

Full Council

School Crossing Patrol Review as requested by Toothill Parish Councillors

1	PROJECT PROPOSAL
1.1	To consider a review of a previous proposal to fund a School Crossing Patrol officer.
2	INTRODUCTION
2.1	In December 2018, West Swindon Parish Council approved a grant application for £1500 as a contribution towards an estimated total of £6,500 for two years of funding for a school crossing patrol officer for Hazelwood Academy. Over the course of a number of months, costs for the post were reassessed at £4700 per year. This had an impact on the original grant funding available to the school and the grant was not proceeded with.
2.2	Following a recent road traffic accident outside Hazelwood Academy, Toothill Parish Councillors are asking that the Parish Council reviews consideration of funding in part or in total for a post to provide school crossing patrols at Hazelwood Academy.
3	PROPOSAL
3.1	It is envisaged that funding for this post would be a short term intervention whilst the school waits to be considered for a school safety zone by Swindon Borough Council. The arrangements for recruitment and employment would expect to follow those agreed by the school when previously seeking funding.
3.2	A temporary school crossing patrol officer would support efforts to protect pupils attending school and hopefully minimise the likelihood of incidents occurring.
3.3	Neither Swindon Borough Council Highways Team nor Hazelwood Academy have confirmed support for a review of the proposal at the current time.
4	IMPACT
4.1	Any use of Parish Council funding should be of benefit to Parish Council residents. There is no statutory duty to provide school crossing patrol officers and as a result, the Parish Council could use its General Power of Competence to grant fund a temporary position.
4.2	The grant funding of a school crossing patrol role would potentially be a visible contribution from the Parish Council in a community setting.
5	COSTS
5.1	Possible implications. The Council will need to consider the duration of any

	<p>funding of this type and whether any wider contributions could be sought from other parties, businesses or organisations. This type of role might attract sponsorship locally. The school may be able to make a financial contribution however this is not confirmed.</p>
6.	BUDGET
6.1	<p>Possible implications. The Parish Council has £15,000 in its small grants programme of which £1600 has been allocated to date.</p>
7	FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS
7.1	<p>Consideration would need to be given as to whether this would set an expectation for longer term funding if there is no introduction of physical school safety zone measures in the future.</p>
8.	RECOMMENDATIONS
8.1	<p>That this Committee notes the information in this report in order to consider whether to approve that this proposal is taken forward and further details brought back to a future meeting for further deliberation.</p>
8.2	<p>That this Committee makes a resolution determining next steps for this proposal.</p>

Paula Harrison, Parish Manager