

# Central Bedfordshire Council

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEETING

12 FEBRUARY 2019

## Petition – Potton Road Pelican Crossing

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**Report of:** Paul Mason, Assistant Director, Highways  
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**Responsible Officer(s):** Paul Salmon, Team Leader, Traffic Management, Highways  
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### Purpose of this report

To report on the petition to introduce a pelican crossing across Potton Road, near Edward Peake Middle School.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Traffic Management Meeting is asked to:

1. **Note the Petition**
2. **Partially accept the proposal and agree to investigate the provision of a pedestrian crossing.**

### Issues

#### Background Information

1. Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) received in January 2019 a petition to introduce a pelican crossing across Potton Road, Biggleswade near Edward Peake Middle School to facilitate safer crossing for school children.
2. The petition was received from the residents of Potton Road and parents of children attending Edward Peake Middle School.
3. At the end of the 2018 summer term, the School Crossing Patrol Officer (SCP) retired from the post. CBC carried out a recruitment process and subsequently offered the role to a candidate. All required checks and training were carried out however shortly before

the commencement of this years, autumn term the candidate no longer wished to take up the post. CBC then initiated a new recruitment process which is on-going to recruit full and standby SCP officers. There were four applicants, however, when they were contacted and offered an interview, they all withdrew their applications. CBC have also contacted concerned parents and local residents, offering opportunities for job share and volunteers. The role would involve training and equipment provided by CBC.

### **Options for consideration**

4. In the medium to long-term the proposal is to investigate the feasibility of installing some form of pedestrian crossing/footway improvement in close proximity to the end of the southbound footpath from the school (i.e. between the end of the footpath and the service station entrance).
5. In the short-term continue the process to recruit staff for the School Patrol Officer to marshal school children to cross at peak times.

### **Reason/s for decision**

6. The proposal to install a pelican crossing is partially accepted due to the following reasons:
  - a. Installation of the most suitable and safe pedestrian crossing to be investigated.
  - b. The majority of students appear to be exiting the school and walking southbound along existing footpath and making unsafe crossings of Potton Road adjacent to the end of the footpath, prior to the entrance to the service station.
  - c. The school is required to update its School Travel Plan to better inform the council of the various methods of transport students are currently using.
  - d. Due to the safety issue, an interim solution in the form of a marshal/ School Patrol Officer is recommended.

### **Council Priorities**

7. Not applicable.

### **Corporate Implications**

8. None.

### **Legal Implications**

9. None.

## **Financial and Risk Implications**

10. None.

## **Equalities Implications**

11. None.

## **Conclusion and next Steps**

12. The petition proposals are recommended to be partially accepted due to the necessity to provide some form of safe crossing.
13. It is recommended that the council investigate the feasibility of providing a pedestrian crossing.
14. In the interim the council to continue the recruitment process for a School Patrol Officer.
15. The school to submit an updated School Travel Plan to the council to allow further investigation into pedestrian facilities in the area.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix A: Petition**

#### **Report Author:**

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## **Appendix A: Petition Signatures**

**ePetition - 10/12/2018 to 15/01/2019**

Petition for CBC to provide a Pelican Crossing on Potton Road near Edward Peak School

**We the undersigned petition the council to Instigate a Pelican crossing which is a type of pedestrian crossing featuring a pair of poles each with a standard set of traffic lights facing oncoming traffic, a push button and two illuminated, coloured pictograms facing the pedestrian from across the road - a red, stationary person to indicate that it is not safe to cross, and a green, walking person to indicate that it is safe to do so.**

The nights are getting darker and the safety of pupils is paramount. Many pupils and parents have raised concerns about the safety of Potton Road and state they feel unsafe about crossing due to the excessive speed of vehicles and the sheer volume of traffic in peak periods.

Potton Road is busier due to the new housing in the vicinity and due to the general growth of Biggleswade.

Traffic calming measures have been removed which has increased the risk of an accident. A zebra crossing has been installed however this is further down the road and poses a greater risk as the majority of people would have to walk away from the direction, they're going just to cross the road, which students hardly do as students are usually very keen to get home from school. The zebra crossing is also ignored by numerous drivers.

A pelican crossing needs to be installed before a serious collision occurs.

**119 people signed this ePetition.**

