

ENVIRONMENT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 44

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Queen's Park Safer Routes to School Scheme		
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2010		
Report of:	Acting Director of Environment		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Matt Thompson	Tel: 29-0235
	E-mail:	matthew.thompson@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	Queen's Park		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Brighton & Hove City Council has a statutory duty under the Road Safety Act 2006 to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on its roads. The performance of this duty is monitored through the Councils Local Area Agreement and will assist in achieving the, the Key Performance Indicator (target NI47) of reducing casualties classified as Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI's). The council's Local Transport Plan also prioritises road safety and casualty reduction within the Safer Routes to Schools Programme.
- 1.2 Queen's Park Primary School, Royal Spa Nursery School, Carlton Hill Primary School and Tarnerland Nursery School have been selected within the Safer Routes to School Programme as a priority due to the number of collisions in the area during school journey times over the past three years. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the implementation of the Safer Routes to School Scheme measures following consultation, which focus on improving road safety for children, parents and carers travelling to and from nursery or school.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member gives approval to implement the measures at the identified sites:
 - Freshfield Road,
 - Egremont Place
 - Queens Park Road.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member approves the advertising of an order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in respect of elements in the preferred scheme.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Safer Routes to School is an initiative that aims to improve routes to school making it safer for children and their parents and carers to walk, cycle or use public transport thus providing increased travel choice for the journey to and from school. The initiative forms part of the Council's Road Safety Strategy; a key component of Brighton & Hove City Council's Local Transport Plan 2006/07 – 2010/11.
- 3.2 The June 10th Environment CMM approved the public consultation for this scheme which was carried out from July 7th to 22nd. This report outlines the preferred scheme following consultation (see Appendix 1) and makes recommendations for measures to be implemented.
- 3.3 The area has been selected within the Safer Routes to School Programme as a priority based on collision data. During the three year period 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2009 there were 46 collisions involving a pedestrian or a cyclist and another vehicle during school journey times. This resulted in 50 casualties, 9 of whom were seriously injured, including one child, and 37 of whom were slightly injured, including 3 children.
- 3.4 The scheme will benefit four schools: Queen's Park Primary, Carlton Hill Primary, Tarnerland Nursery and Royal Spa Nursery, which between them cater for 773 children. These improvements will also benefit the wider community of Queen's Park.
- 3.5 The headline results of the public consultation are as follows:
- Freshfield Road footway realignment and motorcycle bay move/ retention -
 - 58% supported
 - Queen's Park Road Zebra crossing upgrade to traffic signal controlled crossing -90% supported
 - Egremont Bend Pedestrian refuge and footway realignment with extra signage- 82% supported
 - Eastern Road Zebra crossing upgrade – 84% supported

However, public comments and submissions made by statutory and non-statutory consultees led to further officer research, resulting in the following scheme being recommended for approval. (See Appendix 1 for Full Consultation report).

- **Extend and upgrade build-out on eastern side of Freshfield Road (north of junction with Freshfield Place) removing the parking bay to the north and the motorcycle bay to the south.**
 - **Upgrade Zebra crossing on Queen's Park Road (south of junction with Albion Hill) into traffic signal controlled Puffin crossing**
 - **Install pedestrian refuge on Egremont Place and extend northeast footway at junction with West Drive with signage warning approaching drivers in both directions**
- 3.6 The proposed scheme will complement the work that continues with the schools in the development and monitoring of their School Travel Plans. A School Travel Plan aims to encourage the use of sustainable transport on the school journey and to improve safety. The Safer Routes to School Scheme funding will enable

practical engineering measures to be put in place that make those sustainable journeys easier and safer.

- 3.7 Carlton Hill Primary School is currently working closely with the developers of the American Express site on Carlton Hill in designing a new entrance way for the school and moving their playground using Section 106 funds. This will have a positive impact on the route children will make to that school and the Safer Routes to School Scheme will complement this work. The Road safety team are also currently in negotiations with the Site contractor to appoint a temporary Traffic Marshall on Carlton Hill to ensure children's safety during the construction phase.
- 3.8 The Environment Improvements Team has also been working closely with Carlton Hill School and Tarnerland Nursery on plans to develop safer crossing points on the junction of Sussex Street and John Street, and at the junction of Carlton Hill and John Street. This work will complement the Safer Routes to School Scheme.
- 3.9 Queen's Park Primary is due to consult on proposals (as yet to be finalised) to expand the school to two forms of entry with an increase intake of 15 pupils per year. Proposals include developing the school site. The measures outlined in the Safer Routes to School Scheme will be beneficial to the expanded school and increased pupil numbers

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Display cases with plans of the proposed measures were mounted outside the main gates of each of the four sites of the education establishments which are the focus of the scheme. A large map was available showing the location of four areas where changes are proposed and plans were also displayed showing the details of each site. A School Travel Officer and/ or Highway Engineer attended on designated afternoons to meet with parents and answer questions.
- 4.2 A general public exhibition took place at Brighton Town Hall from July 7th to 22nd. A further exhibition attended by the scheme Coordinator and the Road Safety Engineer was held at Queen's Park Tennis Clubhouse on July 12 from 4-7pm.
- 4.3 Postcards were sent to 1194 addresses in the area inviting people to attend the public exhibitions to view plans of the proposed layouts. Survey forms were available at the exhibitions and at school/ nursery receptions for people to give feedback.
- 4.4 An on-line survey incorporating the individual site plans was also available on the council website. People were asked to look at plans and indicate their preferred options and make any suggestions for improvements. Open text boxes were given after each question for people to make these additional comments. Results from the consultation and Officer responses to the comments are shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 Local Ward Councillors for Queen's Park visited the four sites on the 6th of July with Council officers and participated directly in some of the consultation events. They very much welcomed all the measures, and noted they have been lobbied by residents over the past few years for an improvement in safety at the S-bend at Egremont Gate and for an upgrade of the crossing on the junction of Queen's Park Road and Albion Hill. They would also like to see more proposals for

improvements around Carlton Hill primary school, particularly around the junction of Sussex St and John St and on Carlton Hill itself, which many residents feel is unsafe, and understand that these needs are expected to be met through Section 106 money from the Amex development. They observed that the Eastern Road crossing upgrade was potentially the least beneficial of the four options to the schools and nurseries directly involved in the scheme. They also felt that the repositioned motorcycle bay on Freshfield Road could still obscure visibility, especially where children were trying to cross.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 £55,000 has been set aside within the Local Transport Plan budget for 2010-11 for the Safer Routes to Schools schemes. This funding will cover the implementation costs of two of the three recommended measures. The implementation of the most costly measure, the Queen's Park Road zebra crossing upgrade, will be dependent on the allocation of funding to Safer Routes to School schemes from the 2011/2012 Local Transport Plan settlement.
- 5.2 The Parking Team were consulted over the specific issue of losing one pay and display parking space on Freshfield Road. They reported that there are 101 bays in the vicinity, (Controlled Parking Zone C) but that the spaces are not operating at maximum capacity. Therefore the loss of one space is likely to have minimal financial impact.

Finance Officer consulted: Karen Brookshaw Date: 16/08/10

Legal Implications:

- 5.3 Before implementation, all relevant procedural requirements must be dealt with. For example, it will be necessary for any proposed Traffic Regulation Orders to be advertised publicly and for any unwithdrawn objections or representations to be considered before a final decision is taken to implement the proposals. There are no human rights implications to draw to Members' attention at this stage.

Lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date: 16/08/10

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 The proposals will provide safety enhancements for young children, parents, pedestrians and road users.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.5 Sustainable Consumption and Production: It is proposed that materials no longer needed from the upgrade of the Zebra crossings to Puffin Crossings will be reused at other sites in the city.
- 5.6 Climate Change and Energy: The Safer Routes to School initiative seeks to increase use of sustainable modes of travel to and from school by increasing safety on the routes.
- 5.7 Sustainable Communities: The initiative includes engagement with communities to encourage sustainable travel.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.8 There are no implications for the prevention of crime and disorder at this stage. Sussex Police have been consulted as part of the public consultation process.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.9 Following guidelines from the Institute of Highways and Transportation, independent safety audits will be carried out to ensure that safe designs will be implemented.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.10 The proposals will assist in the achievement of the council priorities by protecting the environment through the encouragement of sustainable modes of travel to and from school. The proposals will reuse any appropriate materials to realise a better use of money. The Safer Routes to School Scheme reduces inequality by increasing access to safer, sustainable routes through the city.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 To enable Officers to proceed with the implementation of the scheme.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix 1: Full consultation report
2. Appendix 2: Location map of all sites
3. Appendices 2A – D: Individual site maps

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Local Transport Plan 2006/07 – 2010/11

