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| Report Title: | Eton End School – Road Safety Petition |
| Contains Confidential or Exempt Information? | NO - Part I |
| Member reporting: | Councillor Bicknell, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Highways, Transport and Windsor |
| Meeting and Date: | Cabinet – 24 May 2018 |
| Responsible Officer(s): | Alison Alexander, Managing Director and Hilary Hall, Deputy Director – Strategy & Commissioning |
| Wards affected: | Datchet |

REPORT SUMMARY

1. The Royal Borough was presented with a petition of over 500 signatures in February 2017 from Eton End School, Eton Road, Datchet. The petition requested consideration of introducing a range of safety measures such as a new zebra or signal controlled crossing; traffic calming on Eton Road; pedestrian railings in front of the school entrance; a 20mph speed limit, planters at the Eton Road/Eton Close junction to prevent parking and double yellow line waiting restrictions on Castle Avenue.
2. The requests in the petition have been considered in the context of the Department for Transport's safety guidelines. Introducing a zebra crossing in this location would be contrary these guidelines and there is already a part-time advisory 20mph speed limit in place outside the school.
3. The council is putting in place, during May and June 2018, a package of traffic measures in response to this petition, including pedestrian railings in front of the school; bollards instead of planters at the Eton Road/Eton Close junction to prevent parking and refreshing existing lining and road markings in the area around the school.

1 DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet notes the petition and the responding report and endorses the:

- i) **Council's approach to comply with the Department for Transport's safety guidelines.**
- ii) **School's commitment to securing a school crossing patroller.**

2 REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Background

- 2.1 Eton End School is an independent preparatory school on the outskirts of Datchet. The school is located on the B3026 Eton Road, which provides the main link between Datchet and Eton. Eton Road is a street lit urban road and the national 30mph speed limit applies; in addition, there is a 20mph part-time advisory limit outside the school. The school attracts children from a large catchment area and therefore the majority of children are

driven to school by parents. The number of parents driving children to school results in congestion and parking problems in the vicinity of the school.

- 2.2 Previous traffic safety initiatives have included establishing a park and walk initiative in the adjacent St Augustine's church car park; an advisory crossing point - provided to support the crossing patroller who used to work at the school – which includes bollards and a contrasting coloured surfacing at the crossing point; an advisory 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of the school which applies at school drop-off and pick-up times. The times when the 20mph speed limit is in force are indicated by the flashing amber warning located within the school warning signs and 'Keep Clear' zig-zag markings either side of the school entrance, see appendix A for details of the layout of the school.
- 2.3 Eton End School previously funded a school crossing patroller. The crossing patroller was employed and managed by the Royal Borough but when the patroller retired, the school were requested to employ and manage the post holder. The Royal Borough will support this process and provide the necessary training, equipment and uniform. The school have not however taken up this offer.
- 2.4 Speed surveys carried out on Eton Road in February and March 2017 indicate typical weekday traffic speeds of around 33mph. Traffic speeds at school drop-off and pick-up times are lower than this, reflecting the parking that occurs around the school at these times. This would however suggest that the 20mph advisory speed limit in place at these times is being ignored by drivers.
- 2.5 The area has a good road safety record, with only one recorded injury crash in the vicinity of the school over the last ten years. Details of damage only accidents or near misses are not recorded by the police who hold crash data.

Petition

- 2.6 The Council was presented with a petition in February 2017 from Mrs Surinder Gill requesting that traffic and road safety measures are introduced outside the school. Mrs Gill is not a resident of the Royal Borough, but has children who attend the school. The petition came in two elements: a paper petition containing 237 signatures and an e-mail petition containing 296 signatures.
- 2.7 The petition requested consideration of introducing a range of safety measures such as a new zebra or signal controlled crossing; traffic calming on Eton Road; pedestrian railings in front of the school entrance; a 20mph speed limit, planters at the Eton Road/Eton Close junction to prevent parking and double yellow line waiting restrictions on Castle Avenue.

Response

- 2.8 Guidance from the Department for Transport is that crossings with low pedestrian numbers have a relatively poor road safety record as drivers get used to travelling through a crossing without stopping and put pedestrians at risk on the occasions that they are using the facility. A zebra or signal controlled crossing outside of the school would usually only be considered where there is a strong demand for pedestrians to cross the road throughout the day. Investigations have determined that the number of people crossing Eton Road outside of the school at times other than school drop-off and pick-up times is very low. Also, pedestrians cross the road at various locations along the road, not just outside the school, making it very difficult to identify a crossing location that is likely to be sufficiently well used by pedestrians. Therefore, a zebra crossing outside

the school is not supported because it would be contrary to Department for Transport safety guidelines and the volume of pedestrians crossing is very low.

