

Cabinet Member for City Services

9 December 2020

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Transportation and Highways

Ward(s) affected:

Earlsdon

Title:

Petition - Improve safety at the junction of The Chesils and Knoll Drive

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

An e-petition with 238 signatures has been received requesting measures to improve safety at the junction of The Chesils and Knoll Drive.

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 the petition prior to this meeting and 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 outcome of the investigations undertaken in response to the issues raised, as a result of which the vehicle-activated speed limit sign has been repaired, additional crossroad warning signs are to be installed and the junction will continue to be monitored as part of the annual review of personal injury collisions. On receipt of the determination letter, the petition organisers advised that they wanted the issue to be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

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:

1. Note the petitioners' concerns;
2. Endorse the actions confirmed by determination letter to the petition organisers (as detailed in paragraphs 1.5 – 1.7 of the report).

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: Petition - Improve safety at the junction of The Chesils and Knoll Drive

1. Context (or background)

1.1 An e-petition with 238 signatures has been received requesting measures to improve safety at the junction of The Chesils and Knoll Drive. The petition is sponsored by Councillor Andrews.

1.2 The petition reads as follows:

'We, the undersigned are concerned citizens who believe the cross junction at The Chesils and Knoll Drive presents a danger to the community. We urge the council to take action to provide speed reduction measures on the cross junction and safeguard pedestrians including the following five points: 1) The speed measurement sign at the Chesils to be fixed, 2) A junction sign to identify a cross junction at the Chesils and Knoll Drive, 3) A sign to identify children crossing the road with flashing lights during school times. 4) A sign on the road to advise of local children crossing the junction (Knoll Drive and The Chesils) and 5) A slightly raised area at the cross junction for The Chesils and Knoll Drive.'

1.3 The Chesils and Knoll Drive are residential roads. They are both subject to a 30mph speed limit. The junction is in Earlsdon Ward and is one of a number of crossroads along The Chesils. A location plan is shown in Appendix A to the report.

1.4 In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to road safety and parking issues 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.

1.5 The determination letter (copy in Appendix B to the report) advised of the importance of targeting road safety measures in the city. To ensure the funding we have is utilised carefully, we use personal injury collisions reported to the Police. Locations where there have been six or more reported personal injury collisions in the previous three years are considered for inclusion in the safety schemes programme. A review of the collision data for the junction of The Chesils and Knoll Drive showed that there were two reported personal injury collisions at the junction in the last three years. Neither involved pedestrians and in both cases the injuries were classified as slight. Therefore, the junction does not meet the safety scheme criteria.

1.6 The vehicle-activated speed limit sign referred to in the petition has been repaired. The request for additional signage at the junction was also assessed. The junction is too far from the nearest school for school warning signs and flashing lights to be installed. However, additional crossroad warning signs will be installed on The Chesils on each approach to the junction.

1.7 The petition organisers were also advised of the Community Speed Watch initiative, a speed monitoring and awareness scheme that is coordinated 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. The relevant contact details were provided, should the petitioners wish to get involved in the scheme.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 The recommended actions in response to the issues raised have already been approved and are detailed in paragraphs 1.5 – 1.7 and in the determination letter (Appendix B to the report).

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 Crossroad warning signs will be installed this financial year. The vehicle-activated speed limit sign has already been repaired.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1 Financial implications

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

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications of the recommended proposal.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

N/A.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

N/A.

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) climate change and the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

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

Martin Wilkinson
Senior Officer - Traffic Management

Service:

Transportation and Highways

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7697 7139

Email: martin.wilkinson@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Greg Payne	Head of Traffic & Network Management	Transportation and Highways	18/11/2020	
Rachel Goodyer	Traffic and Road Safety Manager	Transportation and Highways	18/11/2020	26/11/2020
Caron Archer	Team Leader, Traffic Management	Transportation and Highways	18/11/2020	18/11/2020
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	18/11/2020	18/11/2020
Names of approvers: (officers and members)				
Graham Clark	Lead Accountant	Finance	18/11/2020	19/11/2020
Rob Parkes	Team Leader	Law and Governance	18/11/2020	19/11/2020
Councillor Hetherton	Cabinet Member for City Services		25/11/2020	30/11/2020

This report is published on the council's website:

www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

Appendix A – Location plan



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Appendix B – Copy of text of determination letter

I am writing with regard to the above petition and your request for measures to improve safety at the junction of The Chesils and Knoll Drive.

The matter was discussed with Councillor Hetherton, 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 it can be dealt with more quickly.

It is important that we target road safety measures in the city. We do this using 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. The personal recorded injury collision history for the junction of The Chesils and Knoll Drive has been reviewed. This shows that there were two personal injury collisions on the road in the last three years, both of which were classified as slight and neither of which involved pedestrians. Therefore, the junction does not meet the safety scheme criteria.

Following a report from Councillor Andrews, the vehicle-activated sign on The Chesils has been repaired. Your request for additional signage at the junction has been considered. The junction is too far from the nearest school for school warning signs and flashing lights to be installed. However, additional crossroad warning signs will be installed on The Chesils on each approach to the junction.

As you are concerned about speeding, you may wish to get involved in the Community Speed Watch 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.

I would be grateful if you could please confirm in writing, either by email or letter, 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.