

22. FOOTWAY PROVISION B8064 AT CAPPERS BRIDGE, ARMADALE

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing information on the situation for pedestrian movements in the Southdale development area and in particular how these related to Cappers Bridge on the B8046.

The Head of Operational Services explained that existing pedestrian conditions at Cappers Bridge remained unchanged since the works were completed by Network Rail in August 2010. However concern had been raised about the safety of pedestrians crossing the bridge when walking along the B8046.

The ongoing development of the Southdale development area had meant that pedestrian accessibility through the new development continued to be upgraded and completed. Access was now available from Armadale Station to the Asda store and provided a direct route to other developments on Southdale Way from Station Way. This removed the need to walk along the B8046 to access Southdale Way.

Options to provide pedestrian facilities at Cappers Bridge had previously been considered and discussed. There was insufficient road width to provide a dedicated footway across the bridge and maintain two way traffic movements. The introduction of traffic management to control traffic movements and provide a footway would be detrimental to traffic movement along the B8046 and would have an environmental impact on direct frontages. The capital costs of these works were estimated at £66,000 in 2013.

Pedestrians were currently visible to traffic approaching the bridge from either direction. The introduction of a guardrail would reduce visibility of those pedestrians who chose to take this route in preference to the alternative route via Station Way. However it was considered that the erection of traffic signs indicating pedestrians on the bridge would be beneficial in highlighting the possibility of pedestrians in the vicinity of the bridge.

The Head of Operational Services continued to explain that accident records at the location had been checked and there had been not pedestrian accidents since 1981 and it was also to be noted that there had been no recorded injury accidents in the last three year period which coincided with the start of the continuing growth in the area.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Note the progress in delivering alternative pedestrian routes; and
2. Advise of any further actions required.

Motion

“Council Executive agrees Recommendation 1 and replace Recommendation 2 as follows :-

Instructs officers to consult further with Armadale Community Council, Southdale Primary School Parent Council and the wider school community, appropriate local residents and bring a report back to the scheduled 25 October 2016 meeting of the Council Executive with options to establish a traffic management scheme to promote pedestrian safety in the Cappers Bridge area, to be accommodated within the 2017-18 Capital programme.”

- Moved by Councillor Conn and seconded by Councillor Dixon

Amendment

“Council Executive, given the strong local concerns with regards to the safety of pedestrians, including significant numbers of children, crossing over the Cappers Bridge in Armadale, instructs offices to review the capital programme for 2016-17 to find options to fund the traffic management and footway proposals estimated at £66,000 and to reports these options to the next meeting of West Lothian Council in August 2016 to allow works on this bridge to commence as soon as practicable.”

- Moved by Councillor Johnston and seconded by Councillor Anderson

Decision

Following a vote the motion was successful by 10 votes to 2 and it was agreed accordingly.