



Highways Committee
20th January 2008

**Report from the Director of
Transportation**

For Action

Wards Affected:
Kenton

Report Title: Petition for Pedestrian Facilities in Woodcock Hill

Forward Plan Ref: E&C-08/09-027

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report informs members of a petition that was received from residents requesting a pedestrian crossing on Woodcock Hill near Abercorn Gardens. The report outlines the officer's investigations into the need for a crossing at this location and provides details of a 20mph Zone scheme that is proposed for the area during the 2008/09 and 2009/10 financial years. The report recommends that measures to improve pedestrian safety at this location, as well as at other locations along Woodcock Hill, are addressed as part of the 20mph Zone.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Committee notes the contents of the petition and the issues raised.
- 2.2 That Committee agrees with officers recommendations that the need to improve pedestrian safety along Woodcock Hill be addressed as part of the 2008/09 and 2009/10 20mph Zone Scheme.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The petition received by the Council from residents of the Woodcock Hill area, requests the introduction of a pedestrian crossing on Woodcock Hill near Abercorn Gardens. The petition has been verified to be in accordance with Standing Orders.

- 3.2 The petition received is typical of a large number of requests made to the Transportation Unit for traffic management measures. Currently the procedure for assessing these requests is to undertake an initial investigation to determine the extent of any problem by looking at volumes, types and speeds of vehicles travelling through the area and the level of any personal injury accidents that have occurred. Priority for remedial measures is given to those areas with the greatest problems. Where possible, funding is sought from Transport for London (TfL) for this sort of project through the Borough's annual Local Implementation Plan (LIP) submission. The likelihood of funding is subject to the nature and extent of the problem, with accident reduction schemes normally receiving the highest priority. Not all schemes included in the LIP are funded, therefore where possible; when a priority issue is identified revenue or s106 funding is allocated for remedial measures.
- 3.3 The petition reads
- "Petition for Pedestrian crossing on Woodcock Hill (near Abercorn Gardens) to assist school children who attend Mount Stewart Infants and Juniors School."*
- 3.4 Woodcock Hill links Kenton Road to the north with Preston Road to the south. It is therefore a desirable, well used route. The section of Woodcock Hill in question is approximately 7.5m wide. Bidirectional traffic volumes in excess of 1000 vehicles per hour at peak have been measured along this section of Woodcock Hill; with 85%ile speeds measured in excess of 36mph.
- 3.5 Mount Stewart Infant and Junior School is served by three roads off Woodcock Hill. Manning Gardens, Abercorn Gardens and Mount Stewart Avenue. Small pedestrian islands exist on Woodcock Hill just north of Mount Stewart Avenue and just west of Abercorn Gardens. It is at the location of this existing pedestrian island by Abercorn Gardens that the new pedestrian crossing is requested.
- 3.5 An accident investigation of Woodcock Hill showed that eighteen personal injury accidents (pia) have occurred in the past three years. Five occurred near the junction with Preston Road, eleven near the junction with Kenton Road. The other two accidents occurred near Manning Gardens and the Ridgeway. Only one of these 18 pia involved pedestrians.
- 3.6 Although the accident investigation has not identified a specific pedestrian related issue along the road there is certainly no question that the high level of pia indicates that there are safety problems along the road, particularly associated with the high speed and volume of traffic, creating an environment which does not encourage pedestrian activity.
- 3.7 Because of this high level of pia, speeding and rat running along Woodcock Hill it has already been identified for inclusion within the Shaftesbury Avenue 20mph zone. The design and consultation of this scheme is included within the 2008/09 year capital programme. It is expected that public consultation of the proposals will take place in January 2009, and subject to the outcomes of

the public consultation and subsequent approval of the 2009/10 Transportation Unit Capital Programme by this Committee, the scheme will be implemented during 2009/10.

3.8 In light of this petition, other requests received from residents in the area and in an attempt to provide better pedestrian facilities for the community, specifically in regards to Mount Stewart School. Four new or improved existing pedestrian facilities are proposed on Woodcock Hill as part of the 20mph scheme. These are located near the three access routes to the school, Manning Gardens, Abercorn Gardens and Mount Stewart Avenue; and near the access to John Billam playing fields. These facilities will take the form of pedestrian islands with adjoining traffic calming features.

3.9 The introduction of a 20mph zone on Woodcock Hill along with the provision of new and improved informal pedestrian facilities should provide a safer and more restrained environment for the community.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Officer time costs associated with the investigations can be met from the revenue allocations for the current financial year for general schemes.

4.2 Costs associated with the development and consultation of the Shaftesbury Avenue 20mph zone will be fully met via an allocation from Transport for London (TfL) as part of the annual Local Implementation Plan process. Subject to the subsequent approval of this Committee of the 2009/10 Transportation unit Capital Programme, cost associated with the implementation of the 20mph zone will come from TfL as part of the 2009/10 Local Implementation Plan process.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 None at this time

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 All public consultation material distributed as part of the Shaftesbury Avenue 20mph zone will include a section written in the most common languages used in the borough with an explanation of how more information can be obtained.

6.2 The introduction of the 20mph zone scheme and enhanced informal pedestrian facilities will provide better opportunities for the more vulnerable road users, particularly the disabled, elderly and children, to use the public Highways safely.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 The Council's Transportation Service Unit will deal with all issues relating to these schemes detailed in this report.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 The implementation of a 20mph zone and improved pedestrian measures along Woodcock Hill will help improve road safety and support sustainable forms of transport.

Background Papers

Local Implementation Plan Funding Application 2008/09

File TP728 Shaftesbury Avenue 20mph Zone

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