
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 28 February 2017
Subject: Mount Pleasant, Aspley Guise – 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: That the contents of the petition be noted and that the lead petitioner be informed of the outcome of the meeting.

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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Aspley and Woburn
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

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

Financial:

None at this stage.

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 61 people, requesting the Council to take the following actions to address the following highway maintenance and traffic issues in Mount Pleasant, Aspley Guise :-
 - a) Resurface the road
 - b) Clear the drains each year
 - c) Add gulleys to improve drainage
 - d) Improve street lighting
 - e) Edge the pathway and road
 - f) Add road humps
 - g) Introduce a 20mph speed limit
 - h) Add a raised pathway
2. Mount Pleasant is residential and is narrow with no kerbed footways along much of its length. The road is within a 7.5 tonnes weight restriction area, but the Council is aware of instances of large lorries attempting to pass through. Traffic flows are likely to be low at most times, but busier at school and peak times.
3. The following are officer responses to the requested actions:-
 - a) Mount Pleasant is not currently on any resurfacing programmes. General maintenance and minor works take place as and when necessary.
 - b) Gulley clearance has been an issue during the current financial year, but some works have taken place, with further investigation works and repairs planned.
 - c) Adding a gulley is not an easy or simple solution for drainage. This would need to be thoroughly investigated.
 - d) A full investigation would need to be undertaken by a lighting specialist.
 - e) The area highways maintenance team is aware that the condition of the footways is deteriorating and needs to be considered for re-surfacing, but there are no dangerous defects present. All highway defects can be reported via the Council's online defect reporting system.

- f) The Council's budget for traffic calming works is targeted at locations that have a poor injury collision history. From 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2016 there have been no recorded incidents on Mount Pleasant. Hence, the provision of road humps or other traffic calming measures is not a priority when compared to other roads.
 - g) The width, alignment and level of on-street already naturally keep speeds at a relatively low level. Hence, it is unlikely that a statutory 20mph speed limit would have any significant impact on actual traffic speeds.
 - h) On those lengths of Mount Pleasant that are wide enough, a footway is already in place. Over the remainder of its length, it is not sufficiently wide to enable a footway to be constructed.
4. The petitioner may wish to consider approaching Aspley Guise with a view to using the Council's rural match funding process to provide highway measures that are of local importance, but are not a high priority for this authority

Appendices:

Appendix A – Petition and accompanying correspondence

Appendix B – Location plan

Appendix A

MOUNT PLEASANT ASPLEY GUISE IMPROVE OUR ROAD PETITION

Residents of Mount Pleasant, Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire ask Central Beds Council to resurface our road, add traffic slowing road humps, implement a 20 mph speed limit with road signs, clear the drains each year, add gulleys to direct rainflow into the drains, add where possible a raised pathway for pedestrians, edge the pathway and road (repair parts that have collapsed or have been temporarily filled with tarmac), improve lighting throughout the road in keeping with the rest of the village (low-lit/level lamps).

Appendix B

