

Individual Executive Member Decision

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| Title of Report: | Petition - Whitelands Park Primary School, Thatcham |
| Report to be considered by: | Individual Executive Member Decision |
| Date on which Decision is to be taken: | 23 February 2012 |
| Forward Plan Ref: | ID 2408 |

Purpose of Report: To respond to a petition that has been submitted to the Council.

Recommended Action: That the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational), ICT & Customer Services resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 4 of this report.

Reason for decision to be taken: To provide a response to the petitioners.

Other options considered: N/A

Key background documentation:

- The Petition.
- Results of traffic surveys.
- Results of School Crossing Patrol assessment.
- Individual Decision report (ID 1914).

| Portfolio Member Details | |
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| Name & Telephone No.: | Councillor David Betts - Tel (0118) 942 2485 |
| E-mail Address: | dbetts@westberks.gov.uk |

| Contact Officer Details | |
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| Name: | Andrew Garratt |
| Job Title: | Principal Traffic & Road Safety Engineer |
| Tel. No.: | 01635 519491 |
| E-mail Address: | agarratt@westberks.gov.uk |

Implications

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| Policy: | None arising from this report. |
| Financial: | The introduction of a School Crossing Patrol would require a new post to be funded by the Education Service. |
| Personnel: | The introduction of a School Crossing Patrol would require the creation of a new post. |
| Legal/Procurement: | None arising from this report. |
| Environmental: | None arising from this report. |
| Property: | None arising from this report. |
| Risk Management: | None arising from this report. |
| Equalities Impact Assessment: | EIA Stage 1 attached as Appendix A. |

Consultation Responses

Members:

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| Leader of Council: | Councillor Graham Jones - To date no response has been received, however any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting. |
| Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: | Councillor Brian Bedwell - To date no response has been received, however any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting. |
| Ward Members: | To date no response has been received from Councillors John Horton, Sheila Ellison, David Rendel and Richard Crumly. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting. |
| Opposition Spokesperson: | Councillor Keith Woodhams is delighted with the recommendations as set out in the report. I would like to thank Andrew Garratt Principal Traffic & Road Safety Engineer, for attending a site visit at Whitelands Park Primary School, both in the morning and the afternoon, to see first hand how dangerous it is for parents and children trying to cross the busy roads on their way to school. These measures will be welcomed by everyone attending the school. |
| Local Stakeholders: | N/A |
| Officers Consulted: | Mark Cole, Mark Edwards and Caroline Corcoran |
| Trade Union: | N/A |

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| Is this item subject to call-in? | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box: | | |
| The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Item is Urgent Key Decision | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Report is to note only | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 A petition containing 541 signatures was submitted to West Berkshire Council on 6th December 2011 by Councillor Keith Woodhams. The petition states:

"We, the undersigned, demand West Berkshire Council install a school crossing on both Northfield Road and Sagecroft Road, with safety measures outside the school and a 20 mph limit within the vicinity of the school. There was a near miss outside the front of the school on Thursday 3 November, with a reported one other "near miss incident" in the past year."

- 1.2 It is not currently Council Policy to introduce 20mph speed limits outside schools as many locations would require physical measures to be introduced, which would prove expensive. The Executive considered a report (EX1539) on 20mph speed limits outside schools on 24th April 2008 and resolved that the introduction of such a limit should be considered as an option for schemes identified in the School Safety Project and implemented where appropriate. It was further agreed that the school warning signs with flashing lights be introduced and implemented in the order of the updated School Safety Project and that their effectiveness is monitored.
- 1.3 As a result of concerns from parents a School Crossing Patrol (SCP) assessment was carried out on Sagecroft Road during 2008. The assessment concluded that the justification for a SCP was marginal but after a more detailed investigation it was recommended to introduce a SCP and carry out after survey to determine if it is being frequently used. The recommendation of the assessment was passed to the Education Service to consider funding and recruiting of a SCP Officer.
- 1.4 On 26th August 2009 an Individual Decision report (ID 1914) considered a 151 signature petition requesting the introduction of a Zebra Crossing or School Crossing Patrol (SCP) for Northfield Road between its junctions with Westfield Road and Sagecroft Road. A zebra crossing was not justified but it was recommended that the Education Service consider funding and recruiting a SCP Officer for Northfield Road, between its junctions with Westfield Road and Sagecroft Road.
- 1.5 The recommendations of both assessments were passed to the Education Service in 2009 to consider funding and recruiting a SCP Officer. Unfortunately these

recommendations were not progressed. However, the recent petition has instigated a review and the Education Service has agreed to fund one SCP for Whitelands Park School.

