

Subject:	Items referred from the Council meeting held on the 24 October 2019		
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2019		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive the following petition which was debated at and referred from the full Council meeting held on the 24 October 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options and writes to the lead petitioner setting out the committee's decision(s).

3. CONTEXT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 To receive the following extract from the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 24 October 2019 setting out the petition and recommendation for the committee to consider as detailed.

(2) Give Kids the Right to Walk Safely to School in Brighton and Hove

Lead Petitioner Councillor Nield

Additional Information:

Every Pupil deserves the right to walk safely to school.

We know how many people are desperate for a solution to the nightmare of the school run.

I'm Sarah Nield. I'm a Councillor and also parent to two children at school in Brighton and Hove. Along with the many other parents who have contacted me -

I WANT SAFE SCHOOL WALKING ZONES. Please join my campaign.

We all want more kids to walk to school: it's good for their health, it combats air pollution - so let's make it a genuine option for our young people.

Schools encourage students to walk. 5,10 and 15 minute walking zones are mapped out around them. But families often find that these walking zones are not actually safe to walk in. Walking zones which contain busy, dangerous roads with no crossing points make a mockery of 'Walk to School' initiatives.

Communities who campaign for crossings around their school are often stonewalled with statistics - and told that 'nothing can be done' until an accident happens.

But there is an alternative...

We want Safe School Walking Zones.

We're pushing for practical action that will make a real difference to the school run.

School Walking Zones would mean parents would no longer have to beg for a single crossing at the worst point of their journey. Instead of just encouragement, children should have the right to walk safely to school, with the changes put in place to make it possible, and the support given to schools to deliver.

This campaign is calling for:

1: New council policy which says all schools will be supported to develop Safe School Walking Zones, and that the necessary crossings and road markings will be added within schools' 10 min walking zones to create them.

2: Safe School Walking Zones to be clearly visually marked throughout so drivers cannot miss the fact they are in one.

3: Consultation with schools and their communities, so that people can share their ideas on how to make a Safe School Walking Zone.

The idea is simple, but the project is big, and the shift in priorities it represents is huge.

In order to happen it needs a massive show of support from parents and school communities.

We need everyone to sign our petition: whether you're a grandparent, parent, member of the community, teacher, someone who walks to school: the school run is a daily nightmare for so many people: we need you to help us solve it.

We want to show how much support there is for safe walking zones around schools. A big enough petition (we need 1,250 signatures) will lead to a full debate in the Council chamber and allow us to gain this issue the attention it deserves. If voted through we can then start the ball rolling to make Safe School Walking Zones a reality in Brighton and Hove.

3.2 Extract from full Council:

COUNCIL

**4.30pm 24 OCTOBER 2019
HOVE TOWN HALL, - COUNCIL CHAMBER**

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Phillips (Chair), Robins (Deputy Chair), Simson, Allcock, Bagaeen, Barnett, Bell, Brennan, Brown, Childs, Clare, Davis, Deane, Druitt, Ebel, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Gibson, Grimshaw, Hamilton, Heley, Hill, Hills, Hugh-Jones, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Lloyd, Mac Cafferty, Mears, McNair, Miller, Moonan, Nemeth, Nield, O'Quinn, Osborne, Peltzer Dunn, Pissaridou, Platts, Powell, Rainey, Shanks, C Theobald, West, Wilkinson and Williams.

PART ONE

38 PETITIONS FOR DEBATE.

(2) GIVE KIDS THE RIGHT TO WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

- 38.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of two such petitions and noted that there was an amendment to the cover report's recommendation for the first petition from the Green Group. The Mayor also noted that there was a Notice of Motion listed as Item 45 (6) Safe School Walking Zones on the agenda and stated that she was minded to take the motion along with the second petition and to have one debate on the matter.
- 38.2 The Mayor then invited Councillor Nield to present the petition relating to the ability for children to walk safely to schools in the city. The Mayor also noted that there was a Notice of Motion listed as item No. 45 (6) on the agenda which related to the same matter and stated that she therefore intended to take that item at the same time and to have one debate on the issue.
- 38.3 Councillor Nield thanked the Mayor and stated that she also had a notice of motion on the subject and therefore simply wished to point out that the petition had secured over 1,300 signatures in only a few weeks. It highlighted the concerns that parents/carers had in regard to their children being able to walk safely to school and called for action to be taken to address their concerns.
- 38.4 Councillor Allcock thanked Councillor Nield for bringing the petition to the council and congratulated her on the campaign. He stated that the council was fully committed to enabling and encouraging children to walk to and from school safely. He noted that a significant number of initiatives and improvements were underway to assist in achieving this aim with a number of schools having already benefitted. The Safer Routes to School programme had been successful and would continue to create an environment in which children felt safe to walk to school.

