



Northumberland

County Council

ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
DATE: 10TH JANUARY 2024

PETITION – REQUEST FOR A CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON NEWBIGGIN ROAD, ASHINGTON

Report of: Service Director – Environment and Transport, Paul Jones

Cabinet Member: John Riddle, Improving our Roads and Highways

Purpose of report

To respond to the e-petition which closed for signatures on 14th October 2023 regarding a request for the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing on the B1334 Newbiggin Road in Ashington between its junction with Freeman Way and the A189 Spine Road.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee note the content of this report and support the actions proposed.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the Corporate Plan for 2023-26:

‘Thriving Places and Culture – Neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained’

Key Issues

1. A petition has been received requesting a controlled pedestrian crossing on the B1334 Newbiggin Road between its junction with Freeman Way and the A189 Spine Road in Ashington.
2. The petition has been signed by 83 signatories.
3. As part of the Essendene Rise residential development, footways on the southern side of the B1334 were introduced connecting the development to the existing footway infrastructure, along with a pedestrian refuge to cross the B1334.
4. In planning terms due to the amount of limited anticipated pedestrian movements across the B1334 from the development, the pedestrian refuge was all that could be reasonably requested as a crossing facility of the B1334. The Co-op and Cooplands

Bakery shops are on the same side of the road as the Essendene Rise residential development.

5. A further pedestrian / vehicle PV2 survey is proposed to be undertaken to assess how the results have changed since the previous survey undertaken in 2021 and consideration is to be given to any signage and road marking improvements which may provide additional warning to motorists that there may be pedestrians crossing in this area.

Background

The Petition

The County Council has received an 83-name petition stating that :-

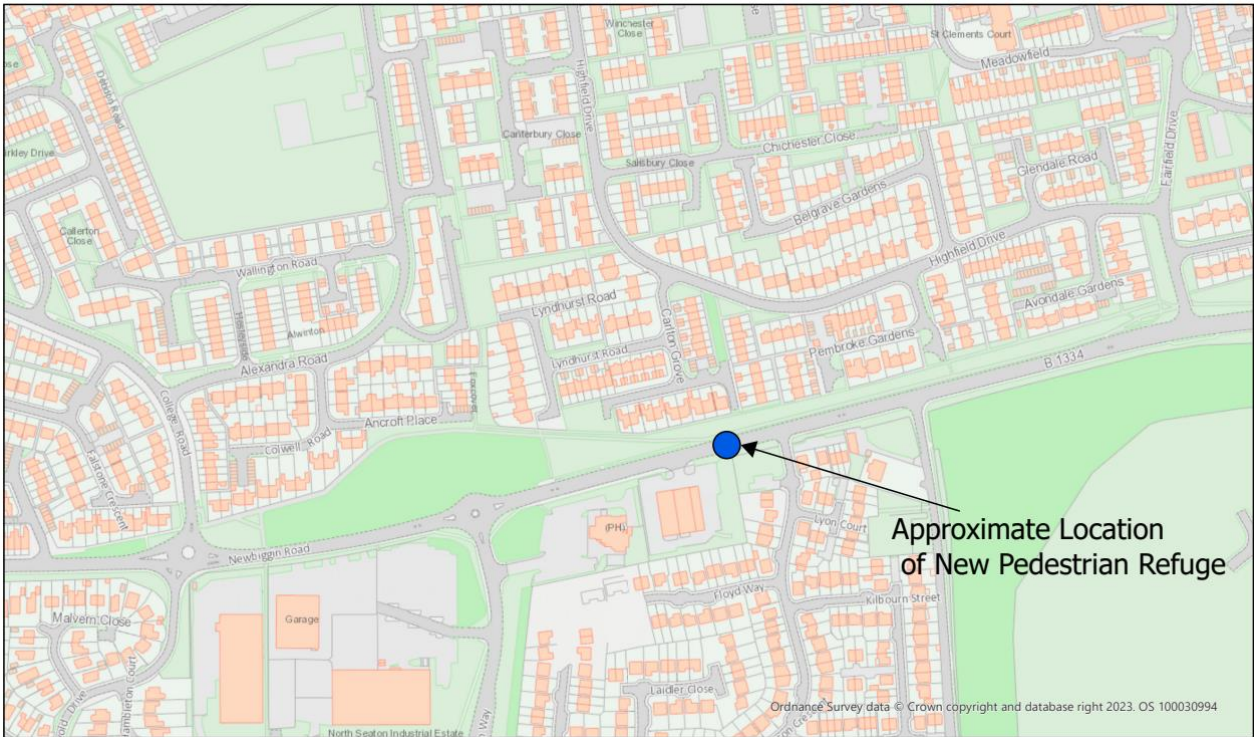
“Residents of the Essendene Rise Estate and in homes on or around the B1334 Newbiggin Road from its junction with Freeman Way (the B & M roundabout) to the junction of the A189 Spine Road are calling for the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Newbiggin Road.

