

**Report to:** Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

**Date of meeting:** 22 June 2015

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Petition calling on the County Council to install a Pelican Crossing outside St Thomas A Becket School, Eastbourne

**Purpose:** To consider a response to a petition for a pelican crossing outside the school

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that:

- (1) A scheme to convert the existing zebra crossing outside the school to a light controlled puffin crossing has been assessed using the scheme prioritisation process for local transport improvements;
  - (2) The scheme is not of sufficient priority to be considered for funding through the Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements; and
  - (3) They may wish to consider working with the school and Eastbourne Borough Council to submit an application for the scheme to be considered for potential match funding as part of the County Council's Community Match Initiative.
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## **1 Background Information**

1.1. At the County Council Meeting on 10 February 2015 Councillor Pat Rodohan presented a petition to the Chairman of the County Council stating:

*"We the undersigned, request that the ESCC HIGHWAYS looks urgently at installing a pelican crossing outside our children's school for the safety of all before there is a fatality."*

1.2. A copy of the petition is available in the Members Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and that a spokesperson for the petitioners be invited to address the Committee or Lead Member. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

## **2. Supporting Information**

2.1. There is an existing zebra crossing provided to serve pedestrians crossing Lewes Road/Prideaux Road, Eastbourne. The safety record of this crossing is good, with one collision resulting in slight injuries to a pedestrian recorded here in the last three years. This site would not be a priority for improvement as a stand-alone local safety scheme and, therefore, a scheme to convert the existing zebra crossing into a modern, light controlled puffin crossing (previously known as a pelican crossing) has been assessed for inclusion in the County Council's Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements.

2.2. The County Council has a limited amount of funding available to develop local transport improvements. As part of the introduction of the third Local Transport Plan (LTP), a scheme prioritisation process has been developed. The process is used to help prioritise the numerous requests received for local transport improvements and so to help determine which schemes should be funded from the County Council's capital allocation. An assessment of a potential scheme to provide a light controlled crossing at this site did not meet the benchmark to enable it to be taken forward for further consideration.

2.3. In June 2014 the County Council launched the Community Match Initiative which aims to help local communities to take forward transport improvements that are locally important, but are not of sufficient priority to be fully funded by the County Council. The local community retains ownership of the scheme and is primarily responsible for undertaking local consultation. Any application needs to be supported by the local Borough, Town or Parish Council. There is the potential for match funding by the County Council of up to 50 percent of the design and construction costs of schemes that are selected for inclusion in the programme. A total of £100,000 has been allocated in the Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements to match fund the request for schemes that are received in 2015-16.

2.4. A meeting has been held with Councillor Rodohan and representatives from the school to discuss road safety issues, both at the zebra crossing and other roads around the school. The types of improvements that could be progressed and the likely cost of each option were explained. The lead petitioner may wish to consider whether the school and local residents would jointly support a community led initiative; they may also wish to approach Eastbourne Borough Council to ensure that they would support such a scheme

### **3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1. A scheme to convert the existing zebra crossing to a light controlled puffin crossing has been assessed using the approved scheme prioritisation process for local transport improvements. The scheme is not of sufficient priority for funding through the Capital Programme for Local Transport Improvements.

3.2. It is recommended that the Lead Member informs the petitioners that a crossing scheme will not be taken forward at this time. In addition, the petitioners may wish to consider approaching St Thomas A Becket School and Eastbourne Borough Council to ascertain the level of support for an application for a scheme to be match funded through the County Council's Community Match Initiative.

### **RUPERT CLUBB**

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### LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Rodohan

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None