

4. PARKSTONE AVENUE/SOLWAY AVENUE – PROPOSED “GIVE WAY” CONTROL

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Don Munro, Transport and City Streets Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Community Board for the installation of a “Give Way” control against Solway Avenue at the Parkstone Avenue intersection.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. For a number of years the Council, including the Community Board, has received complaints from motorists concerning the level of safety at the intersection of Parkstone Avenue and Solway Avenue. The intersection is currently an uncontrolled ‘T’ junction with the normal *“giveaway to the right”* rule applying. There are several factors that are causing concern at this intersection. The factors that generate most concerns are the generous corner rounding and wide “open” nature of the intersection which tends to lead to high cornering speeds. Observations of the behaviour of motorists at the intersection reveal some confusion as to priority and some instances of vehicles turning right into Solway Avenue from Parkstone Avenue *“cutting”* the corner at speed. Vehicles turning left out of Solway Avenue have also been observed cornering at inappropriate speeds predominantly due to the generous corner radius. The other factor contributing to concerns being raised relates to the position of the intersection relative to a horizontal curve in Parkstone Avenue. Solway Avenue intersects on the inside of the apex of the curve. While the visibility at the intersection meets the recommended distances, the speed of traffic on Parkstone Avenue, coupled with the curve, can lead to motorists exiting Solway Avenue misjudging the speed and distance of approaching traffic. There is a general concern regarding the level of safety at the intersection.
3. It is understood that there was a capital project in 2004 which involved narrowing the intersection and the creation of 90 degree parking in Solway Avenue. This project was not well received by local residents and was eventually abandoned but this was largely due to the proposed angle parking and not the intersection alterations. The safety concerns with the intersection still remain.
4. Solway Avenue is classified a *“local”* road, and Parkstone Avenue is classified a *“collector”* road in the City Plan. Both roads have a 50kph speed limit, although observations of vehicles on Parkstone Avenue suggest the operating speed is around 60kph.
5. There have been three reported crashes within 20 metres of the intersection within the last five years. One crash involved a vehicle losing control turning right from Parkstone Avenue into Solway Avenue. Another involved a vehicle travelling on Parkstone Avenue colliding with a parked vehicle. The remaining crash involved a vehicle travelling south on Solway Avenue hitting the rear end of a car stopped or slowed at the Parkstone Avenue intersection. All three crashes appear unrelated to the intersection being uncontrolled. A Give Way control, however, may have a moderating influence on cornering speeds.
6. The preferred option to address the issues of concern and improve road safety is the installation of a “Give Way” sign and markings against Solway Avenue at the Parkstone Avenue intersection.
7. There is adequate visibility such that this method of control is considered appropriate. This option would resolve the priority, corner cutting and confusion issues and will be cost effective. The visibility available will allow for the safe operation of the intersection resulting in only the minimum number of stops necessary. This will produce a safer and more efficient intersection.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. Sign and markings are provided for within existing budgets.
9. The Land Transport Rules provide for the installation of Giveaway controls.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Board agree that a "Give Way" control is placed against Solway Avenue at the Parkstone Avenue intersection.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.