

Cabinet Member for City Services

8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor J Innes

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Ward(s) affected:**

Bablake

**Title:**

Petition – Requests for Improvements for Greens Road

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

A petition of 36 signatures has been received advising of health and safety concerns on Greens Road and requesting the footways be completely resurfaced, drainage issues resolved, traffic calming measures, double yellow lines at the junctions each end of Greens Road and to also look at parking restrictions to address problems caused by a nearby school.

In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to road safety and maintenance are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member had considered this petition prior to this meeting and in response to the issues raised requested that the petition was dealt with by letter (determination letter), rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently.

The determination letter advised of the action proposed and approved in response to each of the issues raised. On receipt of the determination letter the petition spokesperson advised that they did not wish the petition to be progressed by letter and wanted it to be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

The cost of introducing road safety schemes, parking restrictions and highway maintenance are funded from the Highways Maintenance and Investment Capital Programme budget through the Local Transport Plan

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

- 1) Note the petitioners concerns.
- 2) Endorse that the actions confirmed by determination letter to the petition spokesperson (as detailed in paragraph 1.6 below) are undertaken.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix A – Location Plan

Appendix B – Determination Letter

**Background Papers**

None

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report title:** Report - Petition – Requests for Improvements for Greens Road

**1. Context (or background)**

1.1 A petition of 36 signatures has been received advising of health and safety concerns on Greens Road. The petition is supported by Councillor G Williams, who is also the petition organiser.

1.2 The petition advises:

*'We ask Coventry City Council to urgently address concerns of local residents of Greens Road, Keresley: That the pavements be completely resurfaced along the whole of Greens Rd, that drainage issues be sorted to prevent flooding, to resolve health and safety concerns by putting double yellow lines at both ends of the road and introduce speed reduction measures. Also to look at parking restrictions to address the problem caused by a neighbouring primary school'.*

1.3 Greens Road is a residential road. There are two short cul de sacs located off Greens Road; Regiment Court and Battalion Court. Whitmore Park Primary School is located nearby on Halford Lane. The road is not part of a bus route.

1.4 A review of the personal recorded injury collision history of Greens Road shows that in the last 3 years (for the time period up to 31 December 2016) no personal injury collisions have been recorded.

1.5 In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to road safety and maintenance are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member considered the petition prior to this meeting and in response requested that the issue was dealt with by determination letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently.

1.6 The determination letter (detailed in Appendix B to the report) advised of the action proposed and approved in response to each of the issues raised. These actions were:

- i) Resurfacing of footways – following an assessment of the current condition of the footways and taking into consideration the usage and condition when compared with similar footways across the city, the site is to be held on the City Council's forward programme list and its condition will continue to be monitored; it will be scored against all other similar sites citywide. If the footways on Greens Road receive a priority score, they will be included in a future maintenance treatment programme, budget permitting.
- ii) Drainage Issues - the road drainage gullies along the length of Greens Road were cleaned out on 9 November 2016. This process identified that the gullies and ensuing connections are working as required and free-running. However, at the junction of Halford Lane there is a blockage in the Severn Trent Water main piped system which is preventing water from flowing away efficiently at this location. This problem has been passed on to Severn Trent Water who are responsible for this matter and they have indicated that they will investigate and rectify.
- iii) Parking - The junctions at each end of Greens Road (Bennetts Road South and Halford Lane) will be added to the waiting restriction request list for consideration of the installation of junction protection (double yellow lines) as part of next review.

Additional school-time waiting restrictions; as funding for such works is limited, they are prioritised at locations where there is a significant personal injury collision history or where congestion is being caused. Our records show that there have been no personal injury collisions on Greens Road in the last three years. Therefore, it is not proposed to introduce further restrictions, other than the aforementioned junction protection double yellow lines.

iv) Speed reduction measures – due to budgetary constraints requests for road safety schemes are prioritised utilising recorded personal injury collision data, as referred to in 1.4 above, no injury collisions have been recorded in the last 3 years, therefore Greens Road does not meet the criteria for a local safety scheme. Contact details were also provided should residents wish to get involved in the Community Speed Watch initiative.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

2.1 The recommended proposals regarding the issues raised have already been approved and are detailed in the determination letter (detailed in Appendix B to the report) and paragraph 1.6 above.

## **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

3.1 No consultation has been undertaken

## **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

4.1 The implementation of the recommended proposals is dependent on funding and prioritisation with competing locations; therefore the implementation of the recommendations is on-going.

