

**SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD - 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

**REQUEST FOR A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN CHILDSBRIDGE LANE,  
KEMSING**

Report of the: West Kent Divisional Manager

Status: For Consideration

**Chairman** Cllr. London

**Head of Service** Head of Transportation & Planning – Mr. Ray Dines

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Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that Members:

(a) note the progress made on the investigation into this matter; and

(b) endorse the officers' proposed strategy for taking the matter forward (which will be confirmed at the meeting, based on the information being reported verbally).

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**Background**

1 A petition was received from the local community in Kemsing who are concerned about the safety of pedestrians crossing Childsbridge Lane at its junction with Dynes Road and West End. Officers met on site with the County Member, Parish Councillors, the school Bursar and Mrs Boulind, the petitioner. Investigation work was subsequently undertaken so that advice could be offered to a future meeting of the Board.

**Introduction**

2 The petition, which has 115 signatures, concerns the safety of local villagers who cross Childsbridge Lane. The road is also crossed by school children who attend the local primary school in West End and by secondary school children who catch a school bus on the eastern side of the cross roads. The road is also crossed by the local school walking bus. Kent Highway Services (KHS) commenced its assessment of a formal pedestrian crossing by carrying out a comprehensive 12 hour pedestrian survey on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007. In addition KHS liaised with the Parish Council suggesting that it, and possibly the school, carry out surveys of parents to ascertain the likely future use of a pedestrian crossing – all as requested by Members at last Board meeting.

**Discussion**

3 Whilst this paper was being prepared, KHS was notified of the results of the survey carried out by the school. These suggest that out of 107 respondents, 106 want a formal crossing.

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- 4 The results of the 12 hour pedestrian crossing survey from our technical contractor, Jacobs, are awaited and will be reported verbally at the December Board meeting.
- 5 In addition, KHS carried out an informal survey on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007 to assess the number of pedestrians, including school children, that cross Childsbridge Lane on their way to school or to catch the school bus. The survey was carried out between 7.15am and 8.15am, the peak hour when the majority of pedestrians crossing the road are school children. A total of 57 pedestrians crossed from the western side. Only two pedestrians were observed crossing from the eastern side. This is because most of the children walking to the school bus stopping point do so from the eastern side of Childsbridge Lane and, consequently, did not have to cross the road.
- 6 The personal injury crash data show that there were seven crashes at this junction in the five year period up to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007. All of these crashes resulted in 'slight' injuries. All bar one crash were attributed to excessive speed. Of the others, two involved pedestrian error and four were due to driver error.

**Recommendation:**

- 7 It be RESOLVED that Members:
  - (a) note the progress made on the investigation into this matter; and
  - (b) endorse the officers' proposed strategy for taking the matter forward (which will be confirmed at the meeting, based on the information being reported verbally).

**Sources of Information:** Petition from the residents of Kemsing;  
Pedestrian crossing surveys; and  
Results of the Parish Council's and school's questionnaires

**Contact Officer(s):** Mr Aziz Jiwaji – 01474 544023

**GEOFF HARRISON-MEE**

**DIRECTOR OF KENT HIGHWAY SERVICES**