

AGENDA ITEM

COMMITTEE: SOUTH AND CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: OCTOBER 2007

SUBJECT: PETITION - PELICAN CROSSING NEAR BEECH HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNSTABLE ROAD

REPORT BY: HEAD OF ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORTATION

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES		ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	✓	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING		OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: BISCOT AND DALLOW

PURPOSE

1. To report to this Area Committee the receipt of a petition containing 37 signatures from the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) of Beech Hill Community Primary School concerning the location of the pelican crossing and safety issues in Dunstable Road outside the school.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Committee is recommended to note the report and the proposals for the Dunstable Road Local Safety Scheme detailed in the report entitled Dunstable Road local safety scheme – Consultation at item on this agenda.

BACKGROUND

3. A petition has been received signed by 37 people from the Beech Hill Community Primary School's PTA which includes parents, local people, children and staff. The petition reads as follows:-

'On behalf of the PTA for Beech Hill Community Primary School including parents, local people, children and staff the community have raised concerns regarding the pelican crossing near Beech Hill Community Primary School, Dunstable Road as being extremely dangerous.

The main issue is with the pelican crossing which is located away from the school around a blind bend in which drivers on some occasions have failed to stop on red lights causing a fatal accident and two children being hit.

Incident 1

XXX was hit in the summer of August, 2005 and died on bank holiday Monday.

Incident 2

XXX was hit on the crossing on the 2nd February 2005 and broke his arm. The light was red at the time that he attempted to cross the road.

Incident 3

A third accident has recently happened with a child almost hit on the crossing which was showing a red light again at the time of crossing.

The community have therefore, put a petition together to ask for a speed camera to be put in and a lolly pop person to man the crossing for the times school children will be crossing the road.

We are writing on behalf of the PTA (Parent Teachers Association) of Beech Hill Community Primary School and we believe that something needs to be done urgently before we face another tragedy which will only anger the local community further. It is also our understanding from the police force that if a child has been hit on a stretch of road that it is automatic that a speed camera is installed which has not happened here.

We as a community await your response as soon as possible'.

REPORT

4. There have been seven injury accidents (one classed as serious and six slight) in the vicinity of Beech Hill School during the last three years (1-7-04 to 30-6-07). One accident occurred on the pelican crossing (Incident 2 mentioned above but in December 2005). The other five accidents occurred between Westbourne Road and Birch Link. One of these accident involved a child pedestrian. Neither child pedestrian accidents occurred during school times.
5. Incident 1 mentioned above occurred at the junction of Dunstable Road and Conway Road, involving a well publicised hit and run accident.
6. The pelican was sited in its present location because of the location of vehicular accesses and statutory undertakers apparatus and cannot be moved nearer to the school entrance. This location serves pedestrians going out of town and the pedestrian facilities on the traffic signals at Birch Link serve the pedestrians that are going towards Bury Park and Leagrave Road.
7. Observations were undertaken on 11 September 2007 outside Beech Hill Primary. This showed that the majority of children are accompanied although a lot of parents have three or four children with them. The pedestrian entrance to the school is less than 50m from the pelican crossing and therefore, there are adequate crossing facilities within a reasonable distance and a school crossing patrol is not recommended.
8. There is a mobile camera site at the junction of Conway Close.
9. A consultation is about to start on a local safety scheme for Dunstable Road, which includes works outside Beech Hill Primary School. See report entitled Dunstable Road local safety scheme – Consultation at item XX on this agenda.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications with this report and this has been agreed with Mary Cormack in Legal Services on 13 September 2007.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no financial implications associated with this report. Agreed with the departmental Finance Manager for Environment & Regeneration on 13th September 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

Petition from the Beech Hill Primary School PTA dated 31 July 2007.