45 NOTICES OF MOTION.

(6) SAFE SCHOOL WALKING ZONES

- 38.5 The Mayor then invited Councillor Nield to move the Notice of Motion listed as Item No. 45 (6) Safe School Walking Zones.
- 38.6 Councillor Nield thanked the Mayor and stated that October was the international walk to school month, which promoted the best travel option for children to get to school. She was aware that schools across the city and the country promoted walk to school week and the motion sought to extend that common aim to ensure that children could walk safely to school throughout their school life. At present parents and carers faced the daily struggle of tackling rush-hour traffic and a lack of safe crossing zones to get their children to school. It meant children were also being denied the opportunity to develop an independence and get to and from school by themselves. There was a need to listen to the concerns of parents and to find solutions to the problems faced on a daily basis and to empower them to take advantage of being able to walk safely to school.
- 38.7 The Mayor noted that it was Councillor Nield's maiden speech and congratulated her on behalf of the council.

- 38.8 Councillor Shanks formally seconded the motion and stated that there was a clear need to tackle the issue highlighted by the motion and the petition. She acknowledged that there was a need to change behaviour of parents who opted to drive their children to school as well as other drivers and to reduce traffic levels and hoped that a positive outcome could be found.
- 38.9 Councillor Moonan welcomed the petition and notice of motion and noted that Public Health England had recently published figures for the health profile of Year 6 and noted that Brighton & Hove compared well with the national figure. However, there was a need to do more and to get young people walking to school and to set habits that would benefit them in later life.
- 38.10 Councillor Brown welcomed the petition and stated that it highlighted the problem that needed to be addressed. Whilst most schools had travel plans there were still significant hazards that had to be faced and she hoped that the council would work closely with schools and parents to find solutions and then enable them to be implemented. There was a need to be proactive rather than reactive and not to rely on statistics before addressing calls for crossings to be installed. She also noted that funding had been identified at the last Budget Council to help to tackle the issue but had not been approved.
- 38.11 Councillor O'Quinn noted that 20mph zones had been established in the city and suggested that more signage and consideration of 10mph zones around schools should be considered; as well as action to improve sight lines and to prevent illegal parking around schools. She also suggested that another aspect that should be reviewed was that children were not necessarily local to their school, which meant that parents were choosing to drop them off by car. It was a complex issue and would need to be given full consideration if it was to be addressed.
- 38.12 Councillor Hill stated that there were issues with major junctions being near to or in between schools which caused difficulties for parents and children. It meant there was a need to prioritise when putting solutions into place and she questioned whether it was possible to re-look at the use of school crossing patrol officers and to encourage people to volunteer.
- 38.13 Councillor West stated that it was an important matter that needed to be considered and different solutions found for different areas but with the aim of providing safer to school routes. He was aware of school crossing patrol officers being threatened by drivers for stopping the traffic and that had to be addressed. The use of the car to take children to school should be the exception rather than the norm and children should be given the confidence to be able to walk to school.
- 38.14 Councillor Bagaeeen stated that more action was needed to enforce double yellow lines and to get the bus company to improve the quality of buses being used for the school services. Having experienced travelling by bus himself, he could not allow his children to use the current vehicles that were operating as they were over-crowded, and windows could not be opened. He hoped that discussions could be held with the bus companies to improve their fleet and the number of buses operating on school routes.
- 38.15 Councillor Nield thanked everyone for their contributions to the debate and stated she was aware of existing schemes to help children to walk to school. However, they tended to concentrate on how to deal with traffic etc. rather than creating safe walking zones and initiatives such as 'School Streets' created in other cities should be

considered; as well as establishing a network of zones across the city. She also questioned the reliance on accident data to determine whether a crossing could be provided and the struggle to obtain Section 106 funding and hoped that this could be reviewed.

38.16 The Mayor thanked Councillor Nield for presenting the petition and put the recommendation listed in the covering report to the vote which was carried unanimously.

38.17 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee meeting on the 11 November 2019.

38.18 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion to the vote;

“This council resolves to ask Environment, Transport and Sustainability committee to commission a report, exploring:

- How existing 10-minute walking zones around our schools can be optimised, adding the crossings and road calming measures necessary to create genuinely safe walking routes to school.
- How visual elements could be used throughout a zone to give drivers a clear message that they are near a school, walking families have priority, and drivers are guests in that zone.
- Funding options available to create these zones (such as grants, planning contributions, parking surplus, bids for funding)

And further, that such a report:

- sets out the ways in which the council will work in close consultation with schools and local communities about the creation of these zones.

38.19 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been agreed unanimously and would be referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration.

