

AT A MEETING of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE – SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEAL PANEL held at Dummer Golf Club, Dummer, on Monday 21 July 2014.

PRESENT:

Councillors: T. Rolt (Chairman); F. Pearce; R. Price.

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

That Councillor T. Rolt be appointed Chairman for this meeting only.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter considered at the meeting, they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore, Members were mindful that where they believed they had a non-pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting, they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

There were no declarations of interest made by the members of the panel under this item.

3 DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received.

4 SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEAL: LAVERSTOKE TO OVERTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The panel considered the report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 4 in the Minute Book) on the walking route between Florence Portal Close, Laverstoke and Overton CE Primary School.

Having previously walked the route that morning accompanied by officers from the Economy, Transport and Environment Department, the appellant and the local member, the panel carefully considered the evidence and concerns expressed by the appellant and local member and concluded that the route was not available both accompanied and unaccompanied.

Members were mindful of section 2 of the Road Safety GB Guidelines on the Assessment of Walked Routes to School, but felt that the route was not available due to the risks resulting from the interaction between pedestrians and traffic.

The panel's particular reasons for their findings were:

- The speed of the traffic using the B3400 was a concern evidenced by the number of drivers who had lost control of their vehicle at speed in the accident report.
- The volume and size of the traffic was a fear, particularly buses and heavy goods vehicles (HGV's). The panel noted that buses and HGV's affected their walking as they passed, particularly on the stretch of Rotten Hill where there was not a verge in front of the footpath.
- There was real anxiety about the crossing point on the B3400. The panel were concerned about the lack of warning signs for motorists on the approach to this crossing, which was in the middle of a 50 mph zone and whilst visibility was within the guidelines set out by Road Safety GB, felt there was too much risk involved in the inter-action between pedestrians and traffic.

The panel were content with the safety of the route at Southington Lane and Silk Mill Lane, although there was some concern about the potential for winter flooding.

However, the panel were unanimous that the route was not available unaccompanied, as they believed that a child could not expect to have the judgement necessary to safely navigate the crossing point on the B3400.

The panel also had a majority view that the route was not available accompanied, as they believed the type, volume and speed of traffic along the B3400 could still compromise the safety of the child at the crossing point.

Therefore, the appeal was successful.

RESOLVED:

That the appeal be allowed as the walking route between Florence Portal Close, Laverstoke and Overton CE Primary School is not unavailable unaccompanied or accompanied.