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REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 2023/032

Committee:-	Council
Date:-	12 th July 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Town clerk
Report Title:-	Road safety Measures, Warkton Lane area Kettering
Wards Affected:-	Ise

1. Purpose of Report

To seek the Council's view as to whether to support a request from a resident, for new road safety measures to be introduced in to the Warkton Lane area of Kettering.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to consider whether or not to support the arguments set out in this report for improved pedestrian safety measures in the area.

3. Information

- 3.1. North Northamptonshire Council is responsible for considering requests for new road safety measures such as pedestrian crossings from members of the public, but usually asks that the relevant town or parish council endorses a request before they progress anyone's proposal.
- 3.2. Mrs Lauren Ellis is seeking improvements to road safety in Warkton Lane area, in particular:-

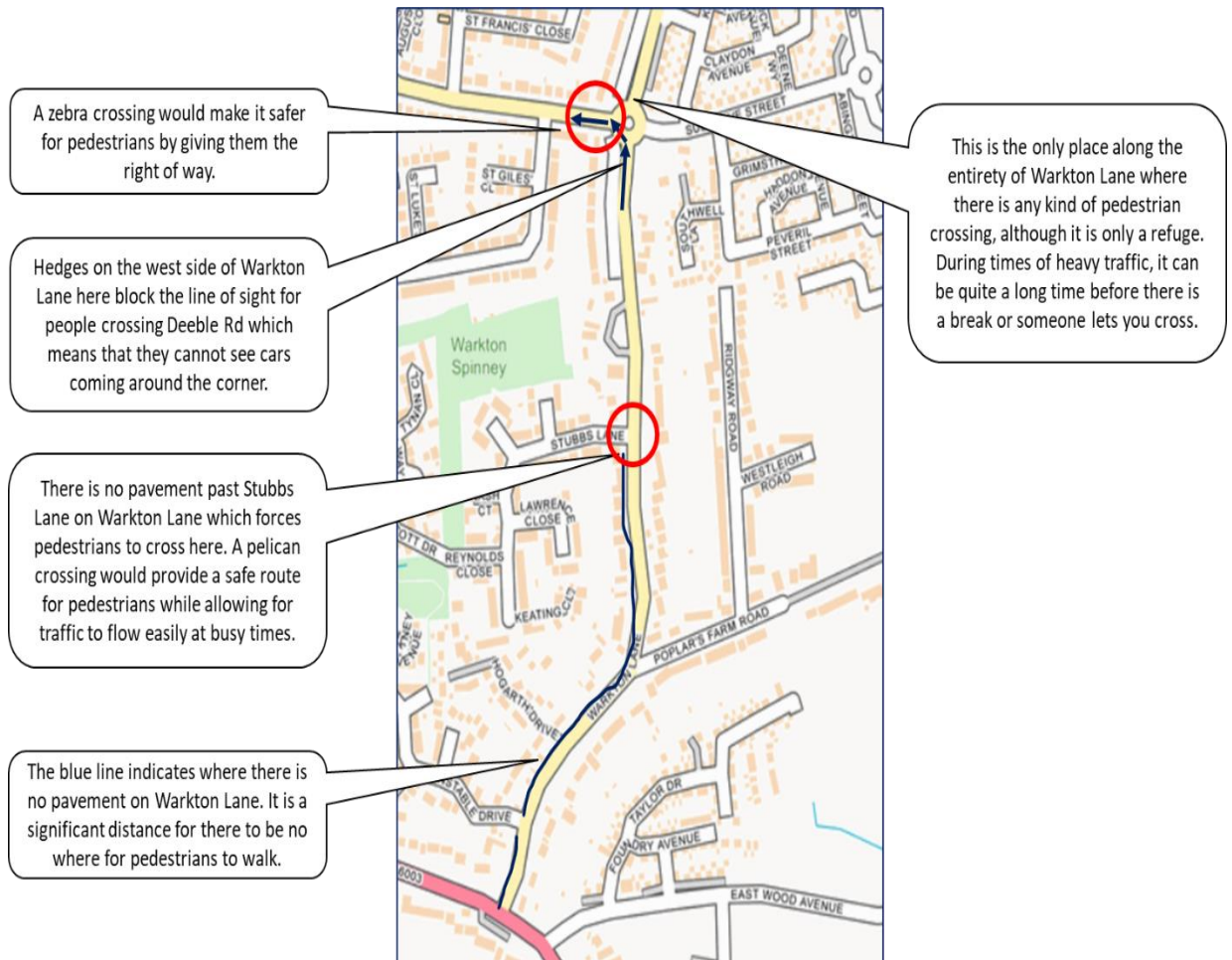


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- a) a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Stubbs lane and Warkton Lane. This is where the pavement on the west side ends (going south) so many people end up crossing here.
- b) a pedestrian crossing is needed on the West side of the Deeble Road Roundabout, as there are no crossings across Deeble Road until the junction with St. Catherine's Road.
- c) the pavement along the west side of Warkton Lane should be extended all the way to Barton Road.

