



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, ASSETS AND  
TRANSPORT**

**23 April 2024**

**Report of the Executive Director - Place**

**Petition – Road Safety Concerns A608 Morley, Ilkeston**  
(Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport)

**1. Divisions Affected**

1.1 Breadsall and West Hallam.

**2. Key Decision**

2.1 This is not a Key Decision.

**3. Purpose**

3.1 To ask the Cabinet Member to consider a petition requesting improvements to allow for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users to safely cross the A608 Main Road, Morley at the Derby College Campus site and to ask for a footbridge over the A608, to provide a safer route across the road for pedestrians.

3.2 Following consideration of this report, the Cabinet Member is asked to decline the request for additional safety measures on the A608 and the request for a pedestrian footbridge to be installed, due to the Authority having recently installed a Pedestrian Refuge on the A608 outside Broomfield College as part of its Capital Programme of Works, which will aid pedestrians and vulnerable road users to safely negotiate passage over the A608.

## 4 Information and Analysis

4.1 On 5 June 2023, the Council received a petition, containing 105 signatures.

4.2 The petition reads as follows:

*"I am writing to you because we have a problem with the busy road outside the college. It is currently a hazard to life on the A608. We must cross the road to get the H1 bus into Derby, which means we must cross the road, where the cars are speeding, and the cars are overtaking one another. To solve the problem, I think we should have a footbridge to get across to the other side of the road to stop this hazard of life on the A608, outside the college, which would make students feel a lot safer".*

4.3 In addition, a further supporting letter was presented within the petition submission which reads as follows:

*"I am writing to you because to tell you about the dangerous busy 20mph road, it's a very bad hazard to walk on and because of the oncoming traffic. To solve the problem, I think we need zebra crossings, speed camera, traffic lights pedestrian crossing, reduce speed to 20mph, bridge, speed bumps we need to put things in place".*

4.4. Derby College - Broomfield Hall Campus, is located via a private access road off the A608 near Morley, which is a rural road between Heanor and Derby.

4.4 This part of the A608 is subject to a 40mph speed limit which was previously lowered from the national speed limit in 2008, as part of the Council's review of all its speed limits on its 'A' and 'B' classified road network. This was as a result of changes to national policy and recommended guidance contained with the Government Circular 'Setting of Local Speed Limits'.

4.5 The road adjacent to the college site is approximately 9m wide, with bends on each of its approaches.

4.6 There are no street lights present due to the road's rural nature.

4.7 There is a footway along the north-eastern side of the A608 close to the college entrance, with another footway on the south-western side to facilitate access to the bus stop and its shelter. The bus stop mostly serves those people going to college site.

- 4.8 The personal injury collision history shows there have been two slight personal injury collisions within 1 kilometre either side of College Campus access road within the three year assessment period 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2023. Neither of these collisions were speed related and did not involve any pedestrians.

**Officer Comments**

- 4.9 Regarding vehicles exceeding the 40mph limit, the college site can raise its concerns with the Police as the relevant enforcement authority. Morley Parish Council has also been made aware of the Speed Indicator Device Scheme where it could also apply to purchase and install its own signs which would display vehicle speeds with an associated road safety message.
- 4.10 The approaches to the access road for the Broomfield Hall college site, already have several traffic and safety related measures in situ. These include warning signs, road markings, directional signing, a vehicle activated 40mph reminder sign and chevron signing to highlight changes in the road alignment.
- 4.11 The Council, as part of its Highways Capital Programme, has recently constructed a Pedestrian Refuge on the A608 Main Road, adjacent to the College Campus site, which will make crossing the road easier
- 4.12 The environment adjacent to the College Campus site is rural in its nature, as it only provides an access road to the site. It does not provide immediate access to other local amenities and, therefore, the Council has no justification to consider the provision of a controlled crossing (Zebra or Puffin) to address what are movements limited to term time and for what are relatively short periods of the day for access to the bus stops. The installation of the pedestrian island will provide a haven in the centre of the road for all road users to safely cross the A608 and is entirely suitable in the circumstances.
- 4.13 The A608 has a relatively good personal injury collision history which would preclude the route for the consideration of enforcement cameras nor does the site meet the criteria within the Derbyshire Speed Management Protocol Policy to justify the consideration of any other traffic calming measures.
- 4.14 The 40mph speed limit is the appropriate limit for this road based on the criteria outlined in the Department for Transport, Setting of Local Speed Limits Circular.

