

Report to	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	25 July 2005
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Etchingham Road, Eastbourne – Petition concerning Road Safety
Purpose of Report	To advise the Lead Cabinet Member of the receipt of a petition and to seek approval to the proposed response.

RECOMMENDATION – to inform the petitioners that :-

- 1. this location will be added to the priority list of traffic calming requests and considered according to the ranking it attains; and**
 - 2. advisory signs will be erected to deter obstructive parking near the school in Chailey Close.**
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1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 It is anticipated that the cost of the advisory signs will be approximately £200 and can be met from the revenue budget for Traffic & Safety.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Prior to the County Council meeting on 22 February 2005, Councillor Tutt presented a petition to the Chairman relating to Road Safety in the Etchingham Road and Marsden Road area of Langney. A copy of the petition and covering letter is available in the Members' Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners be invited to address the Committee for up to five minutes. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

3. Comments / Appraisal

3.1 The petitioners stated 'We the undersigned call upon East Sussex County Council to take action to improve Road Safety in the Etchingham Road and Marsden Road area of Langney Village.' In order to better understand the concerns of the petitioners a meeting was subsequently held with Councillor Tutt.

3.2 The main concern relates to the use of the roads in the area as part of a circuit for anti-social driving behaviour. Primarily this is an issue for police enforcement. However the accident records show that the location currently meets the pre-qualification criteria for assessment as a potential site for traffic calming. A preliminary assessment has therefore been carried out which indicates that it would have been ranked at No.77 on the priority list that you approved in April. In such circumstances I cannot justify any immediate attention and propose to include it with other new requests for traffic calming. It will then be fully assessed as part of the next review of traffic calming requests which will be the subject of a report to you next spring.

3.3 Concern was also expressed about obstructive parking in Chailey Close at school arrival and departure times. This Close is residential and gives pedestrian access to Langney Primary School and the problem is typical of many similar locations across the county. It is not realistic to expect any solution that relies on enforcement to be effective as there is a need to influence driver behaviour.

3.4 Contact has been made with the school as part of our 'School Travel Plan' programme and I propose to agree with them some suitable advisory signs or posters, possibly designed with the pupils, to encourage drivers not to park in a dangerous or inconsiderate manner.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 Had this site been included with the last annual assessment of traffic calming requests it would have been ranked at No.77. In view of this I cannot recommend any immediate action and propose to review its position as part of the next annual assessment. The problem of parking at school arrival and departure times could only be effectively resolved by regularly enforced restrictions. These are not a realistic option at this location but I hope that the proposed advisory signing will bring about some improvement in the situation.

BOB WILKINS
Director of Transport and Environment

Contact Officer: Simon Crew Tel. No. 01273 482106

Local Member: Councillor Tutt

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

File T/Eastbourne/19.