

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE

24 AUGUST 2000

A923 COUPAR ANGUS ROAD, BIRKHILL-PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT

This report presents the findings of pedestrian crossing assessments carried out along the full length of the A923 Coupar Angus Road, Birkhill and makes proposals based on the outcome of these assessments.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agree to the provision of a 'Puffin' pedestrian crossing on the A923 Coupar Angus Road, Birkhill, just to the east of its junction with Post Box Road together with an additional length of footway.

2 INTRODUCTION

Report number 246/96 'The Assessment and Design of Pedestrian Crossings' which recommended criteria to be used in assessing the need for a pedestrian crossing was approved by the Roads Committee on 25 April 1996.

Report number 692/96 'The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings' which was approved by the Roads Committee on 29 August 1996, considered a number of outstanding crossing requests and the Committee agreed to defer the decision on the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the A923 at Muirhead until village gateways had been provided and pedestrian refuge islands had been investigated. It was also agreed to do nothing at Birkhill as the site failed to meet the criteria.

Report number 462/97 'The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings' was approved by the Roads Committee on 24 April 1997. It considered a number of sites where crossings had been requested and recommended that a 'Puffin' crossing be provided on the A923 in Muirhead.

Report number 113/98 'The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings' was approved by the Roads Committee on 29 January 1998 and considered the outstanding requests at that time.

Report Number 651/98 'The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings' which was approved by the Roads Committee on 11 June 1998 considered the outstanding requests at that time.

Concerns regarding traffic speeds and pedestrian safety along the A923 through Muirhead and Birkhill have been brought to the attention of the Roads Department over a number of years. Various traffic calming/road safety measures have been implemented as detailed below:

- The provision of a speed activated speed limit sign on an intermittent basis to remind motorists to 'slow down' if they are going too fast.
- The installation of a 'Puffin' crossing in 1998 at Muirhead.
- The provision of village gateway signing including the 'drive safely' message in 1998.
- The provision of central hatching along the centre line of the carriageway in 1999.
- The enforcement of the 30mph limit.

In February this year a petition was received requesting a traffic controlled pedestrian facility in the vicinity of the petrol filling station and the shop in Birkhill and this has resulted in the site being re examined to ascertain whether the site would now meet the relevant criteria.

3 DETAILS

Since the original surveys were carried out there have been a number of changes in the area. Additional housing has been provided at Piperdam and Fowlis and permission has been granted for 90 houses to be built with access off Dronley Road. There is also a need to provide a suitable off-loading point for school buses in the afternoon for pupils returning from Monifieth High School. There is a further proposal for a village hall on the south side of the A923.

All these developments have increased and will increase further the numbers of pedestrian and vehicle movements in the area.

The A923 Coupar Angus Road splits the villages of Muirhead and Birkhill, with the housing, school and Inn on one side of the road, and a garage, shop, playing fields and bowling green on the other side of the road as shown on plan 1 (attached).

From August 1996 to July 1999 there were 20 accidents on the A923 between Dronley Road and Gourdie Brae. These comprised 1 serious, 1 slight and 18 damage only accidents. Only 1 accident involved pedestrians. More recent accident records are not available at the moment but an accident involving a young child occurred in July this year.

Vehicle and pedestrian surveys were carried out over a 12 hour period on Tuesday 27 June 2000 prior to the school summer holidays. The survey examined the traffic flow and composition, the number of pedestrians crossing the A923, where the pedestrians crossed, and the time it took to make a safe crossing. The crossing time was measured in two parts, the waiting time and the walking time.

Having analysed the survey results, a second survey was carried out on Tuesday 4 July 2000 after the schools had broken off for the summer. The survey was carried out at peak times only which were ascertained from the previous 12-hour count. This

showed any differences in the peak hour flows both in traffic and pedestrian movement.

Very high flows were measured on the A923 within the pm peak of 17.00 to 18.00 on Tuesday 27 June 2000. The number of vehicles recorded was 1054 combined flow.

(There were 17 pedestrians crossing within the same time period compared to 40 in the previous hour).

The average number of vehicles over the worst four conflict hours was 900/hr with a pedestrian flow of 26 per hour.

The average delay in crossing (i.e. the waiting time for a suitable gap in the traffic flow) measured between 17.00 and 18.00 was 22 seconds with a crossing time of 6 seconds for an able bodied person. The waiting time was excessive on occasions. In addition, traffic speeds tend to be appreciably higher than the 30 mph speed limit.

Based on these results and as detailed in local transport note 1/95, a pedestrian facility should be provided at this locus.

A number of options were therefore considered:-

- **Refuge Islands** – a series of islands would be helpful if pedestrian movement was spread out over a long length of road. Pedestrian movement is however concentrated towards the garage and shop. In addition the width of the road is insufficient to accommodate refuge islands safely.
- **Zebra Crossing** - the traffic flows at peak times are greater than recommended for the provision of a zebra crossing.
- **Puffin Crossing** - this would be suitable for this locus. It would provide good crossing facilities for pedestrians and minimum delays to traffic flows at peak times. The provision of a 1.8 metre wide footway is required on the south side of the A923 adjacent to the shop and petrol filling station to provide a safe landing area for pedestrians (see plan 2).

4 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated cost of providing a 'Puffin' crossing at this locus is £25,000 including the provision of a footway on the south side of the road to link the shop with the crossing. The postponement of the planned improvement to the B9128/C51 junction at Hillend discussed and agreed earlier on the agenda for this meeting (Report No. 905/00 refers) has freed up £45,000 which was previously allocated in the Roads and Transport Renewal and Repair Fund for that scheme. The costs of this scheme can therefore be met from this Fund during the current financial year.

5 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance, the Director of Education and the Chief Constable have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6 CONCLUSION

Because of the high level of vehicular flow and relatively high vehicle speeds, a small number of pedestrians are finding great difficulty in crossing the A923 Coupar Angus Road at Birkhill. It is therefore proposed to install a 'Puffin' pedestrian crossing at this location and provide a short length of new footway to link the crossing to the petrol filling station/shop.

Dr Bob McLellan
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report (list papers concerned): -

Report No 246/96 - The Assessment and Design of Pedestrian Crossings – Angus Council Roads Committee, 25 April 1996.

Report No 692/96 - The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings – Angus Council Roads Committee, 29 August, 1996.

Report No 462/97 - The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings – Angus Council Roads Committee, 24 April, 1997.

Report No 113/98 - The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings – Angus Council Roads Committee, 29 January, 1998.

Report No 651/98 - The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings – Angus Council Roads Committee, 11 June 1998.

Report No 912/99 – A92 Dundee to Arbroath – Development at Ethiebeaton Park, Monifieth – Provision of Bus lay-bys and Pedestrians Crossing – Angus Council, 16 September 1999.

Report No 1029/99 – A932 Dundee Road, Forfar – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing – Angus Council Roads Committee, 14 October 1999.

Local Transport Note 1/95 – The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings
 2/95 – The Design of Pedestrian Crossings

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