



HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

23 October 2018

Subject Heading:

PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGES,
SQUIRRELS HEATH ROAD &
SHEPHERDS HILL
Outcome of public consultation

SLT Lead:

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Policy context:

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Havering Local Development Framework
(2008)
Havering Local Implementation Plan
2018/19 Delivery Plan

Financial summary:

The estimated cost of £0.05m for the works will met by Transport for London through the 2018/19 Local Implementation Plan allocation Squirrels Heath Road/ Shepherds Hill pedestrian refuges (A2917).

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering
Places making Havering
Opportunities making Havering
Connections making Havering

[X]
[X]
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[X]

SUMMARY

This report sets out the responses to a public consultation for the provision of new pedestrian refuges on Squirrels Heath Road and Shepherds Hill and seeks a recommendation on their implementation.

The scheme is within **Harold Wood** ward.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee having considered the report and the representations made recommends to the Cabinet Member for Environment, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, that the proposed pedestrian refuge on Squirrels Heath Road is implemented as shown on Drawing QR017/SHR/FS/GA/100.
2. That the Committee having considered the report and the representations made recommends to the Cabinet Member for Environment, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, that the proposed pedestrian refuge on Shepherds Hill is either;
 - (a) Implemented as shown on Drawing QR017/SH/FS/GA/110, or
 - (b) Rejected.
3. That it be noted that the estimated cost of £0.05m for the works will be met by Transport for London through the 2018/19 Local Implementation Plan allocation Squirrels Heath Road/ Shepherds Hill pedestrian refuges (A2917).

REPORT DETAIL

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A request was made for help with crossing Shepherds Hill and slowing drivers via a 103 signature petition in late 2016. Additionally, a request for help crossing Squirrels Heath Road (near Archibald Road) was made in early 2017. In both cases, the requests were referred to HAC with ward councillor support.

- 1.2 The two requests were combined into a single scheme which was approved for inclusion in the 2018/19 Transport for London Local Implementation Plan delivery programme.
- 1.3 Staff proceeded with a review of the two requests and following the development of draft proposals, a site meeting was held with ward councillors to discuss potential options.
- 1.4 Drawings QR017/SHR/FS/GA/100 and QR017/SH/FS/GA/110 show proposals for Squirrels Heath Road and Shepherds Hill respectively. In both cases, some minor carriageway widening is required within which to fit a refuge of a 1.6m in width.
- 1.5 Ward councillors confirmed that they were content with the proposals and that staff should proceed to a public consultation.
- 1.6 50 letters were hand-delivered to those potentially affected by the scheme (26 to Squirrels Heath Road and 24 to Shepherds Hill) on 31st July 2018, with a closing date of 20th August 2018 for comments.
- 1.15 In addition, ward councillors, HAC members and standard consultees (London Buses, emergency services, interest groups etc) were sent a set of the consultation information.

2.0 Outcome of public consultation

- 2.1 By the close of consultation, 6 responses had been received. 1 response was from the Metropolitan Police Traffic Unit and 5 responses came from residents in connection with the Shepherds Hill proposal.
- 2.2 The police indicated that they had no objections to the proposals.
- 2.3 Of the 5 residents responding to the Shepherds Hill proposal, 3 objected to the proposal and 2 supported the proposal.
- 2.4 Those objecting cited the following concerns;
 - The proposals will make it impossible to turn left onto their driveway as they currently have to move right before they turn left now,
 - The scheme will affect the residents' ability to reverse from their driveway onto the road and that near misses were commonplace already,
 - Impact on deliveries to residents,
 - There are visibility issues with the proposals,

- The crossing should either be by the pub or outside the house of who requested it,
- The scheme will only help a minority of people but affect the majority,

2.5 Those supporting the proposal provided the following comments;

- The proposal is a good idea, but another one is also required further up the hill,
- Pleased that residents are getting a crossing for the busy road after many years of asking.

3.0 Staff comments

3.1 The proposed refuge at Squirrels Heath Road is uncontentious and will assist people crossing to/ from a pair of bus stops near Cockabourne Court; and so Staff recommend that this be implemented.

3.2 For the proposal at Shepherds Hill, Staff are content that the layout appropriately deals with visibility of both the refuge and people crossing.

3.3 With regard to the impact on residents' vehicle access, Staff are of the view that with the carriageway widening, reversing would be no worse than is currently the case, notwithstanding advice in the Highway Code that drivers should not reverse onto the highway. However, Staff agree that the speed of drivers and the volume of traffic can make manoeuvring difficult.

3.4 In relation to deliveries, Staff observe that they would have to take place away from the refuge which is the case in any situation where there is a feature within the highway of this nature.

3.5 With the Shepherds Hill refuge, the Committee will need to consider the original request for assistance to cross the road against the views expressed by those who responded to the consultation in making its recommendation.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

This report is asking HAC to recommend to the Cabinet Member:

1. The implementation of the proposed pedestrian refuge on squirrels Heath Road.
2. The implementation or rejection of the Proposed pedestrian refuge on Shepherds Hill.

The original Transport for London allocation was £0.058m initial feasibility, design and consultation costs have reduced the available funding to £0.050m.

The estimated cost of 0.050m for implementation will be met by Transport for London through the 2018/19 Local Implementation Plan allocation Squirrels Heath Road/ Shepherds Hill pedestrian refuges (A2917). The funding will need to be spent by 31st March 2019, to ensure full access to the grant.

The costs shown are an estimate of the full costs of the scheme, should both refuges be implemented. It should be noted that subject to the recommendations of the committee a final decision then would be made by the Lead Member – as regards actual implementation and scheme detail. Therefore, final costs are subject to change.

This is a standard project for Environment and there is no expectation that the works cannot be contained within the cost estimate. There is an element of contingency built into the financial estimate. In the unlikely event of an overspend, the balance would need to be contained within the overall Environment budget.

Legal implications and risks:

The Council's power to construct and maintain places of refuge for the protection of pedestrians in the maintained highway is set out in Part V of the Highways Act 1980 ('HA1980')

In considering any responses received during consultation, the Council must ensure that full consideration of all representations is given including those which do not accord with the officer's recommendation. The Council must be satisfied that any objections to the proposals were taken into account.

In considering any consultation responses, the Council must balance the concerns of any objectors with the statutory duty under section 122 RTRA 1984.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None arising from this scheme.

Equalities Implications and Risks:

The Council has a general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that its highway network is accessible to all. Where infrastructure is provided or substantially upgraded, reasonable adjustments should be made to improve access. In considering the impacts and making improvements for people with protected characteristics (often, but not limited to disabled people, the young and older people), this will assist the Council in meeting its duty under the Act.

Havering has a diverse community made up of many different groups and individuals. The council values diversity and believes it essential to understand and include the different contributions, perspectives and experience that people from different backgrounds bring.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are: age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The council demonstrates its commitment to the Equality Act in its decision-making processes, the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and employment practices concerning its workforce. In addition, the council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing of all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

The provision of crossing facilities makes it easier for all sectors of the community to cross busy streets or have more confidence in crossing streets. This is especially helpful to disabled people, children (lone and accompanied), young families and older people.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

**APPENDIX
SCHEME DRAWINGS**