## **5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

5.1 Financial implications

Future capital highway maintenance programmes and proposed treatments to carriageways and pavements are established on a 'worst first' basis across all road categories. The decision for inclusion in any year's programme will be taken by Cabinet at their meeting in March of any given financial year. It will also be dependent on the level of funding that is made available for Capital Highway maintenance in that year and will further depend on the condition of this carriageway when compared to other similar roads citywide. Therefore the actual scheduling of the works will be based on priority of the scheme and the funds available

If it is considered that waiting restrictions are required to address parking issues, a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is required. Introducing TROs, is funded from the Highways Maintenance and Investment Capital Programme budget through the Local Transport Plan.

The programme for the implementation of pedestrian dropped kerbs is funded from the Highways Maintenance and Investment Capital Programme budget through the Local Transport Plan

5.2 Legal implications

Under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980, the Council has a duty to maintain those adopted highways that it is responsible for to a standard where they are reasonably passable for ordinary traffic. Any major contracts will be approved by the Procurement board and let under the usual contract rules

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allows the Council to make a Traffic Order on various grounds e.g. improving safety, improving traffic flow and preserving or improving the amenities of an area provided it has given due consideration to the effect of such an order.

In accordance with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, when considering whether it would be expedient to make a traffic order the Council is under a duty to have regard to and balance various potentially conflicting factors e.g. the convenient and safe movement of traffic (including pedestrians), adequate parking, improving or preserving local amenity, air quality and/or public transport provision.

There is an obligation under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to advertise our intention to make Traffic Orders and to inform various stakeholders, including the Police and the public. The Authority is obliged to consider any representations received. If representations are received these are considered by the Cabinet Member for City Services. Regulations allow for an advertised order to be modified (in response to objections or otherwise) before a final version of the order is made.

The 1984 Act provides that once a Traffic Order has been made it may only be challenged further via the High Court on a point of law (i.e. that the Order does not comply with the Act for some reason).

## **6. Other implications**

### **6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

Highway maintenance is part of Coventry's vision for better pavements and roads which is a key objective. Completing the footway maintenance work would contribute to this objective. The introduction of waiting restrictions, also contribute to the City Council's aims of ensuring that citizens, especially children and young people, are safe and the objective of working for better pavements, streets and roads.

### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

None

### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

None

### **6.4 Equalities / EIA**

No specific equalities impact assessment has been carried out.

### **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

None

### **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None

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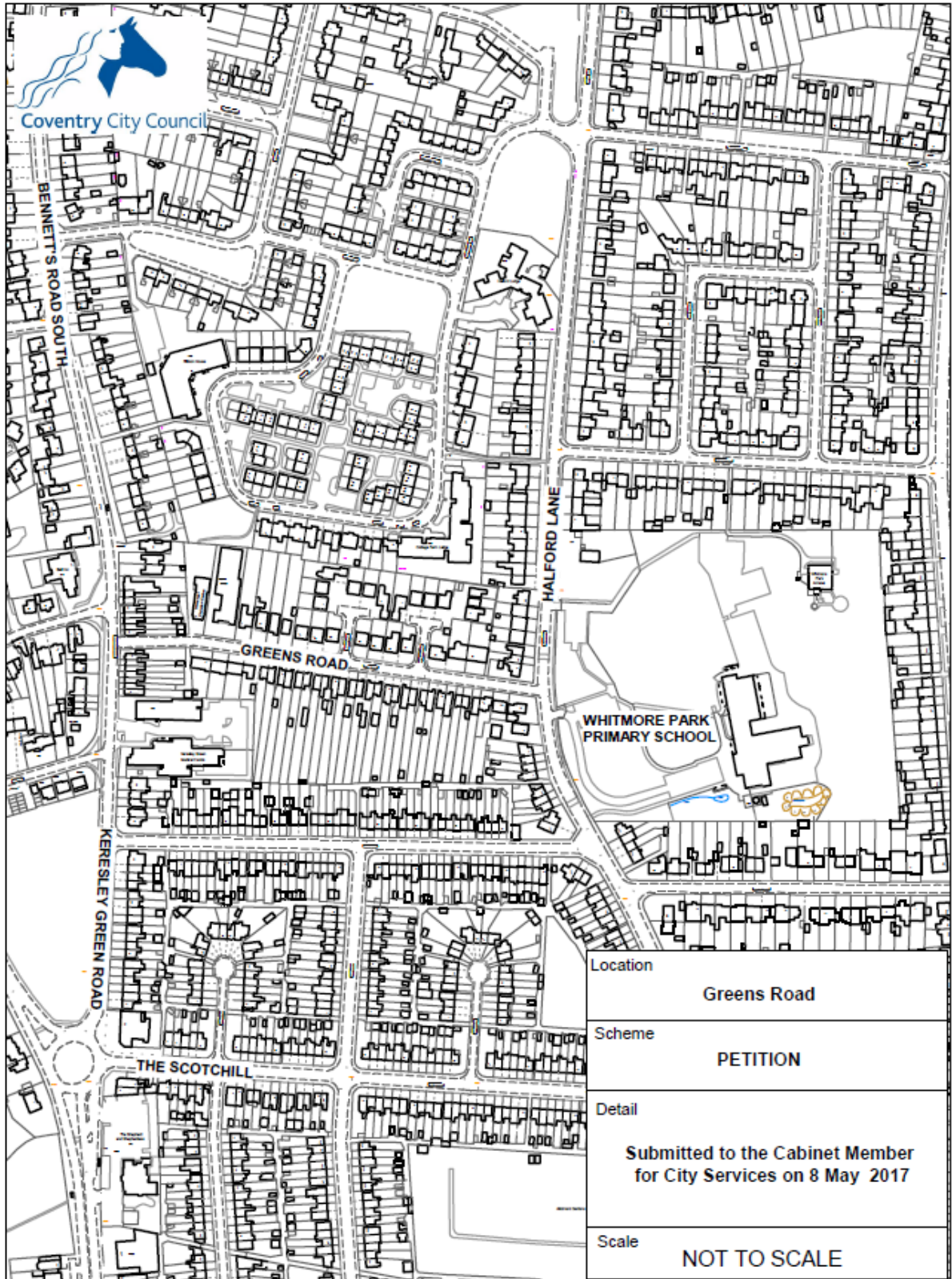
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**Appendix A – Location Plan**



