



SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE

Petitions from Residents of Feltham Hill Road, Ashford

20 February 2006

KEY ISSUE AND SUMMARY:

To consider the receipt of three petitions from residents regarding the proposed zebra crossing on Feltham Hill Road, Ashford. The first petition is against the installation of a proposed zebra crossing near Park Road and the second and third petitions seek to retain the bus stop at its current location. To enable the zebra crossing to be installed, this bus stop would need to be relocated.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to note this report.

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Safe Routes to Schools questionnaires were circulated to Ashford Schools in 2003. The responses cited the speed of traffic and the lack of crossing places as problems along children's routes to school. To address these responses a proposal to introduce a zebra crossing to Feltham Hill Road by Park Road was approved for progression last year. The proposal has been safety audited and advertised by public notice. It is supported by Surrey Police, SCC's Road Safety Officer and the Headteacher and Governors of Echelford School. Funding is available to introduce the scheme during the current financial year.
- 1.2 The Local Transportation Service for Spelthorne has received a petition of 29 signatures of residents who would be directly affected by the installation of the zebra crossing. It has also received two petitions from 54 + 14 residents who would not wish to see the bus stop relocated from its current position. Several letters from residents who object to the scheme and the relocation of the bus stop have also been received.

2. ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 2.1 On 09 February the Chairman of this Committee and the Local Transportation Manager met some of the residents who would be directly affected by the installation of the zebra crossing and agreed to review the proposal. Several options were considered and are set out in the response to a question from a member of the public, elsewhere on the agenda of this Committee.
- 2.2 A meeting scheduled for 13 February with representatives from the Chairman of this Committee, SCC officers from the Local Transportation Service and Passenger Transport Groups and from Transport for London to permanently relocate the bus stop was cancelled while the need for a crossing was reviewed.
- 2.3 On 14 February the Chairman of this Committee, the Local Transportation Manager and Borough Councillors attended a meeting at the site of the proposal. Those at the meeting considered the responses to the Safe Routes to Schools Questionnaires and noted the scheme is supported by Surrey Police, SCC's Road Safety Officer and the Headteacher and Governors of Echelford School. Members stated there was a need for a zebra crossing for use by the wider community.
- 2.4 Those at the meeting noted that the Local Transportation Service had received a petition against the zebra crossing from residents who would be directly affected by it, a petition from those who would not wish to see the bus stop relocated from its current position and letters from residents who objected to the possible relocation of the bus stop to outside their homes. The meeting considered the representations that had been made to the Council but maintained that there is the need for a zebra crossing on

Feltham Hill Road near Park Road for use by children on their journeys to and from school and also for use by the wider community. They concluded that the scheme should be implemented.

- 2.5 The meeting to permanently relocate the bus stop will now need to be rearranged.

3. CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Residents adjacent to the proposal were informed by letter on 19 December 2005 and the proposed zebra crossing was advertised by Public Notice.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Local Transport Plan funding has been allocated to implement this scheme.

5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This proposal would encourage walking, which supports the objectives of the Local Transport Plan.

6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no implications.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no implications.

8. CONCLUSION & REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The response to the Safe Routes to Schools questionnaire that was carried out during 2003 gave an indication of the hazards that children and the parents / carers encountered on their way to school.

- 8.2 Having considered the petitions and the benefit that the zebra crossing would provide to the wider community it was agreed to implement the scheme.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Petitions received on 07 and 09 February 2006 and dated 20 February 2006

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