

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

23<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2003

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**PETITIONS**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider and decide action on petitions received.

**Background**

2. The following petitions have been received since the last meeting of the Committee:-
  - (i) Melksham: Change to Minibus service
  - (ii) Melksham: Forest Road - Pedestrian crossing
  - (iii) Trowbridge: Wiltshire Drive - Traffic calming, signing and white lining
3. Details of the petitions, officer comments and recommendations are set out in **Appendices 1, 2 and 3** of this report.
4. The petitions and any supporting correspondence will be available for inspection in the **Members' Room** or from the Director of Corporate Services prior to the meeting.

**Recommendation**

5. The Committee is asked to consider the petitions, along with officer comments, and any address made to Members by the petitioners at the meeting, and approve the recommendations set out in **Appendices 1, 2 and 3**.

**GEORGE BATTEN**

Director of Environmental Services

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**The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:**

Petitions and related correspondence

**Environmental impact of the Recommendation contained in this Report:**

Not applicable



**Organiser:** Mrs. Kinder, 12 Lincoln Green, Melksham

Petition for	Number of Signatures	Parish Or Town	Comments from supporting letters	Observations	Recommendation
<p>Retention of the Frome Minibuses bus company as operator of the contracted Melksham Town Minibus service</p> <p><i>"If First Badgerline take over again we will have increased fares, poor service and no consideration for the disabled and elderly who rely on this service."</i></p>	303	Melksham and Melksham Without	None received	<p>Under the terms of the 1985 Transport Act, bus services funded by a local authority have to be put out to competitive tender at least every five years.</p> <p>The Melksham town minibus service has been operated to a high standard by the Frome Minibuses bus company since 1999, but the retendering process carried out during Spring 2003 has resulted in the replacement contract being awarded to the "First in Somerset and Avon" company.</p> <p>Although Frome Minibuses submitted a tender for the service, awarding the contract to that company would have incurred the County Council in significant additional expenditure, when compared with the tender submitted by "First". Frome Minibuses has, however, won tenders for the operation of other services in West Wiltshire.</p> <p>The contract has therefore been awarded to the First bus company from 7<sup>th</sup> July 2003. However, fares on this service are set by the County Council and so will not be increased without permission from the County Council. The service will also be regularly monitored to ensure that the quality of operation is maintained.</p>	<p>That the petitioners be advised that the new contract for the Melksham Town service has already been awarded to the "First" bus company for the reasons given. It will therefore not be possible to retain Frome Minibuses on this service but the contract will be monitored to ensure that the new contractor operates the service to at least the same standard as that specified in the contract operated by Frome Minibuses.</p>

**Organiser:** Mr. Frank Alford, 105 Forest Road, Melksham

Petition for	Number of Signatures	Parish Or Town	Existing Speed Limit	Injury Accidents in 3 years	Comments from supporting letters	Observations	Recommendation
<p>"After three months work on Forest Road obstacle course, we have not got safe pedestrian crossing near shop as first requested for children and all.</p> <p>Sign and save a serious accident which County Council needs first before we can have one.</p> <p>Petition for Safe Crossing, Forest Road."</p>	99	Melksham	20 mph	None since traffic calming scheme	-	<p>A petition for measures to slow traffic speeds in Forest Road and provision of a pedestrian crossing was considered at the December 2000 meeting of the Environmental Services Sub-Committee. It was resolved to consider the request in the 2001 Annual Pedestrian Safety Review.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee, in March 2001, on considering the Annual Review allocated funding for traffic calming in Forest Road as the most appropriate means of improving pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Traffic calming measures and a 20 mph speed limit have recently been installed on Forest Road. The speed of traffic in the vicinity of the shop has been measured at 23 mph, a reduction of 10 mph in speeds recorded prior to the implementation of the scheme. At a site meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June it was agreed to provide new pedestrian signing in the vicinity of the shop.</p> <p>The reduction in speed has improved safety for pedestrians crossing along the length of traffic calmed Forest Road, removing the need for formal crossing facilities.</p> <p>A letter has been received from the owners of the shop expressing concern about the provision of a pedestrian crossing due to the effect on parking for customers and delivery vehicles.</p>	<p>That:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The request for a pedestrian crossing be not acceded to.</li> <li>(ii) The petitioners be advised accordingly.</li> </ul>

