used by pedestrians. It is likely that during the winter months pedestrians will walk within the lay-bys to avoid the verge, which would be less safe than a dedicated footway. The length of road concerned is approximately 100 metres.
4. There is a useable footway on the north side of Woburn Road adjacent to Ampthill park which provides an alternative option for pedestrians, although the use of it would involve them crossing the road.
5. Coincidentally, the design of suitable footway in this location has already been instructed via the Council's Rural Match Funding process. The design will take place during the current financial year with implementation to take place in 2017-18, subject to agreement with the Town Council on sharing the cost of these works

Appendices:

Appendix A – Petition

Appendix B – Location plan

Appendix A

Petition summary and background	<p>Please add your details to my petition to have a footpath along the south side of Woburn Street, from Moore Pond Piece to the entrance to the Bridleway for Coopers Hill and the Firs Nature Reserve used by children on their way home from school.</p> <p>I have started this petition for a new path as a parent, long standing Ampthill resident and 1st XV Manager for nearly 14 years at Ampthill & District Rugby Club.</p> <p>I am concerned that as there are lay-bys along this section of road and no footpath you either have to walk adjacent to the trees or in the road.</p> <p>Now the weather is turning and the path is getting very wet and muddy, more people are walking in the road when the lay-bys are occupied. Also as the days are getting shorter it is becoming ever more dangerous to walk from Moore Pond Piece to the entrance of the Bridleway for Coopers Hill and the Firs Nature Reserve, so they cross the road to the path on the other side, this again is not without risk as the very poor lighting and the parking bays make it very dangerous.</p>
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Appendix B

