

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

DATE: 23 MARCH 2016

LEAD OFFICER: JOHN HILDER

SUBJECT: ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ZEBRA CROSSING

DIVISION: GUILDFORD WEST



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:
This report provides an update following the December meeting when the committee considered a petition for a pelican crossing to replace the zebra crossing on the Aldershot Road at St Joseph's School.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
<p>The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:</p> <p>(i) Note the contents of this report.</p>
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
<i>No recommendations are made to the committee.</i>

1. BACKGROUND**Petition**

- 1.1 The December meeting of the committee considered a petition asking for the zebra crossing at St Joseph's School to be replaced with a pelican crossing.
- 1.2 The officer response noted the zebra was commissioned in May 2014 as part of the committee funded programme of highway improvement schemes (ITS schemes) for 2013/14.
- 1.3 The response also noted that since installation the orange belisha beacons had been upgraded to high intensity 'zebrite' units and that as a result of site inspections by Highways and Police officers changes in advance signing and

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road markings were planned. An additional advance warning sign has now been installed and additional 'SLOW' markings have been ordered.

- 1.4 The meeting was advised that the request had been considered by the Transportation Task Group on 19 October, which recommended that the committee used the expected capital funding for 2016/17 to install unfinished schemes. As a result none of the requested schemes on the running list, including upgrading the zebra crossing to a pelican, were included in the forward programme for 2016/17. However, the committee was advised that current proposed schemes would be reviewed at future Task Group meetings.

Accidents

- 1.5 As the committee will be very aware, sadly there have been two accidents at the crossing in recent months.
- 1.6 In November a pregnant mother lost her child as a result of being struck by a vehicle while using the crossing during the morning school run.
- 1.7 In February a young boy was injured, again being struck by a vehicle while using the crossing during the morning school run.
- 1.8 The second accident is the subject of ongoing police enquiries, while the first resulted in a successful prosecution for driving without due care and attention.

Site Inspections

- 1.9 Surrey Highways Safety & Area Team officers and the Police Road Safety officer for west Surrey visited the site on several occasions in December and January to observe operation of the crossing during the morning and afternoon school runs.
- 1.10 The Highways Safety officer summarised their findings in a report to the Area Highway Manager (AHM).

'At the time of observation the crossing in my opinion worked well, and I believe has bedded in well since installation. The driver behaviour observed was courteous and responsive, and was predicting what pedestrians (often children) would do.'

'Should the school wish to pursue the School Crossing Patrol option, although SCC would not fund this position we would support this post through training and resource (equipment), we are also happy to offer Pedestrian Awareness Skills courses to the pupils delivered through the schools teaching assistants.'
- 1.11 Note that John Fury also visited the site in February in the company of the school head and the Surrey Highways Safety officer.

Further Task Group recommendations for the 2016/17 budget

- 1.12 As at item 13 Highways Update the budget for 2016/17 was announced in late February at a significantly higher level than had been anticipated in the

Autumn. The Task Group discussed how the additional funding should be allocated and their recommendations are made at item 13 Highways Update, which includes the following at 1.13.

'1.13 Note that the zebra crossing at St Joseph's School had been assessed as 'Medium' in the Autumn of 2015. The Area Highway Manager had the crossing re-assessed in February in view of the two accidents that happened over the winter, and it scored as 'High'. The Chairman discussed this with TTG members who agreed in view of the high value of a pelican crossing, which would mean several other schemes would have to be deferred if it were to be funded in 2016/17, and the measures being put in place to provide a school crossing patrol at the zebra, it should not be recommended for funding in the coming year.'

School Crossing Patrol

1.13 At the time of writing it is understood that volunteers have come forward for both the morning and evening school runs, are presently in training, and that crossing patrols will be in place by the end of March. It is further understood that salary costs are being jointly met by St Joseph's Rydeshill Preparatory School.

1.14 The AHM considers a school crossing patrol operating on the zebra is probably safer for schoolchildren and parents than a pelican. The patrol person will control those on foot and will only signal them to cross from the centre of the crossing when satisfied that traffic has stopped and it is absolutely safe for them to do so.

2. OPTIONS:

2.1 No options are suggested.

3. CONSULTATIONS:

3.1 As described in the report.

4. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 There are no financial implications for the committee.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 None

6. LOCALISM:

6.1 N/A.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 None.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

8.1 . No recommendations are made to the committee.

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

9.1 The school crossing patrol will commence by the end of March.

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Consulted:
As described within the report

Annexes: None

Sources/background papers:
Local Committee for Guildford:
Wednesday 8 December 2015: Minutes, Annex A, Petitions, St Joseph's School
petition.'