

Highways Committee

15 January 2010

**C183 Pelton Lane, Pelton
Proposed Puffin Crossing**



Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To advise members of the outcome of investigations into proposals to provide a formal light controlled pedestrian crossing [Puffin Crossing] on the C183 Pelton Lane, Pelton outside the new Pelton Community Primary School and proposed Health Centre/Pharmacy/Library (see attached plan).
- 1.2 This report requests that Members support the installation of this crossing in accordance with the current County Council Policy.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 For a number of years Local Member Jim Cordon has been seeking to have a formal pedestrian crossing provided in this part of Pelton in the vicinity of the Primary School. With the construction of the new Community Primary School, the impending construction of the new Health Centre / Pharmacy / Public Library and the associated Urban Regeneration and Renewal Scheme (URR) the opportunity was taken to investigate the pedestrian crossing proposal in detail.
- 2.2 The provision of a light controlled crossing is subject to national guidance, national design guidelines and a local policy developed by Durham County Council which was adopted by Cabinet in May 2004.
- 2.3 The first requirement as part of the design and assessment is a site survey which includes classified vehicle counts, vehicle speeds and classified pedestrian counts in prescribed time intervals.
- 2.4 The current policy states that if the PV^2 is above 0.75 then a crossing should be provided where resources permit. The policy then goes on to say that if the PV^2 is below 0.75 but above 0.3 then a crossing may be provided if external funding can be found and subject to consideration by the Highways Committee. When a figure of 0.3 is achieved, additional weighting factors are considered to reflect local need. These factors are site specific and relate to

- The percentage of elderly pedestrians crossing
- The percentage of unaccompanied children crossing
- The percentage of HGVs (above 7.5t)
- The average time taken to cross the road
- The traffic speeds
- The number of recorded personal injury pedestrian accidents

- 2.5 A site survey was carried out in February 2009 which recorded 176 pedestrians crossing at the proposed location in the busiest half hour period. However, this did not take into account the additional pedestrian and traffic movements which will be generated by the new Health Centre / Pharmacy / Library which is due to commence construction at the beginning of 2010. Taking this into account it is estimated that an additional 15 pedestrians will cross the road per half hour. This equates to a PV² figure of 0.34.
- 2.6 A figure below 0.75 would normally lead to a decision not to introduce a crossing if it is to be funded from highway budgets. However in this case the Puffin crossing would be funded from external resources - the URR scheme, the Local Member Local Area Measures Allowance, Local Area Programme and funding from the Integrated Transport Unit for the associated modifications to the adjacent bus lay by.
- 2.7 The provision of a Puffin crossing at the proposed location will have no detrimental effect on road safety. It is also currently the location of an existing school crossing patrol site.
- 2.8 Taking into account the entrance to the new school, the location of the proposed development, the footpath link to Fieldside and the convenient location for public transport users, given the availability of funding it was considered that this was an opportune time for the provision of the crossing.
- 2.9 Following the preliminary design of the crossing, a public consultation exercise was carried out between 25 November and 21 December 2009 and 7 responses were received. There are no unresolved objections to the proposals. The Police have been consulted and they fully support the proposals.

3.0 Local Member Consultation

- 3.1 The Local Members, Councillors Jim Cordon and Peter May have been consulted and are minded to support the scheme.

4.0 Recommendations and reasons

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members support the proposal to introduce a Puffin Crossing at the chosen location on the C183, Pelton Lane Pelton.

5.0 Background papers

Copies of correspondence have been placed in the Members' resource Centre.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Funding will be provided by the URR scheme, the Local Member Local Area Measures Allowance, Local Area Programme and the Integrated Transport Unit

Staffing

None

Equality and diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

The measures will discourage the issues associated with inappropriate driving along the road.

Environment

None

Human rights

None

Localities and rurality

None

Young people

Potential safety improvements.

Consultation

Residents and statutory consultation carried out on 25 November 2009.