



Northumberland

County Council

TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 14 MAY 2019

PETITION - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, GILESGATE, HEXHAM

Report of the Director of Local Services, Paul Jones

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment & Local Services

Purpose of report

To respond to the petition received by the Tynedale Local Area Council regarding a request to provide a pedestrian crossing in Gilesgate, Hexham.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted and that Local Area Council supports the decision to undertake a survey to determine whether a pedestrian crossing is justified.

Link to Corporate Plan

How - "We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone"

Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

Connecting - "We want you to have access to the things you need"

Key Issues

1. A petition has been received requesting the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Gilesgate in Hexham, with particular emphasis on children attending the Community Centre, pre-school and the nearby first school.

Introduction

The County Council has received a petition of 237 signatures requesting the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing in Gilesgate in Hexham. The petition is made up of an online and paper versions. The online petition states:

“Giles Gate, Hexham is a very busy road. However, it has a Community Centre and Pre-School on one side and a car park that is well used by parents of children at a first school. The first school is accessed from the car park by crossing this road.

The Community Centre is well used by children of all ages and elderly people, many of whom have decreased mobility. This, with the volume of traffic on Giles Gate, means the road is quite dangerous for them to cross.

Please would you put a crossing on this road before a serious accident occurs?”

The paper petition states:

“We the undersigned support the petition to install a pedestrian crossing outside the community centre as part of the old swimming baths redevelopment. The community centre is a hub for activities including many for the young, old and vulnerable. It is essential to enhance the safeguarding of all those that use this facility.”

Background

Gilesgate is one of the main streets within Hexham town centre. As such it contains a number of facilities including the community centre, shops and restaurants. It is also one of the main routes to the Sele First School. It therefore experiences significant levels of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Figure 1, below, shows its location.



Fig. 1. Location Plan

Guidance on the provision of pedestrian crossings is contained in Local Transport Notes 1/95 and 2/95, issued by the Department for Transport. This guidance is reflected in the County Council's 'Procedure for the Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings'.

The first step in the procedure is to carry out a survey of the volume and type of vehicles and pedestrians. This survey produces a PV^2 value (P = pedestrians, V = vehicles). A PV^2 value of 0.2 or more means that a controlled crossing is justified. It should be noted that this requirement is a significant relaxation on the national guidance which suggests a figure of 0.8 or more.

If the PV^2 value shows that a pedestrian crossing is justified, further work will be required to establish whether a crossing can be accommodated, taking into account factors such as visibility, footway widths, traffic speeds, parking restrictions and the location of junctions and accesses.

The 2019-20 Local Transport Plan Programme includes an allocation for the investigation and initial design of pedestrian crossings.

It is therefore recommended that a PV^2 survey is carried out in the vicinity of the Community Centre. If the outcome of the survey is a PV^2 value of 0.2 or more, further investigation work will be carried out to determine whether a crossing is feasible.

If a pedestrian crossing is then found to be feasible, it will be considered alongside other local priorities for funding in the 2020-21 Local Transport Plan Programme.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
Finance and value for money	A crossing would need to be funded through the Local Transport Plan Programme.
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	n/a

Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	None
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Hexham Central with Acomb

Background papers:

None

Report sign off

	initials
Finance Officer	N/A
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Director	PJ
Portfolio Holder(s)	GS

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