

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

4th FEBRUARY 2004

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) Donhead St. Andrew/Donhead St. Mary - Condition of Roads
 - (ii) Trowbridge: Newtown School - Pelican Crossing
3. Details of the petitions, officer comments and recommendations are set out in **Appendices 1 and 2** 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 and 2**.

GEORGE BATTEN

Director of Environmental Services

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report: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: Mr. J.A. Cole-Morgan, Greenstone Byre, Charlton, Shaftesbury, Dorset

Petition for	Number of Signatures	Parish Or Town	Existing Speed Limit	Injury Accidents in 3 years	Comments from supporting letters	Observations	Recommendation
Condition of roads - Donhead St. Mary and Donhead St. Andrew	487	Donhead St. Mary Donhead St. Andrew	4.6km within speed limit 39.2km de-restricted 1.7km within speed limit 28.6km de-restricted	Non Principal - 0 Non Principal - 0 Principal: A30 - 9 A350 - 2 B3081 - 3	We the undersigned being residents and Council taxpayers of the parishes of Donhead St. Mary and Donhead St. Andrew in the county of Wiltshire hereby make known to Wiltshire County Council our serious dissatisfaction with the state of the roads in our parishes. We further make known our concern that continued failure to maintaining the roads properly will lead to long-term structural damage requiring major and deep repair work and much greater capital expenditure at some future date. The deterioration of the quality of the road surfaces, the appearance of many large and deep potholes and the breakdown of the road edges in many lanes in the parishes can result in unaccountable danger especially for cyclists and motorcyclists especially in wet weather when water can mask the depth of potholes or even their very existence. It can also result in damage to vehicles.	In order to demonstrate performance against national Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) the County Council undertakes annual surveys to measure the condition of its highway network. The survey results enable the County Council to target resources and select appropriate maintenance solutions. The survey records defects such as major cracking, major fretting, edge deterioration, surface deterioration, subsidence and rutting. The individual defects and their associated extent codes (local, partial and general) are used to identify defect lengths and to calculate a series of condition indices. Both Parishes fall within Community Area 16 (Tisbury) where 60% of the recorded defects fall under the 'average' classification. Three adjoining Community Areas 14 (Warminster), 17 (Wilton) and 20 (Mere) have roads of a worse condition and all three have a higher percentage of 'relatively poor' roads. Since April 2001 the Parishes have received 3km of surface dressing and 2km of overlay surfacing at a cost of £83,000 and in 2004 it is planned to surface dress a further 11km at a cost of £122,000. In addition, the current programme to further reduce the number of potholes has identified an additional 3km for surface dressing this season at a cost of £35,000, a total investment in structural maintenance works since April 2001 of £240,000.	That:- (i) The County Council continues to use the results of the latest survey techniques for allocating the highway maintenance budget. (ii) The petitioners be advised accordingly.

Organiser: Chair of Governors, Newtown School, Trowbridge

Petition for	Number of Signatures	Parish Or Town	Existing Speed Limit	Injury Accidents in 3 years	Comments from supporting letters	Observations	Recommendation
Petition asking for a Pelican crossing outside Newtown School	313	Trowbridge	30 mph	<p>The Council holds records of injury accidents reported to the Police and data is only available up to August 2003.</p> <p>Records show a nose-to-tail impact along Newtown in 2001 resulting in one driver suffering slight injury. The incident had no relationship with the difficulties highlighted by the petitioners outside the school.</p> <p>Although not on records available to the Council, the incidents reported by the school under the next heading should be noted.</p>	<p>The following is an extract from a recent note to the Council from the school's Health and Safety Governor:</p> <p>"I recently wrote to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Highways at County Hall, on behalf of Newtown School expressing our serious concerns regarding the crossing point at Newtown.</p> <p>I met with your Officer, Judith Billingham, to discuss the matter and emphasised the dangers both whilst the crossing patrol was present and our major concern of out of hours activities, especially after dark.</p> <p>To highlight this there have been two serious incidents recently, one of which I believe you have been made aware. A young girl pupil was struck whilst crossing the road. As the traffic was moving slowly fortunately she was not seriously injured, but she was knocked to the ground. I must emphasise that this happened after the school crossing patrol had left and this is one of our major concerns as a lot more out-of-school hours activities will take place.</p> <p>Also recently, the school bag of another pupil was struck by a moving vehicle whilst waiting to cross the road. Obviously the potential here was also very serious including the possibility of the child being pulled into the road.</p> <p>Another incident of which you should be aware was approximately a month ago the railings immediately outside the school were completely demolished by a vehicle. Although this was not during school hours it does highlight the risk to pedestrians, both on the pavement and whilst crossing the road. This also raises the importance of making the signage to a much higher profile, ie making people aware that this is a school crossing point.</p> <p>Our parents were very concerned prior to the recent events, hence my letter, and subsequent meetings with the Highways Department. These recent events have made them much more anxious for improvements and the installation of a pedestrian crossing."</p>	<p>The County Council is allocated funding via the Local Transport Plan (LTP) settlement for 'integrated transport' measures that are intended to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport, and reduce traffic accidents. This includes the provision of pedestrian crossings. However, the integrated transport budget for the current financial year (2003-04) is fully allocated.</p> <p>In March 2003, the Committee considered the allocation of the integrated transport funding from the LTP settlement. The report indicated that the Government is keen to see explicit linkages between the integrated transport schemes carried out in Wiltshire and National Transport targets</p> <p>In March 2004, Members will once again consider which schemes will be awarded funding from the LTP for inclusion in the list of schemes for delivery in 2004-05, and they will be led by the same criteria as the year before.</p> <p>In the context of proposals which are intended to assist access to schools, requests for schemes (of which there are many) are subject to a criterion based assessment that guides where investment might be made. Although pedestrian safety is clearly one of those criteria, the school's co-operation in working towards a Travel Plan is a significant consideration, and the process is designed to reward those schools whose plans are well advanced. Despite the efforts of the Council to encourage the school to become involved in the preparation of a Travel Plan, there has been little, if any, interest to date, and this may be a factor in determining the priority of this request when compared against others.</p>	<p>That:-</p> <p>(i) The request for the provision of a Pelican crossing outside Newtown School, Trowbridge, be added to the list of requests to be assessed for future Local Transport Plan funding.</p> <p>(ii) The petitioners be advised accordingly.</p>