The following plan sets these out in context





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The only pedestrian crossing in the neighbourhood is here, which is nowhere near Warkton Lane. This means it is not a viable alternative for pedestrians crossing Deeble Rd near Warkton Lane.



- 3.3. Mrs Ellis's arguments are that with the development of Hanwood Park, there has been a substantial increase in the amount of traffic in this area. Despite some improvements for car traffic, there has been little done to make the area safe for pedestrians. There are two areas of particular concern – the west side of the roundabout at Deeble Rd & Warkton Lane and the intersection of Stubbs Lane and Warkton Lane. She says:-

The new roundabout at Deeble Rd/Warkton Lane has a lot of traffic going through it. As someone who lives in the area and frequently walks along Warkton Lane with my young son, I have come to learn that it is a very dangerous corner for pedestrians. Because of the hedges on Warkton Lane on the South side of the roundabout, it is impossible for pedestrians who are crossing here to see approaching vehicles travelling north on Warkton Lane who may be turning west onto Deeble Rd. It can become a bit of a mad dash when cars suddenly appear around the corner. Furthermore, at very busy times of the day, it can be a long wait for a break in traffic or a kind motorist to let you cross. There are no other pedestrian crossings anywhere along Deeble Road until St. Catherine's road which is rather far away. I think that a zebra crossing would be appropriate here



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to allow pedestrians to safely cross while not hampering traffic around this corner significantly.

The pavement along the west side of Warkton Lane ends at Stubbs Lane. There is no further pavement on this side of the road until Barton Road. This often forces pedestrians to cross Warkton Lane at this point so that one can continue on their journey. So many people cross at this point that a path has been worn into the verges on either side of Warkton Lane. There is in fact no pedestrian crossing along the entirety of Warkton Lane, other than a pedestrian refuge on the North side of the Deeble Rd roundabout. As Hanwood Park continues to grow, and more amenities and green spaces are installed, there is bound to be more pedestrians from the Ise Lodge estate who will want to cross over Warkton Lane but there is currently no appropriate or safe place to do so along the entirety of the road. I feel that a pelican crossing is required here. This type of pedestrian crossing would still allow traffic to flow during busy times of day while also giving pedestrians a safe way to cross the road when they need to.

There will be people on the Ise Lodge estate who will want to send their children to Hayfield Cross school, as well as the other new primary and the secondary school which are both in development. But it's also the fact that Hanwood park will have loads to offer people in the future - retail parks, green spaces and otherwise, all of which people from the Ise Lodge will want to access. There needs to be a safe crossing across Warkton lane and Deeble road.

I also believe that this needs to be done with some urgency. Anyone who lives here can tell that already traffic has increased significantly in the area. I don't think we should wait until there is an accident, or worse a fatality, stemming from the lack of proper pedestrian crossing before something is done.

- 3.4. There are some pedestrian safety measures already in the planning and implementation stage for the Ise area; these include:-
- traffic calming and a pedestrian refuge on Warkton Lane, north of Deeble Rd.
 - a pedestrian refuge between St Catherines' Rd and Deeble Rd
 - a pedestrian crossing just south of the Garden centre on Warkton Lane
 - moving the 30mph limit north of St Catherine's Rd
 - Two pedestrian crossings on Deeble Rd, one just east of Churchill Way and one just east of St Stephen's are also being planned.

These projects are being paid for from developer contributions. The Highways authority team have also been asked to find out if there are more unused developer contributions that could be applied to other parts of the area.

- 3.5. Without developer contributions, the prospect of Council funded measures are quite slim - they have an annual budget of £300,000 which will pay for two or three zebra crossings throughout the whole of North Northants, so the chances of any one scheme progressing will depend on relative priorities. .

4. Consultation and Engagement

There has been no wider consultation or engagement than this approach from Mrs Ellis.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

None for the Town Council

6. Climate change implications

Measures which encourage pedestrian movements will contribute positively to climate change objectives and improve air quality.

7. Policy Implications

The Council's policy is to ensure that the development at Hanwood park is closely integrated into the rest of Kettering and that the new development provides accessible amenities and services for the wider urban area.

Background Papers

Email correspondence with Mrs Ellis

Clerk's notes of monthly briefing on highways matters from NNC