

Cabinet Member for City Services

21st January 2019

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Woodlands

Title:

Report - Petition – Request for a Zebra Crossing on Tile Hill Lane near West Coventry Academy

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition of 658 signatures (e-petition signatures) has been received requesting a Zebra Crossing on Tile Hill Lane near West Coventry Academy.

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 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 the issue raised. On receipt of the determination letter the petitioner has confirmed they do not wish the petition to be progressed by letter and want the safety concerns to be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

The cost of implementing a zebra crossing would be 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 action confirmed by determination letter to the petition spokesperson (as detailed in paragraph 1.7 and Appendix B to the report) are undertaken

- 3) Subject to recommendations 1 and 2 above, consider an alternative solution as highlighted in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Location Plan
Appendix B – Determination letter

Background Papers

None

Other useful documents:

Revisions to the Integrated Transport Block 2018/19 Capital Programme Report - Cabinet Member for City Services - 19th 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 a zebra crossing on Tile Hill Lane near West Coventry Academy

1. Context (or background)

1.1 A petition of 658 signatures (e-petition signatures) has been received requesting the provision of a zebra crossing on Tile Hill Lane in close proximity to West Coventry Academy.

1.2 The petition advises:

“There is a very real need for a zebra crossing outside West Coventry Academy's side entrance on Tile Hill Lane. Local students who either walk or ride a bike to school are crossing an extremely busy road between 8.00am and 8.45am and after 3.00pm when the Academy closes. There are also two buses that arrive from the City Centre that park opposite the entrance to West Coventry Academy every morning. Students leave the bus and walk around the back into the path of oncoming traffic that are unable to see them until the last minute. This has caused near misses and concerned phone calls to the Academy detailing the real dangers these students are facing. Student Leaders raised this subject in 2016 in a presentation to the Lord Mayor and Police Commissioner, both of whom said they would look into the issues raised and feed back to the students. The local community, parents, teachers as well as drivers who use Tile Hill Lane wish to see the installation of a zebra crossing outside West Coventry Academy before a child is seriously injured or killed”.

1.3 West Coventry Academy is located to the north of Tile Hill Lane. The School's main vehicular and pedestrian entrance is located on Nutbrook Avenue; the area around this entrance has a School Keep Clear Marking located outside the school by the pedestrian exit and a school time no waiting restriction on the opposite side of the road. There is an additional pedestrian access on the northern side of Tile Hill Lane (west of Gravel Hill); this entrance has two bus stops which are located opposite each other on Tile Hill Lane. A location plan is shown in Appendix A to the report.

1.4 The existing Traffic Regulation Orders create an area where parking is prevented at school entry and exit times, which assists to improve safety at the main vehicular/ pedestrian entrance on Nutbrook Avenue, as it provides an area with good visibility where parents and children can cross the road, i.e. when crossing they are not stepping out from between parked cars.

1.5 Our records show that on Tile Hill Lane where the zebra crossing is requested, there has been no personal injury collisions over a three year period, and therefore it does not meet the criteria for road safety intervention as highlighted in paragraph 1.7 of the report.

1.6 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 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.

1.7 The determination letter (copy provided in Appendix B to the report) advised of the review undertaken and that it is important to target road safety measures in the city where they are needed most. Locations for road safety interventions are selected by analysing personal injury collisions to ensure funding is carefully allocated. Locations with six or more personal injury collisions are considered for inclusion into our Local Safety Scheme Programme. As highlighted in paragraph 1.5 of this report, this location has no recorded personal injury collisions over a three year period and does not satisfy the criteria.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The recommended proposals in regard to the issues raised are detailed in the determination letter (copy provided in Appendix B to the report).
- 2.2 The installation of a zebra crossing must only be considered at locations that satisfy strict criteria and considerations including a history of road traffic accidents, pedestrian flows, volume of traffic and road characteristics. The location where the zebra crossing has been requested does not meet the safety scheme criteria. In addition, a zebra crossing at this location may become a road safety hazard, as drivers would have limited forward visibility because of the crest of the hill.
- 2.3 However, some additional works are recommended on Tile Hill Lane. This includes gateway features and splitter islands to enhance road safety on Tile Hill Lane near West Coventry Academy.
- 2.4 Gateway features aim to change driver behaviour by informing drivers they are entering a road of different character, such as outside schools. Gateway features on Tile Hill Road will incorporate a distinctive change in road surface colour coupled with a prominent sign to alert drivers of the forthcoming road environment. Dragon's teeth incorporate road markings and enhance road safety by visually restricting reducing the width of the road, aimed at reducing vehicular speeds.
- 2.5 Splitter islands are physical features installed to reduce the width of the carriageway. Reducing the width significantly enhances road safety by helping to control vehicular speeds, control lane discipline, prevent overtaking and assist pedestrian movements. Splitter islands on Tile Hill Lane are aimed at reducing vehicular speeds on both approaches to West Coventry Academy.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 No consultation has been undertaken.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If approved, the cost of introducing road safety measures detailed in paragraphs 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 of the report, will be installed in the 2019/20 financial year.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

The recommended minor additional works are estimated to cost £40k.

The implementation of these works will be funded from the Highways Maintenance and Investment Capital Programme budget through the Local Transport Plan. The scheduling of works will be based on the priority of the scheme and the funds available.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications of the recommended proposal.

