
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 20 October 2009
Subject: Petition - M.O.S.S Make our School Safer – Aspley Guise Lower
Report of: Basil Jackson
Summary: This report requests the Portfolio Holder to note the situation and that provision will be made in the forward work programme to allow investigation work to be undertaken

Contact Officer: Adrian Clothier
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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Woburn and Harlington
Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

that a feasibility study/investigation be included in the 5 year integrated works programme to allow improvement measures around Aspley Guise Lower School be identified, designed and delivered subject to budgetary provision.

BACKGROUND

Following growing concerns amongst parents and teachers of Aspley Guise Lower School regarding road safety around the school and the journey to and from school, a petition was formed to urge Central Bedfordshire Council to provide improvements to the surrounding highway infrastructure.

INFORMATION

- 1 Aspley Guise pre-school and Lower School is situated in the village of Aspley Guise on Spinney Lane. The surrounding road network comprises of narrow carriageways with very little footway provision, leading from the Mount Pleasant estate to/from the school.
2. Spinney Lane provides an off highway walking route from the school to/from Woburn Lane and surrounding areas. This route is not highway. The main access to the school/car park is off highway within land managed by CBC school property services.

3. Questionnaires were sent to parents of pupils at the pre-school and lower school asking of their opinions of how to improve road safety around the school for parents walking and driving, feeding into the 'M.O.S.S.' Campaign.

SUPPORT

4. A petition of 67 parents/teachers and local residents has been collated, supporting the request for infrastructure improvements, with the emphasis towards the implementation of traffic calming measures.

Conclusion and Next Steps

5. Aspley Guise Lower School are in the process of collating the responses to the parent questionnaire regarding the problems they associate with their journey to/from school. These results will be made available to assist the assessment and development of any required improvements.
6. In order for Bedfordshire Highways to undertake an investigation and provide infrastructure improvements where necessary, provision will need to be made in the 5 year integrated works programme with sufficient funds available for design and implementation.
7. Together with potential engineering measures, education and travel advice would also be beneficial. The approach should therefore be made in partnership between Bedfordshire Highways and Central Bedfordshire Council Sustainable Transport and Road Risk Advisors.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Improve road safety and promote sustainable modes of transport

Financial:

An initial feasibility study/investigation will be in the region of £3,000. Any viable measures would then be subject to detailed design before construction at an additional cost depending on the scale of works. There is no financial allocation within the current programme for this work and it will be included within the forward work programme.

Legal:

None as a result of this report.

Risk Management:

The study would focus on assessing the current risks and indication solutions where appropriate.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as a result of this report.

Equalities/Human Rights:

None as a result of this report.

Community Development/Safety:

Improve road safety on routes to/from Aspley Guise Lower School.

Sustainability:

Promote sustainable travel

Background Papers

Copy of petition