

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 10 NOVEMBER 2010

**PETITION REQUESTING THE PROVISION OF A FOOTPATH BETWEEN
THE VILLAGES OF COSBY AND BROUGHTON ASTLEY WITH 326
SIGNATURES**

**BRIEFING NOTE OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND
TRANSPORT**

Background

1. A petition was received on the 25th March 2010, the lead petitioner being Natalie Hunter of Green Acres, Cosby Road, Broughton Astley. Her reasons for submitting the petition are as follows:
 - a) Children from Cosby go to the secondary school in Broughton Astley, many of these children choose to walk this route in the mornings so have to walk down this busy fast road;
 - b) In the evenings, if children stay for after school activities, or go to the park again, they have to walk along this route;
 - c) The provision of a footpath would also benefit the wider community in both villages.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Commission considered the petition and related briefing note of the Director of Environment and Transport at its meeting on 9 June 2010 and resolved that the results of an investigation into the matter be reported within the next six months.

Information

3. Following receipt of the petition, investigations were carried out with regard to the accident record for this length of road, the feasibility and estimated cost of providing such a footpath.
4. All requests for new footpaths are assessed and evaluated and prioritised on an individual basis. This priority is based on the amount of existing and predicted usage of the footpath, the accident records for the length of road and the level of funding available.

5. Consultations have taken place with colleagues regarding the present School Travel Plans for schools that have pupils that may wish to use this route. They have advised that none of these plans identify either a need or aspiration for the provision of a footpath along this route.
6. This proposed route is approximately 1.5 miles and, from the accident statistics record along this road, there has been one accident involving a pedestrian in the last five years.
7. A survey of the highway verge along the route has been carried out and there are lengths where there are restricted widths. The standard width of a tarmacadam footway is 1.8 metres and, given these restrictions, there would be areas where this width could not be achieved. However, the estimated cost of such a footway would be £240,000.
8. An alternative to this could be a footway of significantly reduced specification that is narrower in width with no kerbs or edging and just stone construction. However, this footway even with this reduced specification would have an estimated cost of £90,000.

Conclusion

9. This route has not been identified within the present School Travel Plan.
10. The minimum estimated cost of the footpath is £90,000.
11. Given that this route is not identified within any of the current School Travel Plans, that future years highway maintenance budgets will reduce and the already limited funding that exists for new footways, the requested footway between Cosby and Broughton Astley will not be provided.

Circulation Under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

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