

COMMITTEE: NORTH LUTON AREA BOARD
DATE: 13 OCTOBER 2016
SUBJECT: PETITION – SAWTRY CLOSE, LUTON
REPORT BY: SERVICE DIRECTOR – PUBLIC REALM
CONTACT OFFICER: CHRISTINE DAVY 546962

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: NORTHWELL

PURPOSE

1. To report to North Luton Area Board the receipt of a petition regarding a speed and inconsiderate parking in Sawtry Close by people attending functions at The Meads Primary School

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. North Luton Area Board is recommended to:-
 - (i) note receipt of the petition;
 - (ii) Note that an item to investigate a residents parking scheme for Sawtry Close has been added to the request list for a future programme of works.
 - (iii) Instruct the Service Director Public Realm to advise the petitioners.

BACKGROUND

3. A petition has been submitted stating

‘Over the past couple of months there has been an increase in the number of functions being held at the Meads Primary school which has led to an increase in traffic using Sawtry Close, a lot of these motorists drive down this road much too fast when arriving or leaving and are leaving their vehicles partly blocking residents drives. When these car owners have been spoken to they become aggressive and abusive, the school has been spoken to and also the council have been informed.

The school response was ‘we do what we can’, the council response was ‘we don’t see a problem’. I feel it will not be long before a household pet or worse still a child is hit by one of these speeding motorists, I therefore, feel a petition should be present to the council to make them aware of the feelings of the residents in Sawtry Close’

4. The petition was signed by 16 residents of Sawtry Close.
5. Sawtry Close is a cul-de-sac with 26 properties and an entrance to The Meads Primary school at the end of the cul-de-sac.
6. At the time of the petition the speed limit in Sawtry Close was 30mph. Sawtry Close is approximately 130m in length.

REPORT

7. The school has been contacted and the head master Richard Jenkins has commented. He refutes many of the points raised by the residents stating
 - The school feature road safety, considerate parking and sensible speed in their weekly newsletters to parents.
 - They are a values based school and regularly inform parents of how they expect them to talk to staff and local residents. For example following a recent altercation with a local resident whereby after extreme provocation a parent was assaulted on school property by the resident they informed the parent that they would be banned from school premises if they repeated that behaviour.
 - The school locks the Sawtry Close entrance between 8:30am and 9:00am and 3:15pm and 3:45pm in order to prevent the close being blocked by cars.
 - The number of events held at the school has not changed however; they do have more during the summer months.
 - The school sent a letter to every resident of Sawtry Close asking for their e-mail address last year so that the school could notify the residents of events. Unfortunately, only two residents responded.
 - The school is let for events four nights a week plus Saturday morning. The school regularly asks the event organisers to remind the people attending these events that they should be considerate of local residents

when driving to and from the school. The school will be reiterating this to the event organisers.

8. As part of the Area Traffic Studies programme for Limbury area the speed limit in Sawtry Close is being reduced to 20mph. This will be indicated with 20mph repeater signing.
9. Residents can request Civil Enforcement Officers to enforce unauthorised obstruction of their vehicle accesses by calling 01582 548523 during office hours. There is no out-of-office hours contact number.
10. Therefore, an item has been added to the Council's request list for the investigation into a residents parking scheme for Sawtry Close. This list is reviewed annually and the highest priorities included in the next years works programme subject to the budget provision.