
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 3 May 2017
Subject: Friars Walk, Dunstable – Petition for speed control and pavement improvement

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 lead petitioner be informed of the contents of this report and the outcome of the meeting.

Contact Officer: Paul Salmon
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Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Dunstable Central

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

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

Financial:

Non from this report.

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.

Background and Information

1. A petition has been received, signed by 48 people, requesting the Council introduce speed bumps and resurface the pavement in Friars Walk, Dunstable.
2. Supporting statements say that the road is used by parents and students driving, walking and biking to and from Queensbury Academy, Priory Academy and Watling Lower School. It is also used by cyclists, joggers, walkers and dog owners. The current 20mph speed limit is frequently ignored. The pavement is in a very bad state and has deteriorated over many years. It is uneven and has caused trips and falls. The unevenness makes it difficult to use for those with pushchairs, wheelchairs, mobility scooter and the elderly.
3. Friars Walk is within the Dunstable 20mph zone, but there are currently no physical traffic calming measures. The road is relatively straight and on-street parking is minimal, in part due to waiting restrictions. With no slowing features there is likely to be limited compliance with the 20mph speed limit.
4. The existing footways are slabbed and are therefore prone to movement. They require regular maintenance and damaged slabs are routinely replaced with tarmac. As slabbed footways are typical for the area, a replacement programme would be very costly and does not currently feature in any forward programme.
5. Over the last five years there has been one incident involving a vehicle in Friars Road that resulted in a personal injury. In this incident an elderly pedestrian tripped when crossing the road in front of a vehicle, which stopped in time to avoid a collision. Excessive speed was not considered to be a factor in this incident.
6. Friars Walk is not part of the promoted cycle network for Dunstable.
7. The Council will consider traffic calming measures for Friars Walk in its Integrated Works Programme for the period 2018-19 onwards but cannot guarantee when and if a scheme will be prioritised.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Petition

Appendix B – Location plan

Appendix A

Friars Walk Petition for speed control and pavement improvement

Dear Cllr Pat Staples

We, the undersigned, urge Bedfordshire Council to take appropriate actions to ensure user's safety on the points listed below:

- We are requesting that speed bumps are placed in Friars Walk
- We are requesting for the pavement in Friars Walk to be redone

As users of Friars Walk we are increasingly concerned about safety regarding:

1. The speed and volume of traffic using the road. This road has a lot of parents and students driving, walking and biking to and from Queensbury Academy, Priory Academy and Watling Lower School. It also much used by cyclists, joggers, walkers and dog owners. Friars Walk has a legal speed limit of 20mph. This is exceeded daily by cars, motorcycles and vans. Estimated speeds of 40mph to 60mph are a regular daily occurrence.
2. The pavement, which is in a very bad state and has deteriorated over many years. The pavement is damaged and uneven with large areas of cracks which makes it inconvenient to use and has caused several people to suffer trips and falls. The pavement is a struggle to use for those with pushchairs and young children, elderly, wheelchairs, visually impaired, mobility scooters or walking frames.

Appendix B

