

Individual Decision

The attached report will be taken as
Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

Tuesday, 7th September, 2010

Ref:	Title	Portfolio Member(s)	Page No.
ID2149	Petition - Englefield Road, Theale	Councillor David Betts	1 - 6



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Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Petition - Englefield Road, Theale
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	07 September 2010
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2149

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 resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in section 4 of this report.

Reason for decision to be taken:

Statutory:
Other:

Non-Statutory:

Other options considered: None.

Key background documentation: The petition.
 Results of the pedestrian and vehicle survey.
 School Crossing Patrol Assessment Report (SCP 012)

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor David Betts - Tel (0118) 942 2485
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Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Andrew Garratt
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Implications

Policy:	None arising from this report.
Financial:	To implement an informal crossing facility would cost an estimated £4,500, for which funding would need to be identified.
Personnel:	None arising from this report.
Legal/Procurement:	None arising from this report.
Environmental:	None arising from this report.
Partnering:	None arising from this report.
Property:	None arising from this report.
Risk Management:	None arising from this report.
Community Safety:	None arising from this report.
Equalities:	None arising from this report.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	To date no response has been received from Councillor Graham Jones. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	To date no response has been received from Councillor Brian Bedwell. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.....
Select Committee Chairman:	N/A
Ward Members:	Councillor Alan Macro requested clarification on the site used for the pedestrian survey but supported the recommendation, provided that funding could be assured for the physical works through Section 106 contribution or other means and also asked that the provision of a School Crossing Patroller be funded by Education Services based on these survey results.
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor Keith Woodhams is happy to support the recommendations.
Local Stakeholders:	N/A
Officers Consulted:	Mark Cole, Mark Edwards
Trade Union:	N/A

Is this item subject to call-in.	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:</p> <p>The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Item is Urgent Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p>		

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 A petition containing 28 signatures was presented by Councillor Alan Macro at a meeting of the full Council on 18th February 2010. The petition states:

“This petition is to get a Zebra crossing or a school crossing patrol for the Englefield Road, Theale, Reading, Berkshire. At peak times, it is getting more and more treacherous to cross, especially with young children and push chairs. Since the low cost housing, more and more young families are using this route to get to Theale Primary School and it is only a matter of time before a serious accident is caused”.

- 1.2 Following the submission of the petition a request was made by Sarah Morgan of Theale Church of England Primary School to have a school crossing patrol site on Englefield Road.
- 1.3 Englefield Road provides a link between Church Street and the A340 Tidmarsh Road at Theale. The road is approximately 6.0 metres wide and is a single lane two-way carriageway that is subject to a 30mph speed limit between its junction with Church Street and a point adjacent to Theale Community Club.
- 1.4 Traffic calming measures in the form of three road narrowing's are located on Englefield Road between its junctions with The Courtyard and west of its junction with Play Platt. There is a system of street lighting within the length of the 30mph speed limit.
- 1.5 In the latest five year period to the end of May 2010 there have been no recorded injury accidents in the vicinity of the requested pedestrian crossing.
- 1.6 To determine the number of pedestrian movements across Englefield Road a pedestrian and vehicle survey was undertaken on Tuesday 25th May 2010 to cover the morning peak period, between 07:30 and 09:30 and the evening peak period between 15:00 and 18:00. The number of pedestrian movements was recorded over approximately 50 metre lengths either side of its junction with Play Platt as this includes the access to a footpath that leads to the rear of Theale Primary School.
- 1.7 The survey also identified the number of children crossing the road so that an assessment for a school crossing patrol could be carried out.

2. Results of Survey

- 2.1 The justification for a crossing facility is based on a formula known as PV^2 where P is the average number of pedestrian movements during the busiest 4 hours and V is the average volume of vehicles during the same period.
- 2.2 The section with the highest number of pedestrian movements was to the west of Englefield Road's junction with Play Platt. During the busiest four hour period, which was from 07:30 to 9:30 and 15:00 to 17:00, an average of 114 pedestrians per hour were surveyed crossing the road of which 64 per hour were children. During the same period the average two way volume of traffic was 231 vehicles per hour.

2.3 The assessment for a School Crossing Patrol is also based on the formula known as PV^2 where in this case P is the total number of child pedestrian movements during the busiest 30 minutes and V is the total number of passenger car units (1PCU = 1 car) during the same period recorded within 50 metres of the requested pedestrian crossing. During the busiest 30minute period, 08:15 to 08:45, a total number of 81 child pedestrians were surveyed crossing the road. During the same period the total number of passenger car units passing was 201.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The results of the survey show that a formal crossing facility is not justified due to the number of pedestrian movements and that there are no further special circumstances to justify a formal crossing facility.
- 3.2 Experience has shown that the introduction of a crossing facility that does not meet the criteria is detrimental to road safety. Where formal crossing facilities are not considered justified other measures are investigated. However to the west of its junction with Play Platt there is a road narrowing, which is not designed as a crossing point.
- 3.3 An informal crossing facility comprising of drop kerbs, tactile paving and a new section of footway linking with the existing footways on Englefield Road could be introduced at the road narrowing to the west of its junction with Play Platt. The cost to introduce the facility is estimated at £4,500, for which funding would need to be identified.
- 3.4 The assessment for a school crossing patrol shows that a patrol is justified. However the funding for a patrol is a matter for Education Services and the assessment report should be sent to them for consideration.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Given that the criteria for a formal crossing is not met it is recommended that a formal crossing facility is not introduced at this time.
- 4.2 It is recommended, subject to funding being identified, that an informal crossing facility be introduced at the road narrowing as detailed in paragraph 3.3 above.
- 4.3 That a copy of the School Crossing Patrol assessment be passed to Education Services for their consideration of introducing a School Crossing Patrol, which could operate at the road narrowing.
- 4.4 The petition organiser should be advised accordingly.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.

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