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)?

There are none related to the recommended proposal.

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

Report author(s)**Name and job title:**

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Place

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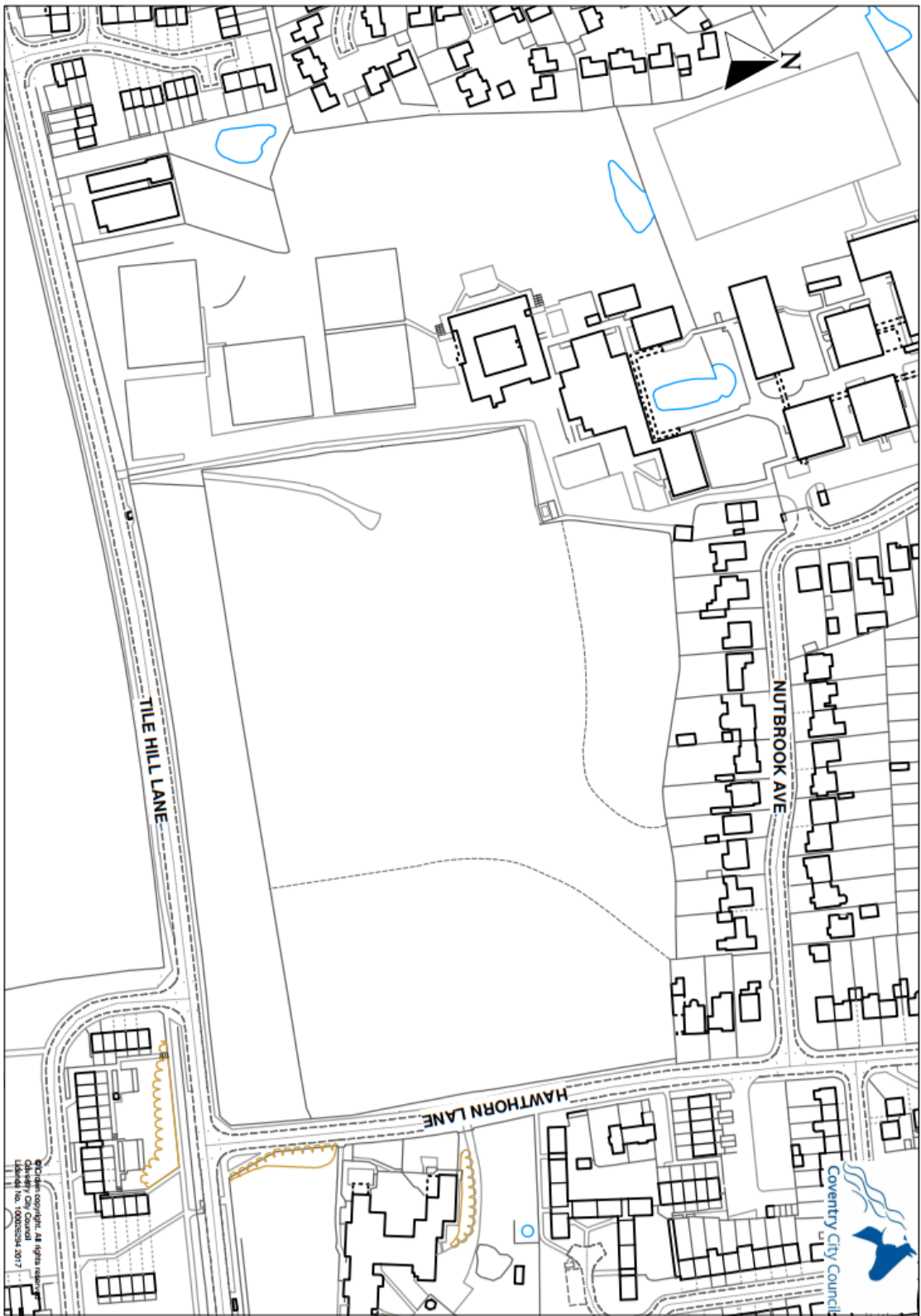
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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

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Rob Parkes	Team Leader (Place), Legal Services	Place	03/01/19	08/01/19
Councillor P Hetherton	Cabinet Member for City Services	-	08/01/18	08/01/18

This report is published on the council's website: moderngov.coventry.gov.uk

Appendix A – Location Plan



Appendix B – Copy of Text of Determination Letter

Re: petition submitted on 22 November 2017

Subject matter: Provision of a Zebra crossing on Tile Hill Lane outside West Coventry Academy

I am writing with regard to the above petition and your request for a zebra crossing on Tile Hill Lane outside West Coventry Academy.

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. This means your issue can be dealt with more quickly.

It is important that we target road safety measures in the city. We do this using recorded personal injury collision data to ensure the funding we have is utilised carefully.

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 our safety scheme programme. Our records show that there have been no personal injury collisions in the last three years in the vicinity of the requested location. Therefore, it does not meet the safety scheme criteria.

I hope this explains fully the checks we have undertaken in response to your concerns and why no further action is currently proposed. However, we will continue to monitor the location as part of the annual review of recorded personal injury collisions.

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. 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 have the opportunity to speak on behalf of the petitioners.