- 1.6 In the last eight years, to the end of October 2011, there have been no recorded injury accidents on Sagecroft Road in the vicinity of the school. However there has been one recorded injury accident on Northfield Road in the vicinity of Sagecroft Road which resulted in a slight injury when a vehicle exiting a car park collided with a vehicle travelling south on Northfield Road.
- 1.7 The speed indicator device was deployed outside Whitelands Park Primary School in January 2011 at the end of the school day. The results showed that:
 - The mean speed of eastbound and westbound traffic was 18mph and 16mph respectively.
 - The 85th percentile speed of eastbound and westbound traffic was 24mph and 21mph respectively.
- 1.8 A traffic survey was undertaken during May 2011 outside Whitelands Park Primary School for a duration of a week. The results showed that:
 - The mean speed of eastbound and westbound traffic was 21.2mph and 20.6mph respectively.
 - The 85th percentile speed of traffic was 26mph for both directions.
 - The average daily volume of eastbound and westbound traffic was 1,742 and 1,194 respectively.
- 1.9 School warning signs with flashing lights have been installed on Sagecroft Road on both approaches to Whitelands Park School as part of the 2011/12 School Safety Programme.
- 1.10 A site meeting was held on 30 January 2012 with the petition organiser, Councillor Keith Woodhams and Andrew Garratt. It was agreed that if a SCP could be introduced it would address many of the safety issues.

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 The Education Service has agreed to fund one SCP post and it is recommended that the SCP be introduced on Sagecroft Road outside Whitelands Park School. It is considered that this would address the main safety concerns for parents taking their children to and from school.
- 2.2 For a SCP to operate safely on Sagecroft Road then a school time waiting restriction would need to be introduced between its junctions with Shakespeare Road and Lamb Close.
- 2.3 To highlight the presence of children crossing Northfield Road, school warning signs with flashing lights could be installed on the approaches to its junction with Sagecroft Road.
- 2.4 Traffic speeds on Northfield Road tend to be controlled by the existing speed cushions. Due to Whitelands Park School recently having the school warning signs with flashing lights installed, the number of private driveway and parked vehicles at the beginning and end of a school day, and current Council policy, it is considered

that a 20mph speed limit is not appropriate. However this may be reviewed with other schools in the future.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the SCP, which is to be funded by the Education Service, should be located on Sagecroft Road.
- 3.2 That a school time waiting restriction be introduced on Sagecroft Road between its junctions with Shakespeare Road and Lamb Close to assist the operation of a SCP.
- 3.3 Install school warning signs with flashing lights on Northfield Road on the approaches to its junction with Sagecroft Road.
- 3.4 That a 20mph speed limit not be introduced but to monitor the effectiveness of the SCP.
- 3.5 That the petition organiser be informed of the decision.

Appendices

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment – Stage 1

APPENDIX A

Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

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| Name of item being assessed: | Petition - Whitelands Park Primary School, Thatcham |
| Version and release date of item (if applicable): | 2 February 2012 |
| Owner of item being assessed: | Andrew Garratt, Principal Traffic & Road Safety Engineer |
| Name of assessor: | Andrew Garratt |
| Date of assessment: | 2 February 2012 |

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| 1. What are the main aims of the item? |
| The main aim of this item is to respond to a petition that has been submitted to the Council. |

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| 2. Note which groups may be affected by the item, consider how they may be affected and what sources of information have been used to determine this. (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation) |
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| Group Affected | What might be the effect? | Information to support this. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Local Residents | See Comments below. | N/A |
| Elderly Pedestrians | See Comments below. | N/A |
| Person with less mobility | See Comments below. | N/A |
| Child pedestrians | See Comments below. | SCP have been shown to have a positive impact in other similar locations. |
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| Further comments relating to the item: |
| Surveys carried out have identified that speeds are appropriate for the nature of the road and are below the 30mph speed limit. There have been no recorded injury accidents in the last 8 years and the proposal to introduce a SCP should have a positive impact on children and parents crossing Sagecroft Road when walking to and from school. |

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| 3. Result (please tick by double-clicking on relevant box and click on 'checked') | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | High Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Medium Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Low Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No Relevance - This does not need to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment |

For items requiring a Stage 2 equality impact assessment, begin the planning of this now, referring to the equality impact assessment guidance and Stage 2 template.

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| 4. Identify next steps as appropriate: | |
| Stage Two required | |
| Owner of Stage Two assessment: | |
| Timescale for Stage Two assessment: | |
| Stage Two not required: | Not required |

Name: Andrew Garratt

Date: 2 February 2012