

Cabinet Member for City Services

11 December 2018

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Lower Stoke

Title:

Petitions (6 in number) – Request for Traffic Calming Features in Longfellow Road and Safer Crossing Points for Pedestrians

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

Coventry City Council has received 6 petitions requesting safety measures on Longfellow Road including traffic calming measures and safer crossing points for pedestrians. The 6 petitions (4 e-petitions, 1 paper petition and 1 from another website) have signatures totalling 4,626. The petitions were started by the community and family following the death of two young brothers in February 2018.

Longfellow Road is a wide road, running from the Walsgrave Road to Hipswell Highway. The speed limit is 30mph but some drivers regularly exceed this. It is also a bus route with a number of bus stops. Longfellow Road is used by many children attending Ravensdale Primary School from the houses across Longfellow Road, in Tennyson Road and adjoining roads.

In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to road safety are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services.

The cost of introducing road safety measures is funded from the Highways Maintenance and Investment Capital Programme budget through the Local Transport Plan.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

- i) Note the petitioners requests;
- ii) Approve the implementation of a traffic safety scheme on Longfellow Road in 2018/2019 subject to public consultation.
- iii) Endorse that Longfellow Road continues to be monitored as part of the annual collision review.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Location plan

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents:

Report: Revisions to the Integrated Transport Block 2018/19 Capital Programme (Cabinet Member for City Services Meeting 19 November 2018)

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: Petition – Request for Traffic Calming Features in Longfellow Road and Safer Crossing Points for Pedestrians.

1. Context (or background)

1.1 Six petitions with a total of 4,626 signatures have been received advising of road safety concerns and requesting safety measures are installed along the length of Longfellow Road. The petitions are supported by local ward councillor John McNicholas.

1.2 The petition with the largest number of signatures requests:

“Coventry City Council install traffic calming measures on Longfellow Road such as Pedestrian Crossings, Speed Bumps, Chokers/Chicanes (Curb Extensions).

The other 5 petitions referenced the tragic incident in February and requested measures to address careless and speeding drivers and measures to provide safer crossing points for pedestrians.

1.3 Longfellow Road is a local distributor road connecting Walsgrave Road with Hipswell Highway. It is subject to a 30mph speed limit and is a bus route.

1.4 The school crossing patrol on Longfellow Road ceased in January 2016 as Ravensdale School was unable to continue funding the service. Mobile vehicle activated signs (VAS) were installed on the approach to the location the school crossing patrol previously operated from. These mobile signs collect speed data from vehicles driving past these locations and will be replaced with permanent VAS as part of the proposed scheme.

1.5 A review of the personal injury collision history on Longfellow Road shows that in the last 3 years (for the time period up to 31st August 2018) 6 injury collisions have been recorded.

1.6 Speed surveys undertaken on Longfellow Road between 2015 and 2017 recorded an average weekday speed between 25.6mph and 26.7mph eastbound and 24.5mph and 31.8mph westbound. The mobile vehicle activated signs that are currently on site regularly record vehicles travelling in excess of the speed limit.

1.7 Police investigations revealed that the driver of the vehicle involved in the tragic incident in February was driving while under the influence of drugs.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 Requests for road safety measures are considered for inclusion in the Local Safety Scheme Programme, subject to the relevant criterion being met. Sites where there have been six or more personal injury collisions reported to the Police in the previous three years are considered for a Local Safety Scheme. The original 2018/2019 Local Safety Scheme Programme was agreed before the end of the 2017 calendar year and Longfellow Road was not prioritised for this financial year.

2.2 However at the Cabinet Member for City Services meeting on the 19th November 2018, a report was approved which enables a traffic calming scheme for Longfellow Road to be brought forward for implementation in this financial year.

2.3 The proposals are to install 2 raised tables on Longfellow Road, one at the junction with Morris Avenue and one at the junction with Mellowdew Road/Shelley Road, hatched road markings along the centre of the road and several pedestrian refuges.

This proposal is to install physical measures that should slow inappropriate vehicle speeds and create safer pedestrian crossing points. These measures have been suggested following meetings with the family and representatives of Ravensdale Primary School. The exact locations of the crossing points or refuges will be determined following wider consultation with the community, bus companies and other key stakeholders.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Consultation has only been undertaken with the bus operators at this time due to their concerns over passenger comfort while traversing horizontal traffic calming measures. Their response fully endorses the proposals for measures on Longfellow Road to reduce speeds.
- 3.2 However, some preliminary meetings have been held with the school and members of the family in regard to their concerns prior to a wider consultation exercise that is due to be undertaken.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If the proposed traffic calming measures are approved for Longfellow Road, consultation will start immediately to ensure that the work is undertaken in this financial year.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

The proposed road safety scheme would be funded from the Highways Maintenance and Investment Capital Programme budget through the Local Transport Plan and would be approximately £120,000.

5.2 Legal implications

Section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 requires the Council to investigate road accidents involving vehicles and to develop a rational programme of measures (such as the Local Safety Scheme programme) for preventing their recurrence.

Section 90 of The Highways Act 1980 allows the Council with powers to introduce physical features onto a road (e.g. road humps, traffic calming features etc.). The statutory process is subject to consultation/public notice and the consideration of any representations/objections received.

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)?

The proposed safety scheme will 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

None

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s)

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Place

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Graham Clark	Lead Accountant	Place	29 November 2018	30 November 2018
Rob Parkes	Commercial Lawyer, Legal Services	Place	29 November 2018	30 November 2018
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Appendix A – Location Plan