- 4.15 The request for consideration of a footbridge to be installed over the A608 is not something that the Council would be able to support. An engineering scheme, of this nature, would be at a considerable cost to the Council to deliver, as it would likely to be well into several million pounds, even if it was achievable within the highway boundary constraints and design standards that would need to be adhered to.

### **Conclusion**

- 4.16 The justification for the construction of a footbridge over the A608 is not warranted, considering the limited demand here, and the new pedestrian island will enable pedestrians to cross more safely.
- 4.17 The road layout and safety measures already in place are entirely appropriate and effective. Therefore, the Council declines the requests for the additional safety measures which have been requested in the petition.

## **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Officers will inform the lead petitioner of the outcomes after this report is considered.
- 5.2 Local Member, Councillor Hart, was consulted about the petition and made the following comments:

*“There is now a refuge in the centre of the road in front of access road to college to the bus stop, as you probably know the access to the college is on a bend and yes one or two do speed, but the majority must slow down because of the bends, one or two accidents have happened in the vicinity but again it is bad driving.*

*I am not sure how you could put a footbridge in even if we have the budget as double decker busses use the route not only to the college but also on the normal bus routes.*

*There are warning VAS signs and now the refuge so personally I cannot see much else that we can do, having said that the college is very busy now and we have pedestrians, busses, and cars in and out. Morley Community Speed Watch did do a session near the college and found that most drivers were within or only slightly over the speed limit, it was suggested that perhaps the college could set up their own group for training and do some sessions, but this was not followed through by the college.”*

## **6 Alternative Options Considered**

- 6.1 Option 1: The Council provides no further highway improvement measures on the A608 Derby Road, Morley.
- 6.2 Option 2: The Council considers the future provision of either a Zebra or Controlled Crossing on the A608 Derby Road, should it be evidenced that the demand for crossing would justify such a provision being considered.

## **7 Implications**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

## **8 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Derbyshire And Derby Road Safety Partnership Speed Management Protocol Engineering Technical Annex.  
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport-roads/highways-infrastructure-asset-management/highways-infrastructure-asset-management.aspx>

## **9 Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.
- 9.2 Appendix 2 - Location and design of pedestrian refuge.

## **10 Recommendations**

That the Cabinet Member:

- a) Notes the petition requesting improvements to allow for road users to safely cross the A608 Main Road, Morley at the Derby College Campus site and for a footbridge over the A608.
- b) Declines the request for additional traffic and safety measures on the A608 and the request for a pedestrian footbridge to be installed, due to the Authority having recently installed a Pedestrian Refuge on the A608 outside Broomfield College as part of its Capital Programme of Works, which will aid pedestrians and vulnerable road users to safely negotiate passage over the A608.

## **11 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 11.1 The location does not meet the criteria within the Speed Management Plan and Highway Network Management Plan for consideration of traffic calming measures on the A608 around the College Campus site.
- 11.2 The potential levels of footfall/usage of a constructed footbridge over the A608 are not justified when you consider the level of investment required in terms of the design and delivery of a major engineering scheme and that a pedestrian refuge has been installed to enable safe passage over the A608.

## **12 Is it necessary to waive the call in period?**

- 12.1 No.

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### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

- 1.1 The costs involved in the design and delivery of the pedestrian island are already agreed and funded through the Highways Capital Programme.

#### **Legal**

- 2.1 The Council, as the local traffic authority, has considered the petition in accordance with its Petition Scheme contained within the Constitution.
- 2.2 The Council, as the local traffic authority, has power under the Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to implement traffic and safety measures where it feels it's appropriate.
- 2.3 A licence under Section 115e of the Highways Act 1980 will be required between the Parish Council and the County Council to permit the SIDs to be sited in the public highway. Details of warranty and maintenance agreements with any supplier must also be provided to the Council, along with public liability insurances to work on the public highway for erecting, moving, and repairing the signs

#### **Human Resources**

- 3.1 None.

#### **Information Technology**

- 4.1 None.

#### **Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

#### **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 6.1 The report supports Council's key priorities in contributing towards a resilient, healthier, and safer community.

#### **Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

- 7.1 None.