

12. BANKS AVENUE SCHOOL PATROL

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Corporate Plan Output: School Crossing Equipment 9.5.7	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the request by the school for a school patrol on Banks Avenue, and the consequential effect on one adjacent resident.

INTRODUCTION

Banks Avenue School is the largest primary school in Christchurch with the roll expected to exceed 700 children towards the end of this calendar year. As a result, many children need to cross Banks Avenue, and currently do so at the traffic platform, which is located between the school's main gate and the McBratneys Road/River Road/Dallington Terrace intersection. As a consequence, over 100 pedestrians have been observed crossing at this location. The observed number is over double the number required to implement a school patrol. This request has come from the school Principal, and is supported by the school's Board of Trustees (in writing) and the New Zealand Police road safety training personnel.

PROPOSAL

In response to this request, it is recommended to install a kea school patrol. This type of patrol operates the swing out signs to control traffic and uses the fluoro orange flags, similar to those used at Queenspark School. National guidelines define a minimum 15 metres clear approach on each approach. This provides appropriate inter-visibility, benefiting the patrol operator, and the approaching motorist.

On the south east approach (travelling towards the school) a parking restriction of 15 metres is straightforward. This is because the road bounds Dudley Creek on this side, and there are no property frontages at this location. On the northwest approach (travelling away from the school) it would be necessary to remove one car park (see attached photograph). In this photograph, the silver car beside the road hump sign has the potential to completely obstruct a child waiting to cross at this point. This issue can be further aggravated if a van or four wheel drive vehicle is parked at this position. The kerbside immediately behind this car is the vehicle crossing cutdown, where parking is prohibited. The 15 metres inter-visibility can be achieved by the removal of one car park. The resident at this property objects to the removal of this car park.

CONCLUSION

While it is very desirable to optimise safety for children crossing the roadway and not affect adjoining residents' convenience, in this situation, this is not possible. The safety of the large volume of pedestrians crossing at this location is considered of paramount importance.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Board approve the installation of a school patrol on Banks Avenue to assist Banks Avenue school children wishing to cross the road.
 2. That the parking of vehicles be restricted at all times on the southwest kerbside of Banks Avenue, commencing at a point 30 metres northwest of River Road and extending in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 15 metres.
 3. That the parking of vehicles be restricted at all times on the northeast kerbside of Banks Avenue, commencing at a point 65 metres northwest of McBratneys Road and extending in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 7 metres.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.