

**Hampshire County Council**

**Regulatory Committee B**

**8 November 2012**

**School Transport Appeal: Old Basing to Costello School**

**Report of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment,**

**Contact: Neil Beswick, ext 846921    email: [neil.beswick@hants.gov.uk](mailto:neil.beswick@hants.gov.uk)**

**1. Summary**

1.1 Mrs Kreiner and Mr & Mrs Waller have appealed, on personal safety grounds, against the decision not to award free school transport to their children, from Hatch Lane, Old Basing to Costello School, Basingstoke.

**2. Background**

2.1 Old Basing lies 2.5 miles East of Costello School. The walking route is within the statutory three miles distance beyond which free transport is provided for children over eight attending their catchment area school, or a nearer school.

2.2 Mrs Kreiner and Mr & Mrs Waller have raised concerns over the safety of the walking route to the school from the Old Basing area.

2.3 There is a Hampshire County Council subsidised public bus service, number 656, between Old Basing and Costello School. There is also a commercial Stagecoach public bus service from Old Basing to Basingstoke bus station, with Costello School a further 12 minute walk from the bus station.

**3. The Appeal**

3.1 The route has to be considered against the national Local Authority Road Safety Officers' Association (LARSOA) criteria for the Assessment of Walked Routes to School (Appendix 2 ). This organisation changed it's name to Road Safety GB in 2009, but the same criteria applies.

3.2 An on-site inspection was undertaken on 13 July 2012 by a representative from Hampshire County Council's Road Safety Team. The salient points of this report are in Appendix 1

3.3 Two possible routes between Old Basing and Costello School were investigated, and the route via Crown Lane and Basing Road deemed as unsafe, but the route via London Road and Crabtree Plantation being deemed as safe.

4. **Conclusion**

4.1 Members will have had the opportunity to inspect the walking route. The County Council's position is that, under the criteria, the walking route is available.

4.2 It is for Members to consider, following the guidance of Appendix 1:

(i) whether the nature of the route, or an alternative route, means that it is available for children if unaccompanied; and

(ii) if the answer to (i) is no, whether the route is available if accompanied.

4.3 If the answer to (ii) is yes, separate consideration by the Children's Services Department would be given to any representations by parents or carers who are unable to accompany their children by virtue of individual circumstances.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background papers

The following documents disclose facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

NB the list excludes:

1. Published works.
2. Documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.

TITLE

LOCATION

Correspondence and notes from site inspections and telephone conversations

ETE Directorate  
Passenger Transport Group

NB