

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 1 DECEMBER 2004

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Report By Executive Director of Development & Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Forum about the upgrading of pedestrian crossings for use by persons with a sensory impairment.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 22 September, 2004, the Forum noted that some pedestrian crossings were not suitably equipped for ease of use by persons with a sensory impairment and requested that a report be presented on the current position.
- 2.2 East Ayrshire Council has been successful in making bids for additional financial allocations from the Scottish Executive's Public Transport Fund. This has enabled the Council to promote the following schemes:-
- Kilmarnock Town Centre quality bus corridors and pedestrian access measures;
 - Quality bus corridor improvements in the A71 Irvine Valley corridor between Kilmarnock and Darvel including pedestrian measures;
 - Quality bus corridor improvements in A76 corridor between Kilmarnock and Cumnock, including pedestrian measures;
 - Access measures in Cumnock to improve bus facilities and enhance pedestrian and cycle linkages in the town.
- 2.3 The pedestrian access measures are now largely completed in Kilmarnock Town Centre. This has allowed 13 sets of traffic signals with pedestrian phases and 6 pelican crossings to be upgraded. The work in the A71 corridor, the A76 corridor and Cumnock will be carried out by the end of the 2005/06 financial year.
- 2.4 The pedestrian measures include improving footways where necessary, providing dropped kerbs at corners to make it easier for the elderly, disabled people and all other pedestrians to cross the road, and enhanced crossing facilities. In Kilmarnock Town Centre a number of new pedestrian crossings have been provided, and elsewhere pedestrian facilities at traffic signals and pelican crossings have been upgraded. In such cases, tactile paving slabs have been provided on the approaches to the crossings and tactile cones which rotate during the pedestrian phase, have been provided beneath the push button boxes. The latter features are particularly helpful for pedestrians with a visual impairment. At the upgraded signalised crossings, audible signals have been installed where a separate pedestrian phase is provided. Outwith the centre of Kilmarnock, there are a number of other pedestrian crossings which do not yet have all of the latest features to assist elderly and disabled people. The Roads Division will be bringing forward proposals for upgrading these facilities, as part of future programmes, subject to the availability of funding.

2.5 A71 corridor, A76 corridor and Cumnock, a number of new pedestrian crossings are proposed for implementation in the course of the Quality Bus Corridor improvements. In each case, the crossings will be provided with lowered kerbs, tactile slabs on the approaches and tactile cones. Where a separate pedestrian phase is proposed, an audible signal will also be installed. The existing crossings in the communities on the A71, A76 and in Cumnock will be examined in the course of this project and will be upgraded where necessary. Particular concerns have been raised about the difficulties disabled people are experiencing at the signalised crossings on Tanyard in Cumnock.

2.6 The times of the pedestrian phases at the traffic signals at the Tanyard/Ayr Road junction and at the pelican crossing on Tanyard will be examined in the course of the Quality Bus Corridor project and amendments will be made where necessary to make it easier for pedestrians to cross the road.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no legal implications for East Ayrshire.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The improvement of pedestrian facilities in the A71 corridor, A76 corridor and Cumnock will be implemented from the Public Transport Fund allocation to East Ayrshire Council.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee;

- i) note the works that have been implemented, and which are programmed, to improve pedestrian crossing facilities in East Ayrshire to assist people with a sensory impairment.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
17 November 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 555734

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