

Report to: Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 22 May 2023

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Petition to implement a one-way system, pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures in Ocklynge Road, Eastbourne

Purpose: To consider whether a one-way system, pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures should be provided in Ocklynge Road, Eastbourne.

RECOMMENDATIONS: *The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that:*

- (1) A potential scheme to implement a one-way system, pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures has been assessed through our approved High Level Sift process and is not a priority for the County Council at the present time.**
 - (2) Petitioners may wish to consider taking a potential scheme forward through Community Match. A Feasibility Study at a cost of £500 would be required prior to a Community Match application.**
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1 Background Information

1.1. At the County Council meeting on 7 February 2023, a petition was presented to the Chairman by Councillor Ungar on behalf of a group of residents from the Gore Park Avenue/Ocklynge Road area of Eastbourne. The group requests that the County Council:

- Implement a one-way system on the upper part of Ocklynge Road, between Upperton Road and St Mary's Road.
- Provide an illuminated pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Gore Park Avenue.
- Install structural traffic calming measures on Ocklynge Road.

1.2. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and a spokesperson for the petitioners is invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment. A copy of the petition is available in the Members' Room.

2 Supporting Information

2.1. Ocklynge Road is covered by a 30-mph speed limit, as indicated by the system of street lighting. The northern end is residential with limited off-street parking and several sections of double yellow lines. This section of Ocklynge Road is used to access three other roads – St Mary's Road, Lower Road and Gore Park Avenue (which is a private road). The southern end of Ocklynge Road includes retail and commercial properties as well as residential properties. This section of the road is a no-through road with off-street parking facilities.

2.2. Crash data supplied by Sussex Police for the three-year period up to 31 January 2023 shows that there have been no crashes resulting in personal injury within Ocklynge Road. A location plan, and crash data plan can be found at Appendix 1.

2.3. A speed survey was undertaken in Ocklynge Road for a seven-day period starting 13 March 2023. As the main area of concern is at the upper end of Ocklynge Road between Lower

Road and Upperton Road, the speed data was collected between Lower Road and St Mary's Road. This indicated average vehicle speeds of 13mph for northbound traffic and 12mph for southbound traffic.

2.4. The County Council has a limited amount of funding to develop local transport improvements and needs to ensure that resources are targeted to those schemes which will be of the greatest benefit to local communities. To help prioritise the number of requests received for improvements, a process was developed to determine which schemes should be funded through an Integrated Transport Programme.

2.5. The request for a one-way system, pedestrian crossing and traffic calming scheme has been assessed through the approved High Level Sift process to determine if it may be a priority for future consideration; however, it did not meet the benchmark score to be taken forward.

2.6. Although the provision of a one-way system, pedestrian crossing and traffic calming scheme is not currently a priority for the County Council, the petitioners may wish to contact Eastbourne Borough Council to determine their interest in supporting a community funded scheme through the Community Match Initiative. A feasibility study at a cost of £500 would be required prior to a Community Match application.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. It is recommended that the petitioners be advised that a scheme to implement a one-way system, pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures in Ocklynge Road does not meet the Council's criteria and therefore, is not a priority for the County Council at the present time. However, appropriate improvements could be considered should an alternative source of funding become available, or an application through Community Match was successful.

3.2. To determine what measures could be suitable in this area, prior to a Community Match application, it is suggested that the petitioners contact Eastbourne Borough Council to ascertain whether they would be interested in supporting a scheme to try and influence traffic conditions in the area. Support from the Borough Council does not need to be financial – any group interested in taking a scheme forward through Community Match can provide the funding. They would then need to commission a Feasibility Study at a cost of £500. The speed data for Ocklynge Road that was recently collected can be provided to the group. This would help identify possible improvements for further discussions and provide the group concerned with an estimate of what they might cost to assist in their budget considerations.

RUPERT CLUBB

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Ungar

Councillor Rodohan

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None