

Stourbridge Area Committee 17 January 2011

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

School Crossing Patrol facility – Heath Farm Road, Stourbridge

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members about the decision to remove the school crossing patrol facility at Heath Farm Road, Stourbridge, which took place in line with the Council's School Crossing Patrol Deployment Policy.
2. This school crossing patrol site serves Gig Mill Primary School.

Background

3. The permanent school crossing patrol officer at Heath Farm Road resigned and terminated his employment with Dudley Council on 31 August 2008.
4. In line with the Council's policy that was approved by the Cabinet Member for Transportation, a traffic/pedestrian survey was arranged to ensure that the site still met the minimum requirement. The results of these surveys are provided in terms of the theoretical 'potential conflict' between vehicles and pedestrians at a location, expressed as 'PV2'.
5. A copy of the School Crossing Patrol Deployment Policy is kept in the Members' Room. The policy is also available for anyone to view on www.dudley.gov.uk/schoolcrossingpatrols
6. The statistical count showed that the site fell well short of the minimum requirement and so the school were informed that the patrol would be removed.
7. Following representations from the Head Teacher, it was agreed to continue to cover the site until an additional warning sign could be erected. The erection of the variable electronic warning sign took longer than was anticipated. The sign was not installed until the summer of 2010.
8. The Council again wrote to the school, informing them that the site would no longer be covered starting in the 2010/11 academic year. The Council received many requests from the public and the school for the school crossing patrol to continue to be temporarily provided. A petition was also presented to the Council requesting the

permanent continuation of the facility. The Council agreed to carry out another survey and to cover the site until the results were available.

9. A second investigation was carried out on 15 September, 2010. The second survey confirmed that the count falls well below the minimum required to meet the criteria for the provision of a school crossing patrol in Heath Farm Road. From a survey that took place on 15 September 2010, the highest PV2 calculation showed a value of 364,086. The minimum PV2 requirement is for a score of 4,000,000. Even if additional potential factors were included, Heath Farm Road would still fall well below the minimum requirement for the continuation of a school crossing patrol facility.

Finance

10. The cost of funding this site is approximately £1,500 each year at current rates. If the recommendation of this report is supported, the funding saved would be used to provide a facility at a site that meets the deployment policy.

Law

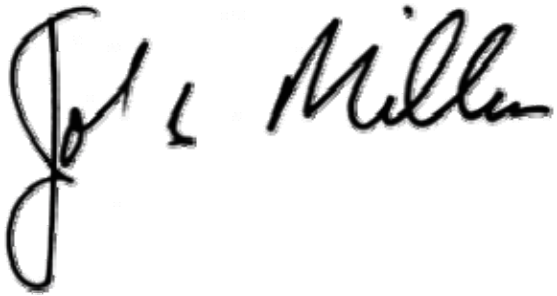
11. Sustainable School Travel Strategies are part of the Education & Inspection Act 2007. The Council may appoint staff as it considers necessary for the discharge of its functions upon such reasonable terms and conditions as it thinks fit under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972.
12. The Council as Highway Authority has responsibility for the promotion of road safety measures to reduce the number and severity of road accident casualties. These duties are set out in Chapter 52 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act, Section 39.
13. School Crossing Patrols are established under Section 26 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended by the Transport Act 2000.

Equality Impact

14. The proposals within this report comply with the Council's equal opportunities policy. Consideration has been given to assisting the safety of children crossing Heath Farm Road with the provision of an additional road safety sign and carriageway markings.

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and forward their comments to the Cabinet Member for Transportation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Millar'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

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John Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers