

Highways Committee

2 December 2010

Unclassified Princess Road, Seaham Proposed Puffin Crossing



Report of Terry Collins, Director of Neighbourhood Services Cabinet Portfolio Member Councillor Bob Young.

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 Princess Road, Seaham between Elizabeth Street and Ross Street and to the east of Seaham Trinity Primary School (see attached plan).
- 1.2 This report requests that members support the installation of this crossing in accordance with current County Council policy.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 For a number of years requests have been made for the introduction of a formal pedestrian crossing on Princess Road in the vicinity of the primary school. Local members Charlie Walker and Bob Arthur have now been able to provide funding for such a project, which has given the opportunity to investigate the pedestrian crossing proposal in detail and carry out public consultation. The proposed puffin crossing will make a significant improvement to road safety in the area not only by providing a safe crossing point for pedestrians but also by helping to regulate the speed of traffic using Princess Road.
- 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 When the PV² site assessment was carried out in March 2010 a figure of 0.53 was achieved. A low figure 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 Local Member Local Area Measures Allowance, Members Neighbourhoods budget associated with the Area Action Plan and Local Area Programme and therefore may be provided subject to consideration by the Highways Committee.
- 2.6 Following the preliminary design of the crossing, a public consultation exercise was carried out between 23 September and 18 October 2010 and 9 responses were received. Of these, there were 2 representations to the proposals from local residents who live in close proximity to the proposed crossing. Both residents were concerned that they would no longer be able to park near their homes, one of them stating that it was not safe to park in the back lane. However, for both properties the proposed crossing would not make any changes to the existing parking arrangements. As yet confirmation in writing that the objections have been withdrawn has not been received.
- 2.7 The Police have been consulted and they fully support the proposals.

3.0 Local Member Consultation

- 3.1 The local members, Councillors Charlie Walker and Bob Arthur 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 Unclassified Princess Road, Seaham.
- 4.2 The proposed crossing will improve road safety in the area especially for school children associated with the redevelopment of the combined school site.

5.0 Background papers

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

Appendix 1: Implications

Local Government Reorganisation

None

Finance

Funding will be provided by the Local Member Local Area Measures Allowance, Members Neighbourhoods budget associated with the Area Action Plan and Local Area Programme.

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 between 23 September and 18 October 2010.