

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

## HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

25<sup>th</sup> May 2005

### Report from the Director of Environment

For action

Wards affected:  
KILBURN, QUEENS PARK

**Report Title: PETITION - REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITY  
OUTSIDE CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOL, WILLESDEN NW6**

#### 1.0 Summary

1.1 This report informs Members on the outcome of officers' investigations of a petition received from The Member of Parliament for Brent East on behalf of Christchurch School, Willesden Lane, NW6 requesting a pedestrian crossing opposite the school.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Committee receives and considers the petition.

2.2 That Committee accepts officers' findings that a formal crossing facility outside Christchurch School is not warranted at this stage and agrees not to proceed with the provision of a formal crossing facility.

2.3 That officers notify the petition organiser of Committee's decision.

#### 3.0 Detail

3.1 A petition was received from the Member of Parliament for Brent East on behalf of Christchurch School and was verified as being in accordance with Standing Orders. The Petition states:

*"We the undersigned, call on Brent Council to provide a safe crossing outside Christchurch School on Willesden Lane."*

3.2 The location of the requested crossing facility is shown at Appendix A to this report. There are presently two existing Zebra pedestrian crossings sited approximately 200 yards on either side of the school entrance, also shown at Appendix A.

- 3.3 Requests have previously been received from the school and parents of children attending Christchurch School for a safe crossing facility immediately opposite the school. The requests were supported by the Transportation Service Unit's Accident Prevention Officer with the outcome that a School Crossing Patrol (SCP) Officer has been appointed. The appointment should help to improve safety of children crossing Willesden Lane. It is anticipated that the SCP will be in place by June 2005.
- 3.4 In responding to the petition officers initially investigated the accident statistics along Willesden Lane in the vicinity of Christchurch School. The figures available for the three year period to 31/12/2004 indicate that there were in total 13 reported personal injury accidents, which were classified as slight and only 3 involved pedestrians (the last reported 'child pedestrian' casualty was in 1998). These figures are comparatively low and do not therefore warrant the provision of a formalised crossing facility, such as a zebra crossing.
- 3.5 The petition received is typical of a large number of requests made to the Transportation Unit for crossing facilities and road safety measures generally. Each request is investigated taking into consideration factors such as accident rates, traffic & pedestrian flows, pedestrian desired lines, community severance, vehicle speeds, and environmental conditions. Funding for remedial measures is sought from Transport for London (TfL) through the Borough's annual Borough Spending Plan (BSP) submission. Schemes are approved by the Mayor for London's office on the basis of this submission meeting the requirements of the Mayor's Transport Strategy for London.
- 3.6 It is unlikely that any request for a crossing facility outside Christchurch School will receive TfL funding. The Council may however allocate revenue (Parking Account) funding for the provision of a crossing if the TfL declines such a request. Typical costs for a zebra crossing are £45,000 and those for a signalised crossing, such as a 'Pelican' are substantially higher. However officers' views are that the existing zebra crossings in close proximity to the school, and the appointment of a School Crossing Patrol officer provide sufficient amenity for safe crossing, and recommend that a formal crossing facility outside Christchurch School is not considered at this stage and no request should be made either to the TfL or to the Council's Parking Account. However, Members are requested to agree to officers to monitor road safety outside Christchurch School and to report back to Committee if there are any material and adverse changes.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The estimated cost of providing a formal crossing facility outside the school is in the region of £45,000. There is currently no identified funding capital or revenue to implement this scheme. If members wish to proceed with the scheme in the current year this would require either substitution from within existing programmes or savings to be found from elsewhere within the Transportation or Environment Service Area budgets.

## **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 Any proposed Pedestrian crossing facility must comply with the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1997.

## **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 7.1 All public consultation material distributed included a section written in the most common languages used in the Borough with an explanation of how more information about proposals could be obtained.

## **7.0 Staffing / Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

- 7.1 The Council's Transportation Service Unit will deal with all issues related to any investigations and assessment detailed in this report.

