
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 28 February 2017
Subject: Chapel Road, Flitwick – Petition requesting Various Highway Improvements
Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways
Summary: This report is to note the receipt of a petition submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and suggest a way forward.
Recommendation: It is recommended that a parking restriction proposal be considered in conjunction with other proposals in Flitwick during the 2017/18 financial year and that the lead petitioner be informed of the outcome of the meeting.

Contact Officer: Paul Salmon
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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Flitwick
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

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

Financial:

Work will be funded from minor traffic management and parking budgets.

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.

Budget and Delivery:	
Estimated cost: Depends on measures	Budget: Unallocated
Expected delivery: To be determined	

Background and Information

1. A petition organised by a local resident has been received, signed by 15 people, requesting the Council to take the following actions to address traffic and parking issues in Chapel Road, Flitwick:-
 - Introduce a 20mph speed limit
 - Mark the pavement area to clearly identify it
 - Install clear signage for cycle path
 - Introduce am/pm type parking restrictions
 - Carry out more regular parking enforcement
2. Chapel Road is residential and is relatively narrow without kerbed footways. The road has a prohibition of motor vehicles restriction at the Windmill Road end to stop Chapel Road being used as a through route in that direction. This is likely to reduce the number of drivers using the road and there is no suggestion that this should be removed.
3. A 20mph speed limit could be introduced, but the width of the road and volume of on-street parking means that actual speeds are already low. It is questionable whether a mandatory 20mph limit would have any real impact on traffic speeds. This is not currently a priority for the Council.
4. Whilst there are no formal footways, there are already markings to indicate the area to be used by pedestrians. The condition of the markings is poor, so it is recommended that these be renewed.
5. Given the width of the road, it is not possible to accommodate a designated cycle lane, but the un-kerbed, marked footways could be and probably are used by cyclists. Due to the low traffic speeds it is felt that cyclists can safely travel along Chapel Road alongside motorised traffic without there being any serious road safety concerns.

6. Observations indicate that on-street parking in Chapel Road is relatively heavy during the working day, which when considering the location of the railway station, suggests that some of the parked cars could belong to commuters. Hence, there appear to be grounds for considering a parking scheme aimed at reducing non-resident parking. This would need extensive public consultation to determine the level of resident support. Flitwick Town Council has submitted a list of possible locations for parking restrictions and this includes Chapel Road.
7. If parking restrictions were introduced, the Council's civil enforcement officers would visit Chapel Road on a regular basis. At present the only restrictions are close to Steppingley Road and these are probably well observed as they are double yellow lines. Consequently, the road probably receives little enforcement attention.
8. The current budget and staff resource for the consideration of on-street parking restrictions is fully committed, but it will be possible to pursue this in the 2017/18 financial year.
9. If approved and implemented, the restrictions will be reviewed after 5 years to determine whether they should be retained, modified or removed.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Petition and accompanying correspondence

Appendix B – Location plan

Appendix A

We as residents of Chapel Road Flitwick, the only road in Flitwick affected by commuter parking which has no formal pavement, and the only road with a blind turn into and out of Steppingley Road, request the following as supported by Flitwick Town Council Community Services Committee and suggested by County Traffic Management Officers:

- A 20 mph speed limit
- The pavement area to be marked out clearly and identified as pavement
- Clear signage of designated cycle path
- The yellow line now at Steppingley Road end to be extended along the road
- Parking restricted to 8am to 1 pm one side in the morning and 1pm to 8 pm the other side of the road in the afternoon
- The camera van to visit the road regularly to monitor parking

Enclosed please find our petition which we trust will be passed to your legal department to address the changes which we have requested if that is required. We want to ensure that residents will be safe but not penalised for parking in the road, and that commuters will be deterred from parking and causing danger.

We do not believe that our request is 'similar to other requests' due to the unique differences pertaining to our road which are highlighted on our petition, and would like our petition to be prioritised.

Appendix B

