

Agenda Item No. 4(a)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

23 December 2014

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

A6 DERBY ROAD, MILFORD – PETITION FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

(1) **Purpose of Report** To advise on the results of the investigation and recommendations following receipt of a petition from residents requesting a pedestrian crossing on the A6 Derby Road, Milford.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The petition was received by the Cabinet Member - Jobs, Economy and Transport on 4 March 2014 (Minute No. 37/14 refers). The petition has 234 signatures.

The requested crossing, if implemented, would be located on the A6 Derby Road, Milford between the village shop on the west side of the carriageway and the New Inn Public House on the east side. To either side of the route are residential properties, creating a potential need for people to cross the carriageway to gain access to bus stops and local facilities. The speed restriction is 40mph.

On the west side of the route, behind the village shop, is a former foundry site which has been developed into residential housing. This has potentially increased the demand for a crossing in the area.

A pedestrian and traffic count was carried out on 17 June 2014, once the development was completed, to determine if there was sufficient demand for a traffic signal controlled crossing. The results of this survey revealed a total of 145 pedestrians crossing Derby Road of whom 11 were children. Seven of the 11 children crossed unaccompanied. The total two way traffic flow was 12,444.

During the early stages of development of the foundry site, a pedestrian refuge was installed in the centre of the carriageway, fronting the shop, to accommodate pedestrians seeking to cross. Unfortunately, the carriageway width was insufficient to accommodate large vehicles using the route and therefore subject to regular damage. It also raised concern that pedestrians were not adequately protected. The refuge was subsequently removed.

A review of the road safety record on Derby Road, Milford revealed that, during the past five years, two personal injury collisions had been recorded. Both resulted in slight injury resulting from loss of control whilst braking.

Officer Comment

The surveys revealed a desire for pedestrians to cross the A6 fronting the Milford village shop. Whilst pedestrian flows are not heavy by comparison to a town centre location, they remain reasonably consistent throughout the day. The high vehicle flow on the A6 does, however, make crossing difficult, affording few opportunities to cross safely during the peak periods. It is considered therefore that a controlled pedestrian crossing at this location would provide a positive safety improvement.

The cost of providing a pedestrian crossing within the 40mph speed restriction on Derby Road is estimated to be £50,500. This estimate accounts for the need to extend the vehicle detection in both directions to accommodate the approach speed of vehicles. The estimate also includes a minor widening of the footway on the east side of the carriageway to accommodate the signal equipment. It is not anticipated that the existing 40mph speed restriction will need to be reviewed as part of this proposal.

Funding for highway improvement schemes is coming under increasing pressure, and schemes in future programmes will be prioritised. However, on the basis of the traffic survey information and the strength of support demonstrated by the petition, it is recommended that a scheme to provide a puffin crossing on the A6 Derby Road, Milford is considered alongside other schemes, for inclusion in future Capital Programmes.

Local Member Comments

Councillor Bradford supports and welcomes this proposal for a much needed and safe crossing for pedestrians at this point on the A6. Having actively supported other road junction safety improvements within the same vicinity in recent times, this will complement and further enhance road safety for all users.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of constructing a puffin crossing at this location is estimated in the sum of £50,500. Should the scheme be included in a future programme, the cost would be met by an allocation within the Capital Programme.

Funding is not available from the current 2014-15 Capital Programme. It is recommended that the scheme is considered for inclusion in 2015-16 Capital Schemes list, where it will be prioritised alongside other improvement schemes. As funding is reducing for this area of the programme, this means that the scheme may or may not be implemented in the future.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Held on file 44XT in the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details - Mike Hawkins, extension 38609.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

7.1 Resolves that the scheme be declined for inclusion within the current Capital Improvement Programme but is retained for future consideration alongside all other possible schemes for inclusion within a future Capital Improvement Programme.

7.2 Advises the local Member and petitioners accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment