

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	DATE 02.06.2021	ITEM NO 7
TITLE Request for removal of speed cushions in Halfway Street - Response to a Petition	WARD (S) Eltham South	
CHIEF OFFICER Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills	CABINET MEMBER Environment, Sustainability and Transport	
DECISION CLASSIFICATION Non-Key Decision	IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING? No Recommendations endorsed by Highways Committee will be reported to the next available meeting of Full Council for approval.	

1. Decision required

This report makes the following recommendations to the Highways Committee:

- 1.1 To note the petition requesting the removal of speed cushions in Halfway Street, as presented in this report; and
- 1.2 To note and comment upon the proposed response to the petition as outlined in this report, which will be summarised and reported to Full Council on 23rd June 2021.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 A petition containing 39 signatures from the residents of Halfway Street of the Royal Borough was presented to the Council meeting on 27th January 2021 by Councillor Pat Greenwell.
- 2.2 The petitioners have expressed concerns regarding heavy vibration to properties, loud noises caused by vehicles passing over speed cushions in Halfway Street, DA15 8DT and would like the speed cushions removed.
- 2.3 The full wording on the petition reads:

“We the undersigned residents including no's 262-278 (left side) and 311-331a (right side) would like to Petition Greenwich Council for the removal of speed bumps in Halfway Street.

The reasons for this Petition are there are very strong feelings/concerns about the negative impact on these local residents namely:

- Heavy vibration when large vehicles/lorries/buses pass over, possibly causing long term structural damage to these properties and impact on property value. Most residents have reported that their property 'shakes' when large vehicles pass*
- Loud noises created by vehicles passing over speed bumps, causing residents anxiety/sleep disturbance especially early morning/late evening and throughout the day.*
- Eventual increase of traffic including large vehicles in the future and anticipation of more vibration and noise when new Academy School built nearby, resulting in more vehicles, more often.*
- Most residents have also suggested that this stretch of road needs resurfacing as there is deterioration of the road surface, with large pothole repairs as well as unevenness and sinking. This has been reported to Highways months ago, with no response to date*

Overall we would like these speed bumps removed as there does not seem to be any benefit of these on such a short distance of road and would like Highways to install some other form of speed deterrent (signs /road markings) as there have been several vehicle accidents on this stretch of the road during recent years. Residents also request for the road to be resurfaced after this, as other sections of this road create vibration and noise due to surface deterioration and unevenness.”

- 2.4 A recent car accident was reported, and photos included in the petition – See Appendix A.

Background

- 2.5 The petition was referred to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise & Skills as the relevant Chief Officer, for investigation and response. This report sets out the outcome of that investigation and the available options for response.
- 2.6 Halfway Street (B2214) is a classified B road which runs from junction of Restons Crescent to Station Road in Sidcup. The road shares its boundary with Bexley Council. Most of the length of the road is in Bexley Council and the section between Overmead and Avery Hill is in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Halfway Street forms part of a link between A2 and A20.

- 2.7 Traffic surveys were conducted in September and October 2018, an average speed of 32.3mph percentile was recorded northbound and 32.5mph southbound, following requests by residents and ward members, relating to the speed of vehicles using the road.
- 2.8 Funding was therefore sought to implement traffic calming measures (speed cushions) which were installed, in February 2020, to reduce the speed of traffic, within the section of Halfway Street, which is the responsibility of the Royal Borough of Greenwich.
- 2.9 Further traffic surveys were conducted in March 2021, following further concerns raised regarding the request for the removal of the speed cushions. An average of 29.1mph percentile northbound and 28.7mph southbound was recorded. This indicated a reduction in speed of 3.2mph northbound and 3.8mph southbound after the installation of the speed cushion.
- 2.10 The latest available recorded collision data between August 2017 and July 2020 indicated 2 accidents. 1 serious casualty involving a vehicle and a motorcycle on the 14 September 2019 near junction with Croyde Close and 1 slight casualty involving 2 vehicles on 23 September 2019 at the roundabout near junction with Restons Crescent.
- 2.11 Since the installation of the speed cushions, a number of residents have raised concerns relating to vibration caused by passing traffic and the uneven arrangement of a set of the installed cushions.
- 2.12 The cushions have been investigated and confirmed to meet design standard in terms of height and spacing. No study has been conducted to confirm the source of vibration raised by the petitioner.
- 2.13 A site meeting was arranged by ward members which also included local residents and an officer from the Traffic Team, on the 8th of December 2020, in order to understand the issues raised and discuss the relevant resolution.

3. **Available Options**

- 3.1 Undertake a mini-consultation which can be undertaken with residents, to ensure that the proposal to remove the traffic calming measures has a majority support

If supported, remove the speed cushions and conduct further traffic surveys, in order to enable a further design option to be sought and consulted on, as

there is evidence of a speeding issue in the road, of which the existing traffic calming is managing effectively.

3.2 Do nothing, as the evidence suggests that there is a speeding issue in the road.

4. **Preferred Option**

4.1 Proceed with option 3.2.

5. **Reasons for Recommendations**

5.1 Considering the speed cushions have been installed to manage a speeding issue, there are concerns that removing the measures will allow speeding to continue.

6. **Consultation Results**

6.1 No new or historic consultation results available.

7. **Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications**

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	<p>The Highways Committee is requested to note the petition presented by Councillor Pat Greenwell to the Council meeting held on 27th January 2021, and to comment upon the proposed response to this petition, as outlined in this report.</p> <p>Article 3.01(a) of the Council's Constitution provides that residents of the Borough may bring concerns to the direct attention of the Council by asking a member to present a petition.</p> <p>Paragraph A1.19 of Part 4 of the Constitution requires that petitions are referred to the relevant Chief</p>	Eleanor Penn, Assistant Head of Legal Services, 18 th May 2021

	Officer for investigation and response. The outcome of the investigation is to be reported back to full Council within two meetings.	
Finance and other resources including procurement implications	<p>This report requests the committee to note and comment upon the petition response, presented in this report, with a response to be submitted to Full Council on 23rd June 2021.</p> <p>There are no financial implications arising from the adoption of the recommendation (ref 3.2) within the report.</p>	<p>Accountancy Business Change Deputy Manager</p> <p>Wunmi Akintelure</p> <p>20/05/2021</p>
Equalities	The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no apparent equality impact on end users.	<p>Olu Soyoye</p> <p>Principal Traffic Engineer</p> <p>21/05/21</p>
Climate change	The decisions recommended in the report have low relevance to or impact on climate change or the Councils carbon reductions commitments.	<p>Olu Soyoye</p> <p>Principal Traffic Engineer</p> <p>21/05/21</p>

8. **Report Appendices**

8.1 The following documents are to be published with and form part of the report:

- Appendix A - Photographs of car crash at No. 323/325

9. **Background Papers**

- N/A

Report Author: Olu Soyoye – Principal Traffic Engineer
Tel No. 020 8921 2175
Email. olu.soyoye@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Reporting to: Ryan Nibbs – Head of Traffic Group
Tel No. 020 8921 2397
Email. ryan.nibbs@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Pippa Hack, Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills
Tel No. 020 8921 5519
Email. pippa.hack@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Appendix A - Car Crash at 323/325

