



Petitions Panel

6 January 2017

1. Background to the Petition Scheme

- 1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010. The Scheme was subsequently updated by the County Council on 21 July 2016.
- 1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be dealt with by a small customer focussed panel. If a petition is supported by 1,000 or more signatories it will be scheduled for a debate at the next meeting of the full County Council.

2. Petition – Provision of crossing on Puddletown High Street (at existing signalised junction)

- 2.1 The County Council received a petition organised by Anna McKay-Smith on 8 August 2016. This reads as follows:

Parents have become increasingly concerned about the safety of pedestrians who use Puddletown High Street to cross the road. This has become more of an issue since the first school was moved to it's new location. We need to prevent a serious accident before it occurs. Many parents and children cross at the High Street at the traffic lights on the crossroads. As these lights are not pedestrianised, parents often find themselves rushing children across between light changes and due to the blind nature of the corner into Blandford road this is unpredictable and dangerous. As I am sure is appreciated, not all traffic obeys the traffic light commands, increasing the random nature of crossing and the potential for a serious accident. We would therefore like to propose that a pelican crossing, (a pedestrian light controlled crossing) is installed at the traffic lights on the High Street. We would appreciate your support in this matter and will put this petition to the parish council at their next meeting on Tuesday 14th June.

- 2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Panel are invited to note and discuss this.
- 2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include one or more of the following:
 - taking the action requested in the petition
 - considering the petition at a council meeting
 - holding an inquiry into the matter
 - undertaking research into the matter
 - holding a public meeting
 - holding a consultation
 - referring the petition for consideration by the council's Audit and Governance Committee
 - calling a referendum
 - writing to the petition organiser setting out the Panel's views about the request in the petition.
- 2.4 Alternatively, the Panel may determine a combination of the options above, or decide on another course of action as appropriate.

3. Context

3.1 A signal junction was first provided at the junction of High Street / Blandford Road and Kings Mead in September 1999. There were no pedestrian facilities included.

3.2 Following receipt of the petition on 8 August 2016, it was agreed to delay submission until a pedestrian / vehicle count was obtained to assess if the site met the Authority's strict criteria. * see *appendix A – Procedure for the Provision of Pedestrian Crossings and Associated Facilities*. The survey would have been delayed had the petition been formalised at that time.

3.3 The survey showed the results on each approach to the junction, to be less than that required to meet Dorset County Council's criteria of 0.4. * see *appendix B – ADPV2 results*

- Blandford Road – 0.00
- High Street – western side – 0.02
- High Street – eastern side – 0.09
- Kings Mead – 0.00

The formula applied is ADPV2 where;

A = Accident Factor, no of pedestrian injury accidents in last 3 years that have occurred within 50m either side of the proposed crossing.

D = Difficulty Factor, derived from a formula that varies according to the type of road, the speed limit and width of the road.

P = Pedestrians

V = Vehicles

The final ADPV2 figure is derived by multiplying the Accident Factor with the Difficulty Factor and the weighted average PV2 figure for the highest 4 hours.

The highest recorded vehicle speed was on High Street westbound away from the junction at 33.8mph. All other recorded speeds were below 30mph.

There have been no injury accidents recorded in the last 3 years.

In conclusion the site does not meet the criteria to provide pedestrian facilities at the junction.

3.4 It is necessary, even more so in the current financial climate, to have a criteria in place and to carry out an assessment due to the costly nature of providing this facility.

Based on a recent improvement scheme at a junction in Ferndown, which provided pedestrian facilities on 4 arms of the junction, the costs are in the region of £120,000.

4. Next Steps

4.1 The Panel is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.

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