- 2.9 The suggestion of introducing a permanent 20mph speed limit and traffic calming at this section of Eton Road is not supported as there is already an advisory 20mph speed limit in place outside the school. Whilst permanent 20mph speed limits have been implemented in residential areas, it is not recommended to introduce full-time 20mph speed limits on through routes such as this as this would cause unnecessary delay at other times of the day. There are already double yellow line waiting restrictions at the Eton Road/Castle Avenue junction and extending the restrictions was not supported as this would inconvenience local residents.
- 2.10 In consultation with Ward Members, a package of traffic measures has been developed in response to the petition and will be implemented during May and June 2018. This includes pedestrian railings in the vicinity of the school entrance; bollards instead of planters at the Eton Road/Eton Close junction to prevent obstructive parking and refreshing existing lining and road markings in the area around the school.
- 2.11 In situations such as this where there are few people crossing the road outside of school arrival and departure times, the most effective way forward would be for the school to employ a school crossing patroller to help parents and children cross the road.

Table 1: Options

| Option | Comments |
|--|---|
| Do nothing Not the recommended option. | This is not recommended as a response to the safety concerns expressed by the petitioner. |
| Introduce a zebra or signal controlled pedestrian crossing Not the recommended option. | This is not recommended on safety grounds and does not offer good use of resources. |
| Implement the package of traffic and road safety measures around the school and monitor their effectiveness. The recommended option. | This is recommended as it would effectively respond to the suggestions of the petitioner and would represent an effective use of resources. |

3 KEY IMPLICATIONS

Table 2: Key implications

| Outcome | Unmet | Met | Exceeded | Significantly Exceeded | Date of delivery |
|---|---------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Package of traffic measures implemented | Not in place. | June 2018 | May 2018 | N/A | June 2018 |

4 FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 The Royal Borough has developed a package of traffic measures, see point 2.10, which has been funded from the 2017-2018 Capital Programme.
- 4.2 Funding for a school crossing patroller would be funded directly by Eton End School, as an independent school, and the Royal Borough would provide training and equipment.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The council has a duty to promote road safety under the Road Traffic Act 1998. Where there are road safety issues associated with council maintained schools, the Royal Borough has a duty to provide road safety measures which may include the provision of school crossing patrollers.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

Table 3: Risk management

| Risks | Uncontrolled Risk | Controls | Controlled Risk |
|--|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| The package of traffic measures is not effective | Medium | The package has been fully reviewed and considered by road safety specialists and represents an appropriate response. | Low |

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The report will be considered by Highways, Transport & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel and comments will be reported to Cabinet.

8 TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| Date | Details |
|-------------------|---|
| May and June 2018 | Package of road safety measures implemented |