**Organiser:** Mr. D. Kidd, 1 Chirton Place, Trowbridge

Petition for	Number of Signatures	Parish Or Town	Existing Speed Limit	Injury Accidents in 3 years	Comments from supporting letters	Observations	Recommendation
Residents' petition for Safety on Wiltshire Drive	147	Trowbridge	30 mph	Four between Bradley Road and Drynham Road (two of which have occurred between Ramsbury Walk and Campion Drive).  (None involving pedestrians).	<p>From Mr. Kidd:</p> <p>Children and parents walking to and from Holbrook Primary School constantly use the road. Children have to cross the road to gain access to the local children's play area.</p> <p>Accidents are occurring between the junction of Ramsbury Walk and Campion Drive, although other accidents have occurred either side of these junctions. Nine accidents have occurred since the road was opened into Drynham Road. Seven involved vehicles mounting the pavement, all but one caused by speed.</p> <p>We all wish for a safer environment in which to live and something needs to be done to reduce the risk of further accidents along this particular stretch of road. If we all sit back and do nothing, eventually somebody will be killed.</p> <p>Requirements for a safer Wiltshire Drive:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ warning signs of a children's play area</li> <li>▪ warning signs of children crossing, going to school</li> <li>▪ central white lines on the road (on bends)</li> <li>▪ double yellow lines to prevent cars parking where children cross to the play area</li> <li>▪ speed ramps</li> <li>▪ fencing at the entrance to the play area to prevent children running onto the road</li> </ul> <p>The Headteacher of Holbrook Primary School has written on behalf of pupils, parents, staff and Governors to express concern for pedestrian safety in the Wiltshire Drive area.</p> <p>As part of a geography topic and in response to parental concerns, the children of Holbrook Primary School have written letters to ask for the traffic in Wiltshire Drive to be slowed down.</p> <p>The Headteacher of The Clarendon School has also written in support of the introduction of measures to diminish the danger of traffic to children and other pedestrians in Wiltshire Drive.</p>	<p>Wiltshire Drive is used as a rat-run between County Way and Bradley Road, particularly when there are roadworks on the main road network. Spot checks have highlighted 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 36 mph.</p> <p>The comments of the Police have been requested but not received at the time this report was written. If available they will be reported verbally at the meeting.</p> <p>Requests for parking controls are considered annually in the Annual Traffic Regulation Order Review. The funding available for Orders in 2003-04 was allocated to schemes by the Committee in March 2003. It would be appropriate to add new requests to the list of sites to be considered in the next Review.</p> <p>In March 2003 the Committee allocated the amount of Integrated Transport funding from the Local Transport Plan (LTP) to schemes which reduce accidents and promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport, in accordance with the Government's national transport target.</p> <p>Future requests for traffic calming will be assessed to identify those which satisfy the Government's Integrated Transport requirements and thus will be eligible for LTP funding.</p> <p>No other source of funding is available.</p> <p>The play area is the responsibility of West Wiltshire District Council.</p>	<p>That:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Signs be erected on Wiltshire Drive warning drivers of the likelihood of encountering children crossing to school or the play area.</li> <li>(ii) Hazard warning white lines be placed around the bends in Wiltshire Drive.</li> <li>(iii) The request for yellow lines be added to the list of sites to be considered in the 2004 Annual Traffic Regulation Order Review.</li> <li>(iv) Traffic calming in Wiltshire Drive be added to the list of requests to be assessed for Local Transport Plan funding.</li> <li>(v) The request for fencing at the entrance to the play area be referred to West Wiltshire District Council.</li> <li>(vi) The petitioners be advised accordingly.</li> </ul>