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DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

7 April 2020

**Joint Report of the Executive Director for Children's Services
& Executive Director for Economy, Transport & Environment**

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – HAZARDOUS ROUTES

1. Purpose of Report

To consider a request for a home to school routes to be declared 'unsafe' for the purpose of establishing eligibility to free transport to Heritage High School.

2. Information and Analysis

2.1 Background

The Authority provides assistance with travel for full-time primary and secondary school pupils who do not live within walking distance of their normal area school. This distance, as defined in the 1996 Education Act, is 2 miles for children under 8 and 3 miles for children over aged 8 measured by the nearest available route (Transport Policy for Children of Compulsory School Age).

An exception may be made to these distance rules if the Authority agrees that a particular route is unsafe for a pupil, accompanied if necessary, to undertake on foot. In making such a decision, the Authority would consider not only the nature of the route or alternative routes the pupil could reasonably be expected to take, but also the age of the child and whether, due to disability, the parent is unable to accompany him or her.

2.2 Criteria

The Authority's criteria for the assessment of route safety in relation to home to school transport situations are set out below:-

- a) In assessing the safety of a particular route, consideration be given only to hazard relevant to traffic/highway conditions;
- b) It is essential that each case be considered objectively on its merits;
- c) It is assumed that the child is accompanied, if necessary, by a parent or other responsible person and will be suitably clad;
- d) Where a footway or roadside strip of reasonable width and condition, public footpath or bridleway exists, this will normally be assumed to provide a safe route for that part of the journey;
- e) Where, on a lightly trafficked or narrow road, a verge exists which is not easy to walk on, but which can be stepped onto by the child and accompanying person when vehicles are passing, it can normally be assumed to provide a safe route for that part of the journey;
- f) Many routes may lie along roads having neither footway nor verge. On such roads consideration should be given to the width of the carriageway, traffic speed and composition (such as frequent heavy goods vehicles) and to visibility (ie sharp bends with high hedgerows or banks);
- g) The absence of street lighting is not in itself a measure of the availability of a safe route although where children are unable to step off the road surface it could become a significant factor;
- h) Consideration should be given to the relevant accident record of the route with particular regard to the effect on pedestrian movement; and
- i) Where road crossings are necessary, the availability of facilities to assist such crossings should be taken into consideration as should the extent of visibility.

Where a route is deemed unsafe for any of the above highway reasons the matter should also be referred to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to consider if the unsafe can reasonably be removed by appropriate highway management means. Granting of "unsafe route" status should be on the clear understanding that this status would cease if and

when necessary highway measures are taken to remove the cause of the hazard.

3. Whitwell Common (A619) via Gapsick Lane, and Whitwell Common (A619) via Rotherham Road to Heritage High School

3.1 Background

A parent of a pupil attending Heritage High School has raised concerns with regard to the safety of routes for the purposes of home to school transport from their home address in Whitwell Common and Heritage High School – Shortest Available Route is 2.625 miles.

A request was made for the route to be inspected in accordance with the Authority's Walking Route Assessment Criteria of the Transport Policy for Children of Compulsory School Age (www.derbyshire.gov.uk/get2school).

A pro forma (Appendix A) is attached with the areas in question – A619 Whitwell Common, A618 Rotherham Road and Gapsick Lane/Hickinwood Lane - shown on the attached map (Appendix B). Accident data is provided in a separate document (Appendix C).

3.2 Details

If the routes are declared not safe for the purposes of home to school transport, the Authority would be required to provide assistance with transport for all students whose nearest alternative route to the school measures over the statutory walking distance of three miles for a secondary age pupil.

Date of Inspection

14 January 2020

Recommendation

Both routes unsafe

4. Station Road Clowne to Heritage High via the mini round-a-bouts, and recently built supermarkets and Wilkinson's store

Following two recent second tier transport appeals, parents raised the issue that part of the route that was assessed as safe in 2012 from Creswell to the school had changed due to new developments leading off Station Road to the school via the two mini round-a-bouts prior to

the footpath to the school. The panel then inspected the area whilst in the vicinity with the above routes.

Date of Inspection

14 January 2020

Recommendation

Safe

3. Financial Considerations

Any routes which are declared hazardous by the County Council automatically require the provision of free transport to children who have to travel along those routes if there is no alternative route under the relevant distance to the School (see 2.1 above Background – Transport Policy for Children of Compulsory School Age). Therefore, any routes so designated have ongoing financial consequences for the Authority which would have to be met from its Home to School Transport budget. In each case under consideration the cost does not have a bearing on the question of whether a route should be regarded as dangerous.

4. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:
Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Equality of Opportunity and Environmental, Health, Legal, Personnel and Property considerations.

