

Dear Gerry

School Crossing Patrol – Torrance

As you will be aware the SNP Group in its budget paper rejected the saving option of reducing school crossing patrols.

The budget options documentation presented to elected members included the wording “Reduce numbers of school crossing patrols in line with risk assessments”.

I have asked for copies of the risk assessments which were carried out and have not received any for the crossing at Main Street, Torrance nor for any other crossing which has a pelican or puffin crossing.

Information about the proposal to remove the School Crossing Patrol Officer from Torrance is only now starting to reach parents and many fears about the safety of this crossing without a patrol officer have already been expressed.

There is also substantial anger that despite the decision being taken on 11th February parents have only just been informed but are also being told that this change will be implemented from 1st April.

Following discussion at the Torrance Community Council meeting of 11th March a request will be coming to you that the implementation of this decision be postponed, as a matter of urgency, until a risk assessment is carried out and the dangers of the crossing fully evaluated.

The junction

As recently as December 2009 safety concerns had been voiced to the police by the Community Council about the layout and traffic conditions at the junction of Main Street, Campsie Road and West Balgrochan Road in Torrance. The junction is narrow with a very tight corner, has restricted sight lines, on street parking, entrances to local properties and an awkward system of staggered traffic lights. The road is extremely busy in the mornings with a mix of private cars, heavy vehicles and school buses.

Because of the narrowness of the road there have been instances of larger vehicles mounting the pavement to negotiate the bend in the road.

The dangers

In an informal survey to gauge the potential dangers one of the members of the Community Council carried out a survey at the crossing between 8 and 9am on two mornings and noted a serious number of red light violations with a significant improvement occurring only once the patrol officer came on duty.

The patrol officer herself has confirmed that she is aware of vehicles going through the junction while the ‘green man’ pedestrian signal is active and pedestrians could be crossing the road.

The Community Council have agreed to write to you with further information and detail about the traffic conditions at this junction and you should shortly receive this letter.

Postponement

Although there are traffic lights at this busy junction leading to Torrance Primary School, local conditions for pedestrians are hazardous, and particularly for young children.

In light of the considerable local anxiety, I would therefore strongly request a postponement of any change to the School Crossing Patrol Officer provision until such time as a full risk assessment has been carried out and all steps taken to measure the potential dangers to the children if the school crossing patrol were to be removed.

Please advise.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Anne McNair