

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
13TH DECEMBER 2000

WESTERN WILTSHIRE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Purpose of Report

1. To respond to Mr. Allnatt's Notice of Motion that:

"..... Council is disappointed at the poor provision for pedestrian crossing points in London Road, Chippenham, particularly in the proximity of the new secondary school."

Background

2. The Local Transport Plan sets out the County Council's priorities and policies for improvement, and walking is a crucial area that has been targeted. In the context of Mr. Allnatt's motion, the following targets are set out in the County Walking Action Plan:
 - 10% increase in number of signal controlled crossings in County with pedestrian facilities (Base year 2000)
 - Reduce number of pedestrian accidents by 20% (Base year 2000)
 - 1000m of new and improved footway links to be provided through each of the major towns
 - 10% increase in children walking to school (Countywide – Base year 2001)
3. The Local Transport Plan is a programme to be implemented over the next five years, but the proposed implementation programme identifies analysis and scheme design for Chippenham being undertaken in the first year, and depending on the success of the bid, will almost certainly result in London Road being given early attention.
4. Insofar as the new secondary school is concerned, the full safety assessment has resulted in a preferred scheme which is believed to be the best which can be achieved. The governors of the school remain properly concerned over safety. However, the preferred scheme has not been led by financial considerations, but by a mutual concern over safety. All the evidence points towards the preferred scheme being the most appropriate, and together with the lowering of the speed limit, and the extensive alterations to signing and lining, it is believed that the package measures will bring about the safest solution.

Recommendation

5. To recommend to County Council that the preferred scheme for highway safety measures in the proximity of the new Abbeyfield Secondary School, Chippenham, be acknowledged as the most suitable which can be appropriately achieved.

RICHARD J. LANDER

Director of Environmental Services

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

None.

Environmental Impact of the Recommendations contained in this report:

The preferred scheme will enhance the safety of school children and others who cross London Road in the vicinity of the new school.