5. Background Papers

Reports and Minutes of meetings as mentioned in this report.

6. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Young People considers and approves the Hazardous Routes Panel's recommendations of the routes identified above.

Jane Parfremment
Executive Director
Children's Services

Mike Ashworth
Executive Director
Economy, Transport & Environment

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Appendix A**

<u>HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – WALKING ROUTE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA</u>		<u>ROUTE: Whitwell Common to Heritage High School via A619, A618, Gapsick Lane and Hickinwood Lane</u>	
In assessing the safety of a particular route consideration should be given only to danger relevant to traffic/highway conditions. It is essential that each case be considered objectively on its merits.	<u>RELEVANT INFORMATION (where applicable)</u>	<u>OFFICER'S COMMENTS</u>	
1. It is assumed that the child is accompanied if necessary by a normal caring parent or other responsible person and will be suitably clad.	As determined in the High Court ruling Rogers v Essex 1987		
2. Where a footway or roadside strip of reasonable width and condition, public footpath or bridleway exists, this will normally be assumed to provide a safe route for that part of the journey.	Whitwell Common	Intermittent footpaths to frontage of properties and to junctions of A619/Gapsick Lane and A619/Harwood Lane. Commences again at The Van Dyke Hotel and continues to junction of Rotherham Road.	
3. Where, on a lightly trafficked or narrow road, a verge exists which is not easy to walk on, but which can be stepped onto by the child and accompanying person when vehicles are passing, it can normally be assumed to provide a safe route for that part of the journey.	Gapsick Lane Rotherham Road Whitwell Common	Unlit. Verges vary in width and condition. In places the verge is only suitable to use to step onto whilst a vehicle passes. 50 Mph. Lit road with central white line indicating suitable for 2 way traffic. From junction with A619 no pavement until Junction with Harlthorpe Lane which is then on one or both sides. Up to the footpath there are limited step offs, verges vary in width and condition. At the part of the road with A619 junction the road is winding with limited step offs. 50 Mph with speed cameras. Verges vary in width and condition on either or both sides of the road. There a couple of vehicle parking bays along this part of the route. Paved to frontage of dwellings to junctions with A619/only.	
4. Many routes may lie along roads having neither footway nor verge. On such roads consideration should be given to the width of the carriageway, traffic speed and composition (such as frequent heavy goods vehicles) and to visibility (ie	Vehicle count conducted:	Junction with A619/Highwood Lane: Car 1 Van 2 Gapsick Lane:	

