



Democratic Services

Location: Phase II
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**To: COUNCILLOR JONATHAN BIANCO
CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS
& TRANSPORT**

c.c. All Members of the Property, Highways and
Transport Select Committee
c.c. Sophie Wilmot – Place Directorate
c.c. Perry Scott – Corporate Director of Place
c.c. Ward Councillors for Northwood

Date: 15 December 2022

Non-Key Decision request

Form D

OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED 20MPH EXTENSION ON MAXWELL ROAD, NORTHWOOD

Dear Cabinet Member,

Attached is a report requesting that a decision be made by you as an individual Cabinet Member. Democratic Services confirm that this is not a key decision, as such, the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 notice period does not apply.

You should take a decision **on or after Friday 23 December 2022** in order to meet Constitutional requirements about publication of decisions that are to be made. You may wish to discuss the report with the Corporate Director before it is made. Please indicate your decision on the duplicate memo supplied, and return it to me when you have made your decision. I will then arrange for the formal notice of decision to be published.

Liz Penny
Democratic Services Officer

Title of Report: Objections to Proposed 20mph Extension on Maxwell Road, Northwood

Decision made:

Reasons for your decision: (e.g. as stated in report)

Alternatives considered and rejected: (e.g. as stated in report)

Signed Date.....

Cabinet Member for Property, Highways & Transport

OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED 20MPH EXTENSION ON MAXWELL ROAD, NORTHWOOD

Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Property, Highways and Transport
Officer Contact(s)	Sophie Wilmot – Place Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A – Plan of proposed scheme

HEADLINES

Summary	This report details the outcome of the formal consultation undertaken with residents on a proposed extension of the 20mph Zone on Maxwell Road, Northwood. The report details the objections received and sets out recommendations for the Cabinet Member to consider.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	<p>This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Be / feel safe from harm</p> <p>This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Green and Sustainable Borough</p>
Financial Cost	The total cost of the recommendations set out in the report is £2,500. This can be funded from the monies awarded to the Council from Transport for London to implement the Boroughs Local Implementation Plan.
Relevant Select Committee	Property, Highways and Transport
Relevant Ward(s)	Northwood

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport:

- 1) **Considers the objections to the proposed extension of the 20mph Zone on Maxwell Road, Northwood, as detailed within the body of the report;**

- 2) **In consideration of the benefit to the road safety of those travelling to and from the local schools, instructs officers to proceed with the implementation of the extension as set out; and**
- 3) **Instructs officers to review the impact of the restrictions at an appropriate time following implementation and report back.**

Reasons for recommendations

The recommendations set out in this report allow for the scheme to be progressed to benefit road safety for those travelling to and from the large primary schools in the area.

Alternative options considered / risk management

None at this stage.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Introduction

1. Officers were approached by 'Northwood College for Girls' with regard to safety outside of their school and were asked to consider the extension of the 20mph Zone that currently operates for a small section to the north of Maxwell Road to cover the local shopping parade. It was agreed with the Cabinet Member to consult on an extension of the 20mph Zone to cover the entire length of Maxwell Road.

Formal consultation

2. Formal consultation was undertaken, and the Council received one objection to the proposed extension of the 20mph Zone on Maxwell Road. Alongside the objection a total of three responses were received explicitly in support of the proposals.

3. There is an existing 20mph speed limit on the section of Maxwell Road between its junction with Green Lane and Murray Road, which covers the extent of the local shopping parade. The proposals put forward were to extend the restriction along the whole of Maxwell Road to cover the area fronting Northwood College for Girls. A plan of the proposals is provided in Appendix A.