## **8.0 Environmental Implications**

- 8.1 Any proposals to introduce pedestrian facilities on Willesden Lane would improve pedestrian safety and should reduce the frequency of road traffic accidents at this location

## **Background Papers**

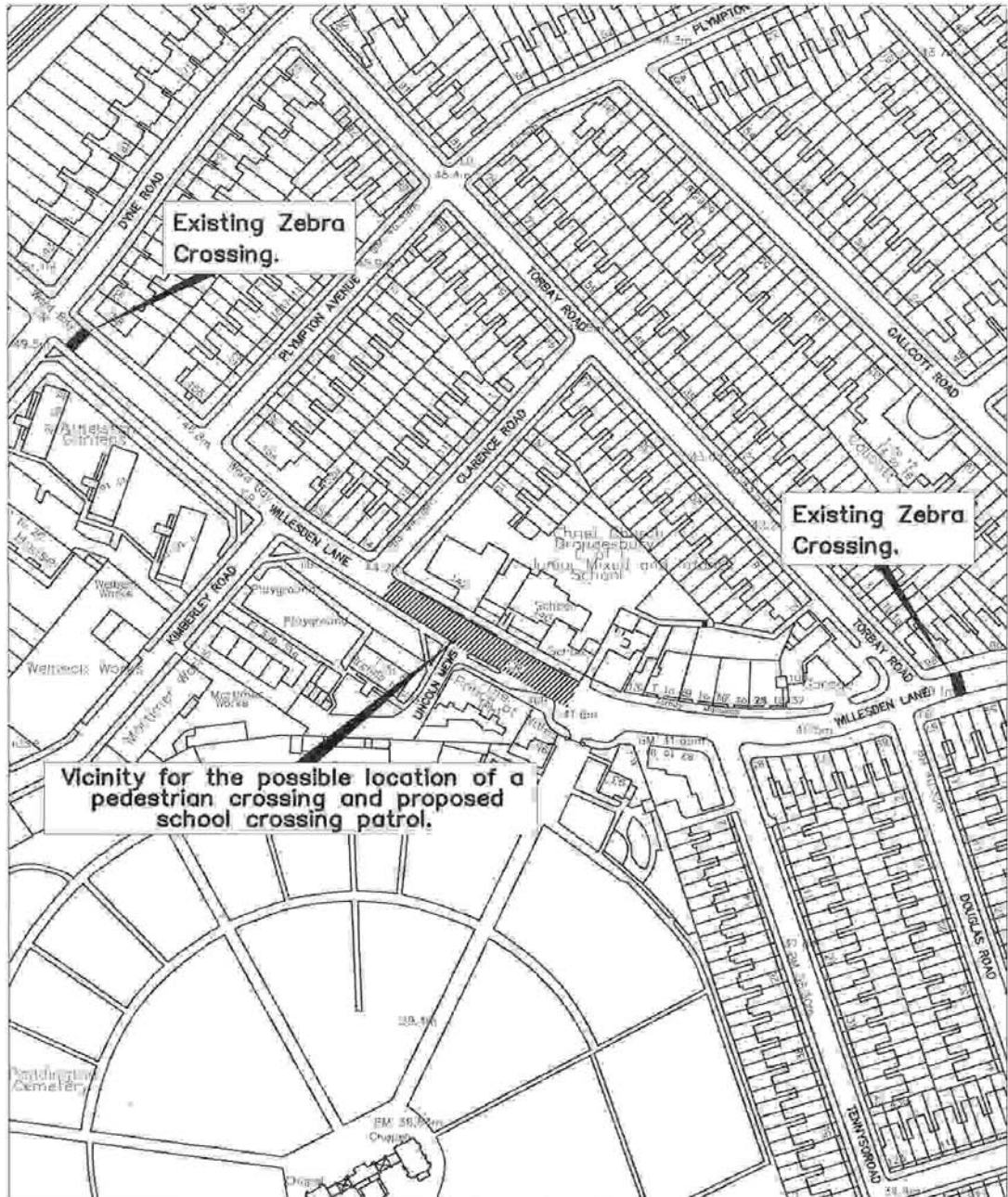
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1997.  
Highways Act 1980  
Petition Received

## **Contact Officers**

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Malcolm Keen, Senior Engineer, Transportation Service Unit, Brent House, 349 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BZ, Telephone: 0208 937 5110

**Richard Saunders**  
**Director of Environment**

APPENDIX A LOCATION OF REQUESTED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITY.



Highways Committee  
26th May 2005

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