

AT A MEETING of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE – SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPEAL PANEL held at the Hampshire Golf Club, Winchester Road, Andover on Thursday 13 November 2014.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: R. McIntosh (Chairman); R. Huxstep; T. Rolt.

**1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

That Councillor R. McIntosh 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: WALNUT TREE GROUND, FYFIELD, TO KIMPTON, THRUXTON AND FYFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The panel considered the report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 4 in the Minute Book) on the two walking routes between Walnut Tree Ground, Fyfield and Kimpton, Thruxton and Fyfield CE Primary School.

Having previously walked the routes that morning accompanied by an officer from the Economy, Transport and Environment Department and the appellant, the panel considered the evidence and concerns expressed by the appellant and concluded that routes 1 and 2 were not available unaccompanied or accompanied.

The panel's particular reasons for their decisions were:

### Route 1:

- Sight lines were not clear at a number of points on the route, allowing little indication to oncoming traffic that there was a pedestrian ahead, particularly at the first crossing point on Fyfield Road, outside Misslethwaite Cottage
- All step offs appeared to be raised, not easily accessible and onto verges with substantial vegetation
- The footpaths that were available on Snoddington Road were thin, and very difficult to walk two abreast
- The visibility at the three crossing points on the route was not high. In particular, the panel had real concerns about the T junction which needed crossing to access the road leading to the school

### Route 2:

- Sight lines were not clear at a number of points on the route, allowing little indication to oncoming traffic that there was a pedestrian ahead, particularly at the first crossing point on Fyfield Road, outside Misslethwaite Cottage
- All step offs appeared to be raised, not easily accessible and onto verges with substantial vegetation
- The footpaths that were available on Snoddington Road were thin, and very difficult to walk two abreast
- Stanbury Road was a very narrow road, with low visibility and no step offs. It was noted that cars were mounting the verge in order to pass members, officers and the parent

Members felt that both routes were not safe for a child to walk, unaccompanied or accompanied, and expressed concern about the initial assessment of the route. Members were mindful of section 2 of the Road Safety GB Guidelines on the Assessment of Walked Routes to School, but were unanimous that both routes were not available unaccompanied or accompanied.

### RESOLVED:

That the two walking routes between Walnut Tree Ground, Fyfield, and Kimpton, Thruxton and Fyfield CE Primary School are not available unaccompanied or accompanied.