The last council survey in April 2021 identified insufficient traffic and pedestrian usage to warrant a controlled crossing. However, this was before the Co-op and Cooplands Bakery opened and the size of the Essendene Rise Estate has also doubled since then. The growing number of people crossing this busy road is increasing the potential for a serious accident to occur. It is posing a significant problem for older and disabled people who can't drive as it is not possible to access public transport without crossing this road. Furthermore, the increasing number of families now living in the area means that children are also at risk when accessing the local shops and attending school”.

Comments

The B1334 is a short, largely urban B class road on the Northumberland coast, commencing at its junction with the A196 at the roundabout just to the east of North Seaton Level Crossing, heading east and north-east to Newbiggin-by-the-Sea via the A189 at North Seaton roundabout.

As part of the Essendene Rise residential development, footways on the southern side of the B1334 were introduced connecting the development to the existing footway infrastructure, along with a pedestrian refuge.



Plan showing approximate location of new pedestrian refuge



Vaisala image of new pedestrian refuge

6. In planning terms due to the amount of limited anticipated pedestrian movements across the B1334 from the development, the pedestrian refuge was all that could be reasonably requested as a crossing facility of the B1334. The Co-op and Cooplands Bakery shops are on the same side of the road as the Essendene Rise residential development.

In order for a pedestrian crossing to be considered, a pedestrian/vehicle (PV2) survey is carried out, this is required to determine whether the necessary criteria is met. The minimum requirement is 0.2, however, it should be noted that this is a local requirement specific to Northumberland which is more generous than the nationally recommended 0.5.

A survey was previously undertaken in April 2021, and the result was 0.11, which is well short of the Council's criteria.

In light of the petition being received, a further survey will be arranged to assess whether this figure has changed bearing in mind that the previous survey may also have been impacted by COVID.

It should be noted that there are several additional crossing points provided on this section of Newbiggin Road, in the form of uncontrolled crossing points as well as a controlled pedestrian crossing to the east of the Newbiggin Road/College Road roundabout junction.



Vaisala image of existing pedestrian crossing near Newbiggin Road / College Road junction

Accident Data

According to accident casualty data from Northumbria Police, since the pedestrian refuge was introduced, or indeed the last five years, there have been no personal injury accidents to any pedestrians across the area of concern. However, it should be noted that there have been four "slight" personal injury collisions at the Fairfield Drive traffic light junction. Three of these incidents were vehicles colliding with the rear of another vehicle waiting at the traffic lights, while the other incident was a result of a driver failing to stop at the traffic lights. One further "slight" personal injury occurred at the Freeman Way junction, when a motorcyclist failed to look properly, resulting in a collision with the side of a car which was turning right at the roundabout.

Proposed Actions

- A) Undertake a further PV2 survey to assess how the results have changed since the previous survey undertaken in 2021.
- B) Consider any signage and road marking improvements which may provide additional warning to motorists that there may be pedestrians crossing in this area if deemed appropriate.

Implications

Policy	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
Finance and value for money	n/a
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	n/a
Customer Consideration	Petition identifies concerns when crossing Newbiggin Road.

Carbon reduction	n/a
Health and Wellbeing	Petition raises issues regarding road safety.
Wards	College

Background papers:

None

Report sign off

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	N/A
Relevant Executive Director	Simon Neilson
Chief Executive	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	John Riddle

Author and Contact Details

Neil Snowdon – Principal Programme Officer (Highways Improvement Team)