9 APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Layout Plan

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

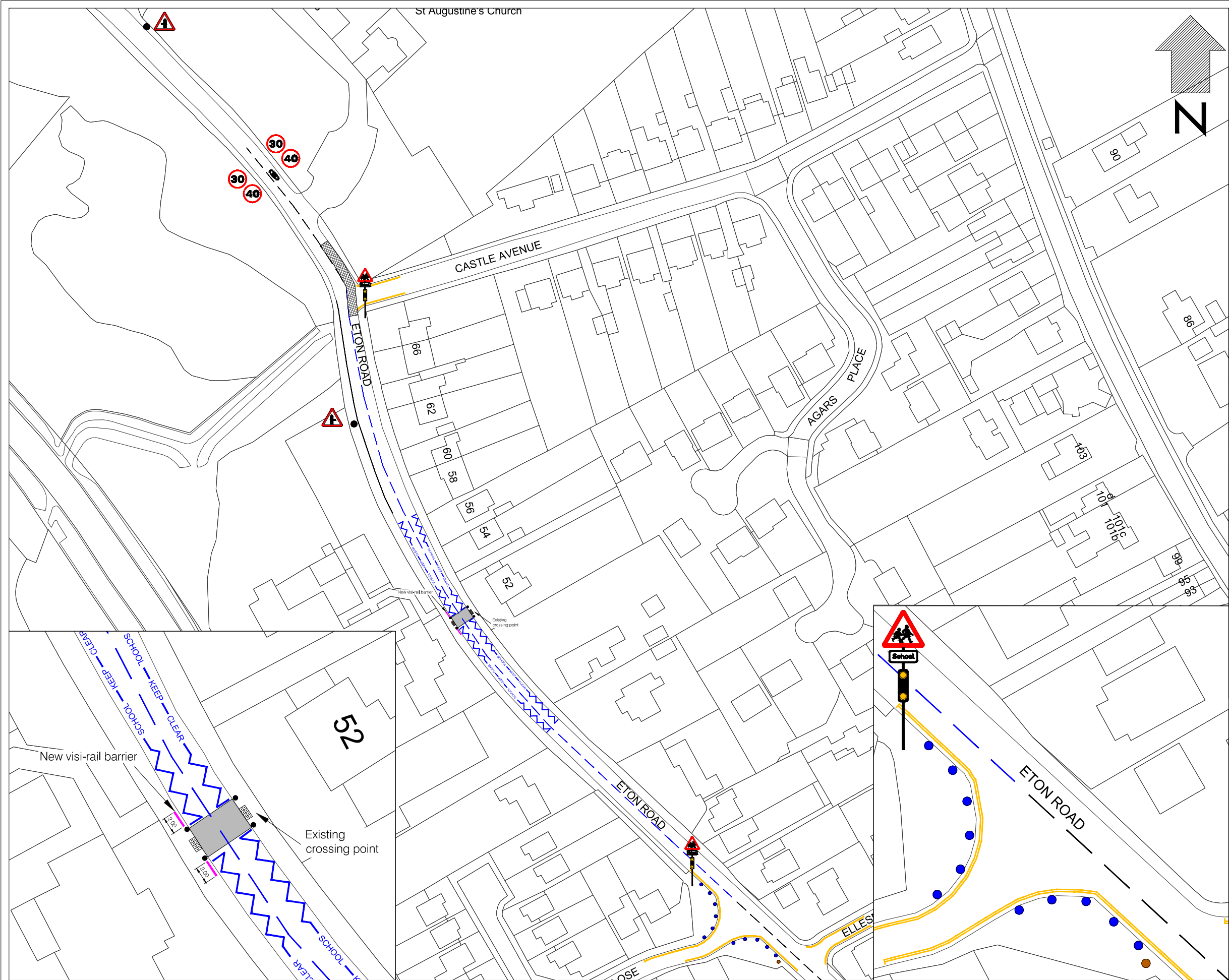
- None.

11 CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

| Name of consultee | Post held | Date issued for comment | Date returned with comments |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cllr Bicknell | Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Highways, Transport and Windsor | 26/04/18 | 27/04/18 |
| Cllr Grey and Cllr Muir | Datchet Ward Members | 26/04/18 | |
| Alison Alexander | Managing Director | 26/04/18 | 27/04/18 |
| Russell O'Keefe | Executive Director | 26/04/18 | |
| Andy Jeffs | Executive Director | 26/04/18 | 27/04/18 |
| Rob Stubbs | Section 151 Officer | 26/04/18 | |
| Nikki Craig | Head of HR and Corporate Projects | 26/04/18 | 30/04/18 |
| Louisa Dean | Communications | 26/04/18 | 27/04/18 |
| Elaine Browne | Legal (SLS) | 26/04/18 | 27/04/18 |

REPORT HISTORY








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|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Decision type: Key decision. Date added to forward plan: 26 April 2018 | Urgency item? No | To Follow item? No |
| Report Author: Ben Smith – Head of Commissioning: Communities | | |



Proposed measures to improve pedestrian safety around Eton End School, Datchet.

Existing carriageway markings shown in black.
Existing parking restrictions shown in yellow.

Existing road markings in Eton Road to be refreshed shown in blue.

-  Existing speed limit change
-  Existing wig-wags
-  Existing advance warning sign
-  Telegraph pole
-  Proposed installation of bollard to prevent parking on footpath
-  Proposed installation of visi-rail. Colour to be black RAL 9005 (shown here in magenta for clarity)
-  Existing high friction surface

| Rev | Date | Description | Drn | Chk | App |
|-----|----------|----------------|-----|-----|-----|
| - | JAN 2018 | ORIGINAL ISSUE | AJ | HJ | RB |

This drawing has been specifically prepared to meet the requirements of the named client and may contain design and innovative features which differ from conventional design standards.



Unit 2 Holford Yard
London
WC1X 9HD
Tel. 0330 0080 855
Mail. info@projectcentre.co.uk
Web. www.projectcentre.co.uk

FS 77166

Client 

Project
RBWM LOT 1 DESIGN SERVICES
ETON END SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES

Drawing Title
BOLLARD INSTALL &
LINING REFRESH

Drawing Status
FOR INFORMATION

Drawn: AJ | Designed: HJ | Date: JAN 2018 | Scale: 1:1250 | Size: A3

Drawing No. 1000003801(CD10-17-4)-3-010-01 | Rev: -