



Report to the North West Chilterns Community Board

Date:	30/05/2022
Title:	Petition Report: Pedestrian Crossing at Naphill and Walters Ash School
Ward(s) affected:	Ridgeway East
Author:	Amanda Hayes, Schools' Sustainable Travel Lead Officer.
Recommendations:	That the Community Board consider the petition, note this report, and determine whether it wishes to further investigate the introduction of a pedestrian crossing at Naphill and Walters Ash School.

1. Summary

- 1.1 Buckinghamshire Council have received an ePetition requesting installation *“of a safe crossing for children and families travelling to Naphill and Walter's Ash school. To prevent unnecessary harm, both to the school community and wider community, by taking effective measures to address the risk of serious accident or fatality on Main Road, Walters Ash.”*
- 1.2 The ePetition notes that there is a crossing patroller site on Main Road but that there are times when the patroller is not present referring to a period between October 2021 to January 2022 when the role was vacant. The ePetition continues to explain that since January 2022 when a new crossing patroller took up post, there were times when the patroller was not present, and the Council had no contingency in place. The e-petition states that in *“these circumstances, it should be imperative for local leaders to consult on the subject of a Zebra Crossing in this location as a priority. There should be a Road Safety Audit and assessment undertaken in accordance with HD 19/-15 as a matter of urgency.”*
- 1.3 The ePetition ran from 03/02/2022 to 03/03/2022 and has now finished. 135 people signed this ePetition. This response sets out the considerations made by Buckinghamshire Council in preparing its recommendation.

2. Background information

Formal Crossing Point

- 2.1 Prior to determining the need for a formal crossing point, the first step would be to complete an assessment to establish the need for the crossing per se. This assessment would be based on demand to cross, speed and number of vehicles (as a way of assessing the conflict between vehicles and pedestrians), as well as considering other factors.
- 2.2 Unfortunately, there is currently no funding available for investigating or implementing an improved crossing on Main Road at the requested location.
- 2.3 The request has been noted by relevant officers who will consider the scheme for future funding opportunities within the area, such as developer contributions.
- 2.4 Buckinghamshire Council is keen to improve cycling and walking routes across the county and will be producing a Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This will enable the Council to establish a comprehensive (high level) future walking and cycling network across the Council area and identify future investment priorities for new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure. The ePetition request will be added to the local aspirations to be considered through the LCWIP work.

Travel to School

- 2.5 The Council is in the process of recruiting for a relief patroller to cover sites in the Naphill and Walters Ash, and Hughenden area. It should be noted that the present patroller has had 1 ½ days off since January 2022, namely 26th January and half day 5th April. The patroller has requested Special Leave on 20th May, 7th June and 13th June. The school is notified in advance of all absences and parents are emailed by the school to ensure that they take extra care whilst crossing without assistance.
- 2.6 At all times it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that their child gets to school. A patroller's role is to assist by stopping the traffic in order for them to cross.
- 2.7 The Council has requested the school contact our School Travel Plan Advisor who can help the school to implement a School Travel Plan including pedestrian safety initiatives.
- 2.8 In addition to the school warning flasher units and school patrol signs either side of the patrol site, the Council has positioned banners on surrounding lampposts to help raise awareness and prominence of the patrol site to motorists and other road users, even on the occasions when there is no patroller present.

3. Next steps and review

- 3.1 It is recommended that the North West Chiltern Community Board note this report and steps that officers are proposing to take.
- 3.2 If the Community Board wishes to fund a crossing for Main Road (as per the ePetition) then the Board may like to consider allocating local funding (if deemed to be a local priority) for the following:
- An initial survey / assessment to establish the need for a formal crossing point.
 - A feasibility study to establish the most appropriate crossing facility for the location and to identify a cost estimate for the scheme. This would help to support any potential future funding bids / requests.
 - Funding delivery of a crossing.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the school develops a School Travel Plan (including consideration of pedestrian safety initiatives). The Council's School Travel Plan Advisor can support the school with this.

