

Name of meeting: Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

Date: 11 February 2019

Title of report: Deputation to raise concerns of traffic issues, Mill Lane, Batley

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan ?	No
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny ?	Yes
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	Karl Battersby - 21.01.19
Is it signed off by Service Director (Finance)?	Eamonn Croston - 31.01.19
Is it signed off by the Service Director - Legal, Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft - 18.01.2019
Cabinet member portfolio	Place (Investment and Housing)

Electoral [wards](#) affected: Batley East

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

A deputation was received at Council, from the Friends of Mill Lane parent's group, concerning a request to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph, install a zebra crossing and railings at the side of the pavement and the installation of a School Crossing Patrol outside Mill Lane Primary on Mill Lane, Batley. Councillor Mather committed officer to investigate the issues and report the finding to Cabinet Committee Local Issues for consideration.

2. Key points

The friends of Mill Lane parent's group raised concerns of speeding traffic outside Mill Lane Primary School especially at school opening and closing times. To resolve their concerns they have requested traffic calming measures in the form of a 20 mph speed limit with the introduction of a zebra crossing and pedestrian barriers at the sides of the road to improve road safety here. The deputation also raised concerns that the long term absence of a school crossing patrol outside the school at the junction of Mill Lane and Wood Lane, Batley was making it unsafe and dangerous for children to cross the road and

they have asked for the immediate employment of a School Crossing Patrol at this location.

In response -

- Highway Safety, would like to be as pro-active as possible to try to stop traffic collisions from occurring. However with limited resources, priority must be given to where personal traffic injury collisions have occurred. In the last 5 years (up to 31-08-2018) there are no recorded personal traffic injury accidents on the length of Mill Lane/High Street between Newgate Street and Bromley Road. The request for action to introduce a 20 mph zone at this location was scored using the approved matrix and a score of +2 was achieved. A score of +4 is needed to justify further action or investigation. So the introduction of a 20 mph zone cannot be justified at this location at this time. It is however accepted that there is no recent speed data available in this vicinity. So to try to help some speed counts are to be arranged and any patterns of speeding traffic will be passed to the police to ask if they can undertake some targeted enforcement as their resources permit
- Unfortunately the road layout at this location means that there is no feasible location here for a zebra crossing that meets the correct visibility requirements (set out in Ltn-2-95 pedestrian crossings) for a formal crossing.
- The site is to be visited to assess the feasibility of guardrail near the school entrance. An initial officer assessment suggests that there may be some suitable locations but these will need to be assessed on whether installing the guardrail would impact on the positioning of the current crossing points where the school crossing patrol operates.
- The position of School Crossing Patrol, situated at the junction of Mill Lane and Wood Lane, is vacant and currently being advertised on the Kirklees website: <https://jobs.kirklees.gov.uk/working-with-communities-economy-and-infrastructure-school-crossing-patrol-numerous-jobs/22733.job>
Mill Lane school have received a vacancy pack, including posters, to help publicise the vacancy and engage the local community.

3. Implications for the Council

That road safety concerns remain if no further action is taken.

4. Consultees and their opinions

None

5. Next steps

- To undertake speed counts on Mill Lane
- To undertake a site visit to assess the feasibility and delivery of guardrail at the junction of Mill Lane/Wood Lane
- To successfully fill the SCP vacancy at this location

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That Cabinet Committee Local Issues consider the contents of this report and approve the petitioners be informed that:

- Speed Counts are to be arranged and any traffic patterns of speeding will be passed to the Police to ask if they can undertake targeted enforcement as resources permit.
- A zebra crossing cannot be provided, that will meet the needs and expectations of parents crossing to the school, as there is no safe location to install a formal pedestrian facility that meets current design guide standards.
- The feasibility of guardrail is to be assessed and, subject to no impact on the location the School Crossing Patrol site will be provided if found appropriate.
- The Council will continue to work to recruit a School Crossing Patrol at this location.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Portfolio Holder approves the next steps as highlighted in the report, and supports the officer's recommendations.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Contact Officer: Phillip Waddington and Karen North

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9. Service Director responsible

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