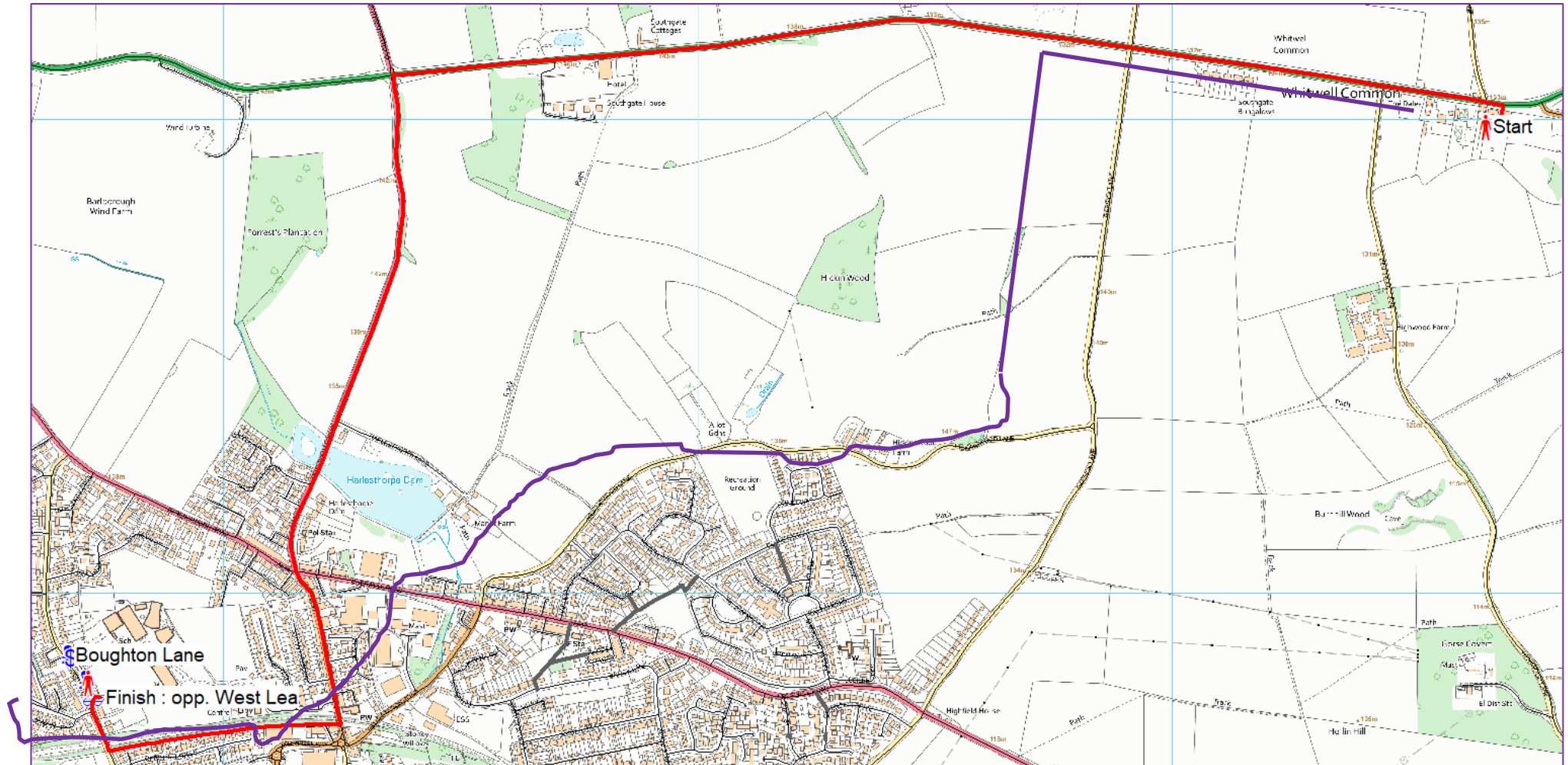
sharp bends with high hedgerows or banks).		Car 28 Van 9 A619: Car 274 Van 52 Bus 17 Motorbike 2 Lorry 52 Vehicle with trailer 2
5. The absence of street lighting is not in itself a measure of the availability of a safe route although where children are unable to step off the road surface it could become a significant factor.	Gapsick Lane and Highwood Lane do not have street lighting.	This may cause an issue should step off the road be required.
6. Consideration should be given to the relevant accident record of the route with particular regard to the effect on pedestrian movement.	Accident data attached – 01.07.16 to 30.06.19	There have been 11 accidents in the area during this period
7. Where road crossings are necessary, the availability of facilities to assist such crossings should be taken into consideration as should the extent of visibility.	Crossing would be required at Whitwell Common/Highwood Lane and/or Whitwell Common/Gapsick Lane dependent on which route is used.	The road is straight at these points therefore visibility is good. Highwood Lane is low on vehicle usage.

Appendix B

11 Workop Road, Whitwell Common to Heritage High School

Route 1  via Gapsick Lane and Hickinwood Lane (2.625 miles)

Route 2  via Rotherham Road (2.790 miles)



Details of Personal Injury Accidents for Period - 01/07/2016 to 30/06/2019 (36) months

Selection:

Selected using Manual Selection

Notes:

Collisions on A619 Clinthill Lane, Highwood Lane, Gapsick Lane and A616 Rotherham Road 01/07/2016 - 30/06/2019

