

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: Monday 11 March 2024

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: PETITION

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 0208 461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: Petts Wood & Knoll

1. Reason for decision/report and options

1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme, if petitioners are dissatisfied with the Council's response to their petition they can present their case to full Council, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold of 500 signatures for a traditional paper petition, or 4,000 signatures for an online petition. The lead petitioner or their nominee can address the Council for up to five minutes, after which Members can debate the issues raised. The choice before the Council is essentially to either recommend the Executive, or the relevant Portfolio Holder, to take action, or it can note the petition and decide that no additional action be taken.

1.2 A petition asking the Council to install two pedestrian crossings outside the Crofton Schools in Orpington was received in January 2024. The petition requests the Council to –

“Set up two zebra crossings – one in Crofton Lane near Crofton Infant School and the second in Towncourt Lane near Crofton Junior School in Orpington.”

The Council sent a formal response on 1st February 2024, but the petitioners have requested to address the Council.

1. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is requested to consider the case made by the lead petitioner and either recommend action to be taken by the Executive or relevant Portfolio Holder, or note the petitions and decide that no additional action be taken.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable
-

Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
(5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Not Applicable
 4. Total current budget for this head: Not Applicable
 5. Source of funding: Not Applicable
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (*current and additional*): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Council decisions are not subject to call-in
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
-

Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
-

Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: Not Applicable
-

Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (*current and projected*):
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Council's Petition Scheme allows for petitioners to present their case to a full Council meeting if they are dissatisfied with the Council's response to their petition, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold (for paper petitions) of 500 signatures from people who live, work or study in the borough. The lead petitioner or their nominee can address the Council for up to five minutes – they do not take part in any subsequent debate and must return to the public gallery after speaking. Once Members have considered the matter, they can choose whether to recommend any further action, or to agree that no further action should be taken. The relevant Portfolio Holder with responsibility for the issue will usually lead the debate and propose a response.

Two Zebra Crossings near Crofton School, Orpington

- 3.2 A petition asking the Council to install two pedestrian crossings outside the Crofton Schools in Orpington was received in January 2024. The petition requests the Council to –

“Set up two zebra crossings – one in Crofton Lane near Crofton Infant School and the second in Towncourt Lane near Crofton Junior School in Orpington.”

- 3.3 The supporting information submitted with the petition is set out at [Appendix A](#) to this report. The following reply was sent to the lead petitioner on 1st February 2024, explaining the Council's position –

“Thank you for the petition recently received requesting zebra crossings outside Crofton Junior and Crofton Infant Schools. The possible need for a crossing here had already been brought to the attention of the Council by your Ward Councillors. In response to this Officers took [a report](#) to the Council's scrutiny committee in November to ask for approval to seek funding for a study. That recommendation was subsequently supported by Members and a decision to add this location to the list was made by Cllr Bennett, Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways & Road Safety.

Bromley has now received confirmation from TfL that funding has been approved for this study for 2024/25. What this means in practice is that in the coming months the traffic engineers will be able to commission speed and volume studies plus pedestrian counts, which are essential to decide where and what type of crossings or other improvements might be most beneficial. Some initial site visits have already taken place.

I should point out that the installation of formal crossings cannot be certain, as there may be physical or safety constraints that prevent this being taken forward. Some of the considerations are set out [here](#) on the Council website. Whether or not zebra crossings are recommended when the data has been analysed and further observations made at the locations in question, Officers will look to see if other enhancements can be made in respect to signs and road markings.

If you need to ask for further information, can I suggest you contact the Council's School Travel Plans team, who are copied into this email. However, if you are not completely satisfied with the Council's response, as Lead Petitioner you can address the next full Council meeting on 11th March 2024 for up to 5 minutes; I'm happy to expand on this if that would be helpful.”

- 3.4 The paper petition contains 546 verified signatures, plus a further 890 verified online signatures and is therefore above the threshold allowing the lead petitioner to speak at a full Council meeting. The lead petitioner, Karina Malka, has indicated that she is not satisfied with the Council's response and would like to take up the opportunity to address full Council in support of her petition.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Impact on vulnerable adults and children/Policy/Finance/Legal/Human Resources/Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction/Local Economy/health and Wellbeing/Customers/Ward Councillors
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Petition documents received by the Council