4. A summary of the single objection received is summarised below:

- *'We would like to object to this zone extension in the strongest terms.'*
- *'The existing 20mph zone on Green Lane is not enforced and is flouted by all vehicles. All drivers also know that keeping to 20mph for any length of road is extremely difficult.'*

- *Extending the 20mph zone will only lead to a false sense of security. If enforcement increases, this only leads to more citizen surveillance which is detrimental to community bonds and to trust in increasingly distant and impersonal authorities.'*
 - *'I note that no figures have been given demonstrating that accidents are higher than average on Maxwell Road.'*
 - *"In our view, it is better to teach pedestrians and drivers (including of course school students) to stop, look and listen. This is much better preparation which encourages personal responsibility and common sense, leading to much better societal outcomes including, but not limited to, road safety.'*
 - *'20mph zones in general are an impractical approach that encourage driver frustration, pedestrian complacency and the surveillance state.'*
5. A response to points raised in the objection above, are addressed below:
- The existing 20mph is enforced from time to time by the Metropolitan Police and should the extension be approved, the Police will be engaged and asked to consider increasing enforcement, particularly for the initial period following the scheme coming forward.
 - There is no evidence to suggest that the speed in 20mph zone is actively flouted by all vehicles; however, in order to investigate this aspect, traffic surveys will be undertaken at an appropriate time following the extension of the zone and reported back to the Cabinet Member for further consideration.
 - Although accidents on Maxwell Road are not above average for the area or type of road, accident statistics do not take into account near misses or the perception of road safety, which can be particularly significant on roads where school facilities are located.
 - The London Borough of Hillingdon already operates a comprehensive programme of pedestrian and cycle training as well as working with local driving instructors to promote safety messages. Road Safety campaigns are also delivered to the wider community by the Council from time to time. Finally, road safety education is offered to the Borough's schools.
6. Mindful of the above, coupled with the nature of the objection being largely matters of personal opinion, it is evident that the objection itself is not substantive, and any residual concerns can reasonably be overcome by future traffic surveys and road safety programmes already undertaken by Hillingdon.
7. As stated above, letters of support for the scheme were provided; a summary of comments received is provided below:
- *'I totally support the proposal. I mentioned it to a police officer a couple of months ago. Cars are constantly speeding on the road at well over 30mph.'*
 - *'There are two dangerous aspects of Maxwell Road at the moment: 1. Fast driving down Maxwell Road.....I am very supportive of the 20mph proposal.....2. Junction of Maxwell Road and Murray Road, cars drive quickly down Maxwell Road and swing left into Murray Road (to get to Waitrose) with fewer than 50% indicating to let pedestrians know not to cross...'*
 - *'...suggesting a 20mph speed limit and one or two pedestrian crossings.....I feel very uneasy as the situation at the moment is dangerous for children and it is only a matter of time until accidents will happen.'*

8. As can be seen by the summary above, residents appear to be broadly in support of the extension of the 20mph Zone on Maxwell Road and would like to see further measures such as a formal crossing brought forward. If agreed with the Cabinet Member, it is proposed that initially the zone would be extended, with signs and lines only, supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Police. At an appropriate time, following implementation of the scheme, traffic surveys will be undertaken to assess the impact and will be reported back. Any further measures could be explored in conjunction with the school which initially raised the issue, and any which are felt worthy of further consideration would, as a first step, be discussed with the Cabinet Member.

Recommendation

9. Given the underlying benefit to improved road safety, the fact that a current restriction is already in place on Maxwell Road, and that there was on balance greater support than objection, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport be minded to approve the implementation of the extension of the 20mph zone on Maxwell Road, Northwood. In addition, given the request for further infrastructure in the area, the Cabinet Member may be minded to instruct officers to undertake further dialogue with the school and potentially appropriate surveys, following implementation of the Zone extension, and report back to him.

Financial Implications

The total cost of the recommendations to implement the extension of the 20mph zone on Maxwell Road, Northwood is estimated at £2,500.

There are no direct financial implications to Council resources this scheme will be fully funded from the Transport for London Local Implementation Plan 2022/23 grant allocation of £95k for School Travel and Road Safety Initiatives, subject to capital release approval.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

To allow the Cabinet Member an opportunity to consider in detail issues raised by residents.

Consultation carried out or required

None at this stage.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and concurs with the financial implications set out above noting that the proposed costs associated with the extension of the 20mph zone on Maxwell Road, Northwood are to be funded from the 2022/23 TfL Grant LIP Allocation.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that there are no legal impediments to the Cabinet Member agreeing the recommendations set out in the report which are in accordance with the consultation outcome.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

None at this stage.

