



**WALTON ROAD, MAYBURY –
PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN
IMPROVEMENTS OUTSIDE
MAYBURY INFANT SCHOOL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR WOKING
22 OCTOBER 2003**

KEY ISSUE:

To consider proposals for improvements to pedestrian facilities in Walton Road, Maybury, outside Maybury Infant School.

SUMMARY:

Existing conditions for parents and children outside Maybury Infant School are poor; the footways are narrow and schoolchildren are crossing Walton Road between parked vehicles. The proposed scheme provides widened footways, a level crossing point by means of a speed

table, and removes parking from outside the school.

CONSULTATIONS:

The head teacher and caretaker of Maybury Infant School have been consulted and support the proposals.

The Police have been consulted and support the proposals.

Local businesses opposite the school have been consulted.

The appropriate County Council and Borough Council Members have been consulted and support the proposals.

Surrey Ambulance Service, Surrey Fire and Rescue, Woking Cycle Users' Group and Woking For Pedestrians have been consulted and their views will be reported orally at the meeting.

Local residents will be consulted before the proposals are implemented.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree:

that the proposed pedestrian improvements shown on Drawing No. 11626 be approved for construction.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1 Walton Road links Woking Town Centre with Maybury and Sheerwater. It is a one-way road and carries large volumes of local traffic heading out of Woking. It is mainly residential in character, with several shops, a school and a church, and there is a good deal of pedestrian activity throughout its length. It was traffic calmed, by means of speed tables, in 1993, in order to combat a poor pedestrian casualty record.
- 2 Maybury Infant School is located on Walton Road, between Portugal Road and Marlborough Road, and caters for pupils between the ages of 4 and 7 years. (See location plan attached at Annex A). Large numbers of children need to cross Walton Road to get to the school. A school crossing patrol, manned by the school caretaker, operates at school times. However, the narrow footways mean that schoolchildren cannot congregate at the crossing point without blocking the footway and/or spilling into the carriageway. Additionally, the presence of parked cars can block drivers' views of the crossing patrol and crossing children and vice versa. These problems have been identified by both the County and Borough Council Members for the area, and a scheme has been prepared which will address these issues.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- 3 The proposed improvements are shown on Drawing No. 11626. (See Annex B).
- 4 The scheme involves widening the footways on both sides of the road between Portugal Road and Marlborough Road, with an additional speed table placed where pupils cross the road. New pedestrian guardrailing will direct pedestrians to the crossing point where the crossing patrol will operate, and bollards will be erected at the footway edge to prevent vehicles from being parked on the footway.
- 5 The scheme will provide a safe, level crossing of Walton Road and the widened footway will enable pupils to wait safely to cross the road, and enable other pedestrians to walk past unencumbered. The additional speed table will ensure that vehicle speeds immediately outside the school are reduced. The carriageway width will be 4 metres, which is adequate to enable a large vehicle to pass without "squeezing" cyclists. The reduced width will, however, effectively remove parking from this section of Walton Road, thus affording pupils a clear view of oncoming drivers and vice versa. Any displaced parking can be accommodated nearby on Walton Road, Portugal Road or Marlborough Road.
- 6 The Sixt Kenning car and van hire premises opposite the school has deliveries and collections of vehicles about once per month. The transporter loads and unloads from Walton Road, outside the premises. With the widened footways, this will no longer be possible. However, there is scope to use other sections of Walton Road nearby, or Marlborough Road or Maybury Road, which runs parallel to Walton Road. The actual location chosen by the transporter driver will depend on the number and position of vehicles already parked in these locations.
- 7 There has been one accident outside the school in the last three years. This

occurred in July 2002 and involved a child of pre-school age running into the road and being struck by a vehicle.

- 8 Once the scheme has been implemented, the Road Safety Officer will visit the school to provide additional road safety training for the pupils.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9 The cost of the proposals is estimated to be £18,000 and will be funded from capital allocation (£15,000 agreed June 2003), Members' Allocation (£1,000 came forward from 2002/03) and the "Aids to Movement" budget for 2003/4 (£2,000).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10 The widened footways will improve conditions for adults and children walking along Walton Road and, together with the additional speed table, will provide a safe crossing point. The proposals are in line with the Local Transport Plan strategies of encouraging more journeys on foot, improving road safety and calming traffic.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 11 There are no crime and disorder implications.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12 The crossing will be on one level and will be provided with tactile paving, thus assisting those with mobility and visual impairments.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13 The existing crossing facilities on Walton Road, outside Maybury Infant School, are poor, with narrow footways and indiscriminate parking. The proposals will provide a safe, convenient crossing point, free from parked vehicles, whilst allowing pedestrians to walk unencumbered along Walton Road.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

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