Police Ref.	Day	Location Description	Vehicles				Casualties	
			Veh No / Type / Sex / Age / Manv / Dir / Class				Sev	
Road No.	Date							
2nd Road No.	Time							
Grid Ref.	D/L							
	R.S.C							
	Weather							
	Speed							
1700792	Tuesday	CRESWELL A616 SHEFFIELD RD						
	02/05/2017	(IPQA)	Veh 1	Car	Going ahead	E to W	Ped	Serious
R1: A 616	0430hrs							
	Darkness: street lights present b							
E 451,815	Dry							
N 375,237	Fine without high winds							
	40 mph							
1701081	Sunday	CRESWELL A616 SHEFFIELD RD J/W						
	28/05/2017	CS HAZELMERE RD (IPQA)	Veh 1	Car	Going ahead	W to E	FSP	Slight
R1: A 616	1425hrs		Veh 2	Car	Wait go ahead held	W to E	Dri	Slight
R2: C	Daylight:street lights present		Veh 2	Car	Wait go ahead held	W to E	FSP	Slight
E 451,955	Dry		Veh 2	Car	Wait go ahead held	W to E	RSP	Slight
N 375,234	Fine without high winds		Veh 2	Car	Wait go ahead held	W to E	RSP	Slight
	40 mph		Veh 3	Car	Wait to turn right	W to S	Dri	Slight
1701169	Thursday	WHITWELL A619 CLINTHILL LANE						
	29/06/2017	OPPOSITE THE LAYBY	Veh 1	Car	Going ahead RH bend	NE to W	Dri	Slight
R1: A 619	1156hrs		Veh 2	Car	Wait go ahead held	NE to W		
	Daylight:street lights present		Veh 3	Car	Wait go ahead held	NE to W		
E 452,617	Wet/Damp		Veh 4	Car	Going ahead	W to NE	Dri	Slight
N 377,219	Raining without high winds		Veh 4	Car	Going ahead	W to NE	FSP	Slight
	50 mph							
1701485	Thursday	WHITWELL COMMON A619 (O/S						
	31/08/2017	ARROW CAFE) (IPQA)	Veh 1	Goods 3.5 - 7.5t	Going ahead	SW to NE		
R1: A 619	0715hrs		Veh 2	Goods < 3.5t	Turning right	NW to SW	Dri	Fatal
R2: U	Daylight:street lights present		Veh 3	Goods < 3.5t	Going ahead	NE to SW		
E 453,646	Dry							
N 377,926	Fine without high winds							
	50 mph							
1701998	Wednesday	WHITWELL COMMON A619						
	06/12/2017	CLINTHILL LANE (IPQA)	Veh 1	Car	Going ahead	E to W	RSP	Fatal
R1: A 619	1830hrs		Veh 1	Car	Going ahead	E to W	FSP	Serious
	Darkness: no street lighting		Veh 1	Car	Going ahead	E to W	Dri	Serious
E 452,321	Wet/Damp		Veh 2	Car	Going ahead	W to E	Dri	Serious
N 377,234	Other		Veh 3	Car	Going ahead	W to E		
	50 mph							

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Police Ref.	Day	Location Description	Vehicles				Casualties	
			Veh No / Type / Sex / Age / Manv / Dir / Class				Sev	
Road No.	Date							
2nd Road No.	Time							
Grid Ref.	D/L							
	R.S.C							
	Weather							
	Speed							
1800266	Saturday	CRESWELL A616 SHEFFIELD ROAD						
	03/03/2018	(IPQA-5144)	Veh 1	Car	Going ahead	W to E	Ped	Serious
R1: A 616	0539hrs							
	Darkness: no street lighting							
E 451,668	Frost/Ice							
N 375,254	Fine without high winds							
	60 mph							
1801226	Thursday	CLOWNE A616 SHEFFIELD RD						
	13/09/2018	APPROX 120 YDS S/E GAPSICK LANE	Veh 1	Car	Stopping	SE to NW	Dri	Slight
R1: A 616	1130hrs	X/RDS (IPQA-5144)	Veh 2	Car	Going ahead	SE to NW		
	Daylight:street lights present							
E 450,572	Dry							
N 375,699	Fine without high winds							
	60 mph							
1801453	Thursday	WHITWELL COMMON A619						
	11/10/2018	(IPQA-5144)	Veh 1	Car	Going ahead	W to E		
R1: A 619	0210hrs		Veh 2	Car	Stopping	W to E		
	Darkness: street lighting unkno		Veh 3	Car	Stopping	W to E	Dri	Slight
E 450,969	Dry							
N 377,146	Unknown							
	50 mph							
1801545	Friday	WHITWELL C50 PETER MORE HILL						
	09/11/2018	J/W C279 HIGHWOOD LANE	Veh 1	Car	Going ahead	SW to NE	Dri	Slight
R1: C	0845hrs	(IPQA-5144)	Veh 2	Goods < 3.5t	Turning right	NW to SW		Slight
R2: C	Daylight:street lights present							
E 451,985	Wet/Damp							
N 375,466	Fine without high winds							
	60 mph							
1900736	Thursday	CLOWNE A616 SHEFFIELD ROAD J/W						
	30/05/2019	C123 HOLLIN HILL ROAD (IPQA)	Veh 1	Goods < 3.5t	U turn	SE to SE		
R1: A 616	2020hrs		Veh 2	Pedal cycle	Going ahead	NW to SE	Dri	Serious
R2: C	Daylight:street lights present							
E 450,470	Dry							
N 375,751	Fine without high winds							
	30 mph							

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Police Ref.	Day	Location Description	Vehicles					Casualties	
			Veh No	Type	Sex	Age	Manv	Dir	Class
Road No.	Date								
2nd Road No.	Time								
Grid Ref.	D/L								
	R.S.C								
	Weather								
	Speed								
1900737	Friday	CLOWNE C123 GAPSICK LANE							
	31/05/2019	TOWARDS A619 (9448)	Veh 1	M/C < 125 cc				Going ahead	SW to NE Dri
R1: U	0200hrs								Slight
	Darkness: street lights present a								
E 450,619	Dry								
N 375,956	Fine without high winds								
	30 mph								