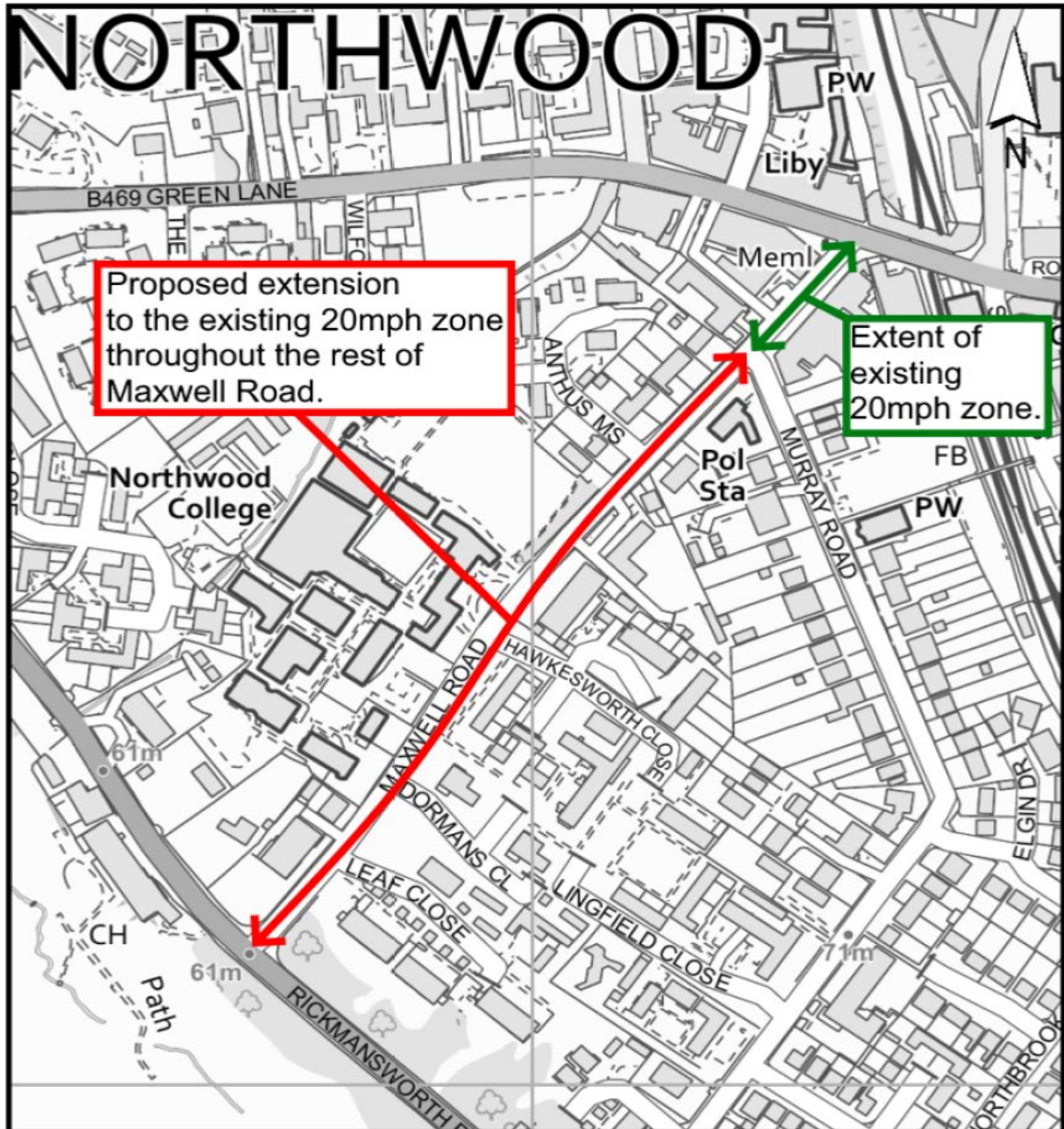
Comments from other relevant service areas

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

APPENDIX A - PLAN OF PROPOSALS



Maxwell Road, Northwood - Proposed extension of 20mph Zone

August 2022
Scale 1:3,000