

Petition: Officers' Response

Title: Install Speed Humps on Freyberg and Queens Drive near Lyall Bay School

Primary Petitioner: Cynthia Knight
Total Signatures: 79 (via ePetition)

Presented by: Paul Barker
Contact officer: Paul Barker
Director responsible: Derek Fry

Officers' recommendation:

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. *Receive the petition and refer it to officers to inform their work*

Background:

The ePetition "Install Speed Humps on Freyberg and Queens Drive near Lyall Bay School" was initiated by Cynthia Knight on 5 February 2013 and closed on 19 April 2013.

The petition was open to all members of the public with internet access to the Council's website. It received 79 signatures.

The following information was included in the ePetition:

We are petitioning the Wellington City Council (WCC) to install speed humps along Queens Drive from Cockburn Street to Tavistock Road, and along Freyberg Street to Wha Road.

The roads around Lyall Bay School are unsafe for neighbouring and school children. Cars pass through at dangerously high speed. 1. Queens Drive curves around and forks into Freyberg Street, and 2. There is high volume traffic in absence of an effective and appropriate speed limit. Therefore the roads are unsafe for children trying to get to and from school. We feel that as a heavily trafficked area speed humps are the best solution for Queens Drive and Freyberg Street as outlined.

Officers' response:

Lyall Bay School is one of those schools that has demanded ongoing attention; it is a big school and as the role and demographics of the school change, so too do the pressures and demands on safety and accessibility.

Both Freyberg Street and Queens Drive have had significant upgrades of pedestrian facilities in recent years as a direct result of the School's concerns. These upgrades have included two new Kea Crossings on Freyberg Street, construction of new footpaths and a new Zebra Crossing on Queens Drive.

Lyall Bay School became a School Travel Plan School in April 2010. As part of this project surveying was completed in June 2010 which identified that 63% of students came by car, 31% walking and 5% by scooter/cycle.

Road safety concerns from the 190 families who completed the survey predominantly identified Onepu Road and Queens Drive as the most dangerous roads. Of the 151 comments provided on road safety, 39 comments related directly to Queens Drive, and 35 comments related to Onepu Road, meaning these two locations accounted for almost 50% of comments about road safety around the school. Other areas of key road concern were varied and localised to children's walking routes, with key concerns identified as high volumes of traffic, and limited safe crossing points.

Some months ago we received a request from Cynthia Night, a concerned parent of Lyall Bay School. This parent is a resident of Queens Drive and her child needs to walk to the zebra crossing at the rear of the School. She is very concerned about the speed of passing vehicles both day and night and requested that the Council install speed humps. As with all requests, we have undertaken a review of the appropriateness of speed humps at this location and have checked our speed surveys and crash information. The review of this data does not support the perception that this section of Queens Drive is unsafe, This, coupled with the road's designation as a Collector Road make the introduction of either speed humps or speed cushions extremely unlikely.

The concerned resident has taken it upon herself to start this online petition seeking support to have humps installed. The school has expressed to council that it is supportive of any measures to improve safety for children, not just speed bumps.

As previously mentioned, we are working with Lyall Bay School through their school travel plan. This plan looks at all how students get to and from each school and helps to highlight areas of concern and identify ways to mitigate those concerns. Lyall Bay School no longer operates a patrol on the Queens Drive crossing; the school's focus appears to be on better managing traffic at their Freyberg Street frontage. We are however offering to install an active school warning sign on each approach to the Queens Drive Zebra Crossing as a result of the parent feedback in the initial surveys and recent complaints. These signs would be activated before and after school to highlight to drivers the likely presence of school children at these times.

I have met with the Principal of Lyall Bay School and have agreed on the location of the active warning signs which will be installed in July in the next financial year. In addition to the warning signs we continue to work with the school to identify solutions to their other concerns.