

Stourbridge Area Committee 27 June 2011

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

School Crossing Patrol facility – Heath Farm Road, Stourbridge

Purpose of Report

1. To update Members regarding the School Crossing Patrol facility at Heath Farm Road, Stourbridge.

Background

2. The School Crossing Patrol site in Heath Farm Road serves Gig Mill Primary School was established in the 1980s by the Police before the Council took over this responsibility.
3. In line with the Council's policy, a traffic/pedestrian survey was arranged to ensure that the site still met the minimum requirement. The results of these surveys are measured in terms of the 'potential conflict' between vehicles and pedestrians.
4. 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
5. 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.
6. 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 place in summer of 2010.
7. The Council again wrote to the school, informing them that the site would no longer be covered 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 continuation of the facility. The Council agreed to carry out another survey and to cover the site until the results were available.

8. 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 (technical calculation of potential conflict between vehicles and pedestrians) calculation showed a value of 364,086. The minimum PV2 requirement is for a score of 4,000,000.
9. A third investigation was carried out on 18 April 2011. The results of this investigation still 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.
10. Data from the permanent Vehicle Activated Sign unit on the north bound lane of Heath Farm Road indicates that vehicle speeds in Heath Farm Road fall well below the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) police speed enforcement levels.
11. Records indicate that no reported personal injury accidents occurred in Heath Farm Road in the vicinity of the road junctions to either side of the pedestrian crossing point.

Finance

12. The cost of funding this site is approximately £1,500 each year at current rates.

Law

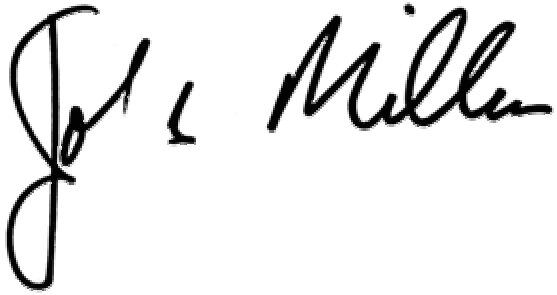
13. Sustainable School Travel Strategies are part of the Education & Inspection Act 2007. The Council may appoint staff as it considers necessary for the discharge of its functions upon such reasonable terms and conditions as it thinks fit under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972.
14. The Council 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.
15. School Crossing Patrols are established under Section 26 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended by the Transport Act 2000.

Equality Impact

16. 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 additional road safety signs and carriageway markings.

Recommendation

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



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List of Background Papers

Report to Stourbridge Area Committee 17 January 2011