

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR HARBOROUGH**

15TH SEPTEMBER 2010

**PETITION: BROUGHTON ASTLEY – STATION ROAD – REQUEST FOR
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To report the outcome of investigations following the presentation of a petition requesting the introduction of a zebra crossing on Station Road, Broughton Astley.

Background

2. A petition containing 3107 signatures was presented by Mr W. Liquorish, CC to the Harborough Highways Forum on 26 May 2010.
The petition read as follows:-

“We the undersigned, petition Leicestershire County Council to take immediate action to install a zebra crossing outside the village hall on Station Road, Broughton Astley in order to ensure the safety of the school children who have to cross this busy road on a daily basis; and also to support the wider community”.

3. Requests for pedestrian crossing facilities are assessed against the County Councils Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2006-2011 objective of ‘Improving Access to Facilities’. The petitioners concerns have been assessed against this objective.
4. A location plan is attached as Appendix A.

Outcome of Investigations

Route Information

5. The section of Station Road in question is a local distributor road approximately 600 metres in length running between Main Street and the B581, Broughton Way. It is predominantly residential with a large open space to the north. Two schools (Thomas Estley Community College and Old Mill Primary School) are located on the route, along with the village hall and White Horse public house. There is a dental surgery to the south, opposite the schools.
6. Station Road is subject to a 30mph speed limit. The daily traffic flow is in the order of 5000 vehicles, of which approximately 21 (<1%) are heavy goods vehicles.

Existing Measures Implemented by the County Council

7. In an effort to improve road safety on Station Road and in the vicinity of the schools, the County Council has implemented a number of road safety measures in recent years. The latest 5-year accident record for Station Road has no reported injury accidents.

Traffic Calming

8. Station Road is subject to traffic calming in the form of raised flat top tables; records indicate the speed driven by the vast majority of drivers is no greater than 26.5 mph.

Advisory 20mph School Safety Zone

9. Thomas Estley Community College and Old Mill Primary School have submitted a combined school travel plan and, as a consequence, the County Council installed new safety zone signing advising motorists to drive no more than 20mph during school term time.
10. These zones have been introduced outside many schools throughout Leicestershire and have proved to be successful in raising awareness amongst both parents and motorists of the presence of a school. The flashing ambers at school times together with the high impact low cost signing highlight to drivers that they are entering into a school zone, which in turn encourages not only slower speeds but safer and more attentive driving behaviour.

School Crossing Patrol

11. Following the resignation of the school crossing patrol warden who operated at the speed hump outside the village hall on Station Road, the County Council has since been successful in appointing a new warden to operate at this site, ready for the start of the new school term.

Other Initiatives

12. In addition to the traffic calming and advisory 20mph speed limit fronting the school, Old Mill Primary School actively encourages Junior Road Safety Officers and has signed up to the Star Walker initiative. Both schools also receive regular visits from County Council road safety and school travel plan officers.
13. The local community has participated in the Community Speed Watch initiative, which is supported by the County Council.

Improving Access to Facilities

Request for Pedestrian Crossing on Station Road

14. In 2009, following the resignation of the school crossing patrol warden the previous year, a request was made for the introduction of a formal crossing facility on Station Road.

15. The County Council receives many requests to provide facilities to assist pedestrians. These are considered on the basis of an assessment process aligned to Department for Transport guidance. Pedestrian and traffic volume, crossing difficulty, personal injury accidents, vehicle speeds and width of road are taken into consideration. In addition, special factors are considered such as division of community, local facilities and the presence of schools and play areas. The assessment procedure also calculates the priority of successful bidders relative to other competing sites.
16. Pedestrian/vehicle conflict was recorded mid-week during school term time using standard video camera equipment over a 12 hour period (7am to 7pm).

Results and Outcome of Assessment

17. 710 pedestrians were recorded crossing at this location, of which 367 (52%) were children. The predominant pedestrian movement recorded was during the periods 8am to 10am and 3pm to 4pm.
18. The average delay for pedestrians was recorded at 7.5 seconds. Although this figure represents minimal delay, based on the number of vulnerable users and volume of traffic recorded, the level of conflict is significant enough to consider further action.
19. These findings indicate that a pedestrian crossing facility is justified at this location. A zebra crossing is the most appropriate form of facility-for the prevailing conditions and characteristics of this site.
20. The 2010/11 transportation capital programme is fully committed and there are insufficient funds to develop the scheme during the current year. Further uncertainty about future funding is linked to the Coalition Governments "Comprehensive Spending Review" on 20th October 2010. This is likely to include significant cuts in funding for the Department for Transport. It will be necessary for the County Council to review its priorities in the light of reductions in capital allocations and the transport objectives of the new Local Transport Plan. It is therefore not possible at this time to give an indication as to when, or if funds will become available to complete the scheme. The current transportation capital programme has already been subject to £2.01 million in-year cuts.
21. The current estimated cost of the crossing is £25,000 including design and consultation.

Further Developments

22. In order to try and bring the implementation of this crossing forward, the local community/residents have successfully secured £10,000 third party funding held by the 'Harborough District Together Partnership' The scheme is included in the 2010/11 Transportation Capital Programme as a reserve to enable design to commence in the event of sufficient funding being secured.
23. The County Council's 'Better Places' team are currently negotiating with Broughton Astley Parish Council with regards to securing the additional funds required to

construct the zebra crossing in advance of transportation capital funding becoming available.

Conclusions

24. The County Council has implemented a number of measures and engaged in various initiatives in an effort to improve road safety on Station Road and in the vicinity of the two local schools.
25. A new school crossing patrol warden has been appointed to start in the new autumn term.
26. The pedestrian crossing assessment process supports the introduction of a zebra crossing at this site.
27. The current 2010/11 transportation capital programme is fully committed and there are insufficient funds to complete the scheme. In light of capital reductions arising from the forthcoming government spending review it is not possible to give an indication as to when, or if funds will become available to complete the scheme.
28. £10,000 third party funding has successfully been acquired. The scheme is currently included as a reserve in the 2010/11 transportation capital programme to enable design to commence subject to sufficient third party funding being secured.
29. Negotiations are ongoing to try and secure additional third party funds required to construct the zebra crossing in advance of transportation capital funding becoming available.

Recommendations

30. That the content of this report be noted.

Officer to Contact

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Background Papers

Petition containing 3107 signatures together with an accompanying letter is held on the Chief Executive's Department petition file.