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## **Appendix B – Copy of text of determination letter**

**Re: Petition submitted on: 20 September 2016**

**Subject matter: Request for Improvements for Greens Road**

I am writing with regard to the above petition and your request for improvements on Greens Road.

The matter was discussed with Councillor Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services, who has requested that this be dealt with by way of letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a future meeting so that this can be dealt with more quickly.

### Resurfacing of footways

An officer of the City Council has made an assessment of the current condition of the footways on Greens Road following your request. Following this assessment and taking into consideration the usage and condition when compared with similar footways across the city, we will hold this site on the City Council's forward programme list, continue to monitor its condition and score it against all other similar sites citywide. If the footways on Greens Road receive a priority score, they will be included in a future maintenance treatment programme, budget permitting.

### Drainage issues

The road drainage gullies along the length of Greens Road were cleaned out on 9 November 2016. This process identified that the gullies and ensuing connections are working as required and free-running. However, at the junction of Halford Lane there is a blockage in the Severn Trent Water main piped system which is preventing water from flowing away efficiently at this location. This problem has been passed on to Severn Trent Water who are responsible for this matter and they have indicated that they will investigate and rectify.

### Parking restrictions

The junctions at each end of Greens Road (Bennetts Road South and Halford Lane) will be added to the waiting restriction request list for consideration of the installation of junction protection (double yellow lines) as part of next review.

However, please note this is not a guarantee of their installation. Any new waiting restrictions or changes to existing restrictions are subject to a legal process which includes a 21-day period during which anyone may object. Any objections received are then considered by the Council's Cabinet Member for City Services.

Please note that, even in the absence of waiting restrictions, it is an offence to park in a manner which causes an obstruction or a danger to other road users and the Police have the power to take action in such situations. They can be contacted on the non-emergency number 101 for advice on the measures they would be able to take.

If these locations are prioritised for new waiting restrictions, we will write to you again with further details when we prepare to start the legal process.

With regards to your request for additional school-time waiting restrictions, as funding for such works is limited, we have to prioritise locations where there is a significant personal injury collision history or where congestion is being caused. Our records show that there have been no personal injury collisions on Greens Road in the last three years. Therefore, this location does not meet the criteria for further restrictions.



### Speed reduction measures

As funding for traffic calming and other road safety measures is also limited, we also use the personal injury collision history to assess such requests. Locations where there have been six or more personal injury collisions reported to the Police in the previous three years are considered for inclusion in the safety scheme programme. As there have been no personal injury collisions on Greens Road in the last three years, it does not meet this criterion.

However, we are working towards Coventry becoming a 20mph city and each year we are introducing more 20mph speed limits on residential roads. Community concerns are taken into account when prioritising areas for the introduction of such schemes.

If residents on Greens Road are concerned about speeding, they might be interested in getting involved in the Community Speedwatch initiative. This is a speed monitoring and awareness scheme that is co-ordinated by the Police and run by a group of local volunteers who use speed detection devices to monitor traffic and identify speeding drivers on a specific road or small area. For further information, please contact the Police by emailing: [cvcsw@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cvcsw@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk).

I would be grateful if you could please confirm in writing, either by email or letter, as soon as possible, that you agree that the petition be progressed by way of this letter rather than a formal report. If you do not agree, a report responding to your petition will be prepared for consideration at a future Cabinet Member meeting. You will be invited to attend this meeting where you will have the opportunity to speak on behalf of the petitioners.