

Scrutiny: Call-In Sub-committee
30th June 2004

Re: Cedars School 20mph Zone

Statement by Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport

1. In September 2001 the Traffic and Road Safety Panel received a petition of 281 signatures seeking either a school safety zone or traffic calming measures in Whittlesea Road. There had also been earlier lobbying for a footway parking scheme in Whittlesea Road.
2. In September 2002 a programme of 20mph zones around schools was agreed as a basis for funding bids to Transport for London. The aspirations for a school safety zone, traffic calming and footway parking around Cedars School were brought together in a 20mph zone scheme for which funding was won from TfL.
3. Proposals were developed with the involvement of Head Teachers, local residents' representatives and ward councillors. Two options were developed for consultation in Spring 2003. Consultation leaflets were distributed to residents and parents of school pupils and a manned exhibition was held on 6th May at Cedars Middle School. In addition, a permanent unmanned display was placed in the local library. 123 responses were received, giving clear support for the proposals. Some minor amendments were made to the proposals to reflect feedback received. A number of 'statutory' consultees were also consulted eg residents' associations, road user groups, disabled persons' representatives, pedestrian organisations, emergency services etc.
4. The consultation results were reported to me in January 2004 when I made the decision (ref: PHD 074/03) to authorise officers to proceed with the traffic order making and associated statutory consultation.
5. Following publication of the statutory notices, 3 objections were received, one backed by a 66 signature petition. The petition was addressed to officers and received by them on 23rd March. Officers briefed me on the objections to the scheme and the objective of implementing the scheme in the school summer holidays if the objections are overruled. On this basis, I agreed to receive a Portfolio Holder report. On 23rd April the head petitioner was advised by officers that a report to me was being prepared and was invited to discuss the matter in more detail with officers if he wished.
6. The petition was subsequently (re)presented by Cllr John Nickolay to Council on 29th April, where it was referred to the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel.

7. At a subsequent briefing with officers I was advised that if the objections were not considered before the next Panel meeting (scheduled for 22 June but subsequently cancelled) the opportunity of implementing the proposals in the school summer holidays would be missed. Subject to considering the views of the ward councillors I reaffirmed my agreement to receiving a Portfolio Holder report on the objections received.
8. Ward councillors were consulted on a copy of the draft report and one, Cllr Lyne, raised a number of minor points (reported in Section 3 of the report). In addition I spoke to Cllr Lyne, who confirmed that she was agreeable to the matter proceeding quickly as recommended by the report and welcomed the further investigation into improving parking conditions in Stafford Road.
9. In summary, the proposals reflect the wishes of the 2001 petitioners, have been developed with stakeholders and supported in consultation with residents, parents and other stakeholders. The representations made in the second consultation, in relation to the traffic order, including the petition, have been carefully considered and fully taken into account, in consultation with the ward councillors, before making a decision. Awaiting consideration by the Panel of one of the objections, the petition, would have had the significant disadvantage of reducing the works that could be carried out in the school summer holidays.
10. The petition referred from Council will be considered by the Panel at its next meeting, presumably with an update by officers, when consideration can be given to any further appropriate action.