

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2014

LEAD OFFICER: Rebecca Harrison



SUBJECT: ROAD SAFETY OUTSIDE SCHOOLS REPORT
 Boxgrove Primary School
 St Peters Catholic Secondary School
 St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

DIVISION: Guildford South East / Guildford East

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Local member and resident concern has been expressed over the safety of children arriving and leaving Boxgrove Primary School, St Peters Catholic Secondary School and St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School and the associated congestion caused by school journey traffic. This report will propose utilising the county council's Road Safety Outside Schools Policy (**Annex A**) to evaluate the issues raised and proposes a further report back to committee with outcomes and recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:

- (i) Agree the proposal to investigate the above schools in accordance to the councils newly approved policy.
- (ii) Note that highway improvements addressing congestion, accessibility, safety, economy and future maintenance liabilities in the Boxgrove area may be recommended in a future report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The outcome of this process may recommend highway measures that would help to reduce traffic speeds and reduce antisocial parking and would improve the road environment to encourage more walking, scooting and cycling to school. A successful increase in these modes of transportation would contribute to fewer car journeys and less motor vehicle congestion. The recommended school travel plan and road safety education would also help to improve road safety and reduce reliance on the car for the school journey.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 One of the most frequently expressed road safety concerns is that of the safety of children outside schools. At school drop off and pick up times the roads in the immediate vicinity of schools are especially busy and there is usually a higher level of vehicle, pedestrian, scooter and cyclist activity. This causes congestion resulting in slower vehicle speeds and very often leads to frustration from residents and motorists at the apparent chaos caused by parents and children arriving or leaving the school.
- 1.2 Concerns have been expressed over the safety of children arriving and leaving Boxgrove Primary School, St Peters Catholic Secondary School and St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School in Guildford. There have also been ongoing concerns over the behaviour of parents parking inappropriately in the vicinity of the named schools and related congestion.
- 1.3 A future report to the Local Committee will describe the results of investigations into these issues and will present possible highway and road safety education improvements to address the problems identified. These have been developed in accordance with the county council's Road Safety Outside Schools policy approved by county council Cabinet on 24 June 2014.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 A report will be brought to the next Local Committee which will focus on the components listed below; this will provide a detailed analysis of each school specified. A site survey will be carried out at each site during school peak times. Other area studies such as the Guildford Town and Approaches Movement Study will be taken in to account as part of this process.
 - a. Site Description and Existing Infrastructure
 - b. Perceived Problems
 - c. Analysis of Road Collision Data
 - d. Speed Survey Data
 - e. Post Code and Sustainable Travel Data
 - f. Road User Behaviour Observations
 - g. School Travel Plan and Road Safety Education

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 A report will be brought to the next Local Committee which will outline various options that have been considered as part of this process.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 A meeting was held with the Divisional Member Councillor Brett – Warburton to discuss the scope of our investigations. Site visits will be undertaken during October which will include police colleagues, local highway engineers, road safety team and sustainable travel team.
- 4.2 The Divisional and Local Members and Schools Leadership Teams will be consulted as part of this process.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The proposals that will be presented will need to be prioritised alongside other schemes within Guildford using the countywide scheme assessment process to ensure value for money. This will take into account the likely effect of the proposals on congestion, accessibility, safety, economy and future maintenance liabilities. Any recommended school travel plan and road safety education activities could be delivered using existing staff resources.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 This report has been created in accordance with the council's Road Safety Outside Schools Policy which has been subject to Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment. Highway improvements are subject to independent road safety audit which take into account the needs of all road users including those with mobility impairment.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 Future proposals presented within further reports will be developed following consultation with the Local and Divisional Member and School Leadership Teams. If implemented they would improve road safety and encourage more walking, cycling and scooting to school and would help reduce car journeys, anti social parking and congestion which have a negative impact on the local community.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Guildford Local Committee approve for this process be implemented at the schools mentioned within this report.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 If approved the Sustainable Travel Team will lead the process and work with the school and colleagues to implement the Road Safety Outside Schools Policy.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Guildford Local Committee Transportation Task Group

Annexes:

Annex A: Road Safety Outside Schools Policy.
