

Ref. No.	PL/NO/13
Category:	
People	
Place	Yes
Corporate	
In Constitution	

Pedestrian Dropped Kerbs

Policy Details

What is this policy for?	This policy covers the installation of new pedestrian dropped kerbs to help those with mobility issues. The priority is set in consultation with local disability groups.
Who does this policy affect?	Disabled members of the traveling public.
Keywords	Crossings, dropped kerbs
Author	Mike Westwood, Community Highways Manager.
Dorset Council policy adopted from	Dorset County Council. This policy applies across the Dorset Council area.
Does this policy relate to any laws?	N/A
Is this policy linked to any other Dorset Council policies?	N/A
Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	An EQIA will be completed when the policy is reviewed/harmonised for Dorset Council.
Other Impact Assessments	None

Status and Approvals

Status	Live	Version	1
Last review date		Next review date	Nov 2019
Approved by (Director)		Date approved	
Member/ Partnership Board Approval	Dorset County Council Audit and Scrutiny Committee	Date approved	27 February 2007

Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 27 February 2007

Highway Improvements and the Needs of the Disabled - Tactile Paving

Report of the Director for Environment

Service Head: Andy Ackerman, Head of Highways, Client Services

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To confirm the progress on implementing the new standards and procedures for the installation of tactile paving at pedestrian dropped kerb crossing points as discussed at the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 11 December 2006 and to receive comments on the proposed forward programme timetable.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Audit and Scrutiny Committee comment on the proposed forward programme timetable.

3. Reason for Recommendation

- 3.1 To indicate progress made in implementing the new standards and procedures which will help to progress the corporate aim of improving health, community safety and well being.

4. Background

- 4.1 At the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 11 December, members discussed the new standards and procedures to be adopted for the installation of tactile paving at pedestrian dropped kerb crossing points. At this meeting the procedure was agreed subject to clarification that the procedures applied to signal controlled crossings. This amendment has been made and the revised procedure is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.2 Members also requested a timetable for the first year implementation of the procedures to demonstrate progress toward full compliance and to include items referring to the assessment of existing tactile paving sites.

5. Actions

- 5.1 A countywide programme timetable is given in Appendix 2 to this report showing how the procedures will be fully implemented before the start of 2008/9.
- 5.2 As noted, a review of the footway hierarchies to which the procedures refer is to be undertaken in 2007. From 2008/9 the tactile paving programme will be related to Footway Categories 1 (main pedestrians areas) and 2 (busy urban pavements) but as previously identified will, in the interim, be based on significant urban areas. These areas are identified in Appendix 3.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The financial allocation for the programme in 2007/8 is some £50,000. This programme will continue to receive a relatively high priority because of the contribution it can make to improving access and safety.

Miles Butler
Director for Environment
January 2007

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Procedure for implementing Tactile Paving at dropped pedestrian crossings.

Appendix 2 - Provision of Tactile Paving programme for 2007/8.

Appendix 3 - Defined significant urban areas for use in defining the 2007/8 tactile paving programme.

Background Papers:

Audit and Scrutiny Report - 11 December 2006 Agenda Item 7.

National guidelines on the use of tactile paving on request of the report author below.

If you have any queries on this report please contact Andy Ackerman on (01305) 225113 or e-mail a.ackerman@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Procedure for Implementing Tactile Paving at Dropped Pedestrian Crossing Points
For application across the whole of Dorset County Council area (including agents)

1. Forward Plans of required tactile paved pedestrian crossing points

- 1.1 To be developed and maintained for footway categories 1 (main pedestrian areas) and 2 (busy urban pavements). These categories encompass access to identified community/health premises such as libraries, hospitals etc.
- 1.2 **Note:** the footway hierarchy is being developed in 2007. In the interim, forward plans for the implementation of tactile paving will be developed based on significant urban areas.
- 1.3 The plans will be map based.
- 1.4 Consultation on the forward plans will take place on an annual basis at the same time that consultation on the next annual programme takes place. This consultation will be complete by the end of February in each year.
- 1.5 Consultation will be with the appropriate town/parish council and the appropriate (as agreed with the town/parish council) access/disability group representing the area concerned.
- 1.6 The consultation is designed to ensure that Dorset has a clear understanding of the community need.

2. Annual Programmes

- 2.1 Based on the forward plans, a programme for the next financial year will be recommended to town/parish councils and the appropriate access/disability group.
- 2.2 The consultation is designed to ensure that priorities are agreed and that the layout at problematical sites can be agreed. In the case of layout at problematical sites, consultation will be carried out with an agreed representative of the town/parish or access/disability group that has a good appreciation of how tactile paving should be used.
- 2.3 This consultation will be complete by the end of February in each year.
- 2.4 Annual programmes will be constrained by the available budget.

3. Technical Standards

- 3.1 Standards for both signal controlled and non-signal controlled tactile pedestrian crossings will be as detailed in National Guidance except as noted in 3.2 below.
- 3.2 As noted, it is possible there will be problematical sites where some adjustment to the guidance may be appropriate, in these cases the need for appropriate consultation is highlighted.

Provision of Tactile Paving Programme for 2007/8

2007/8 Programme		
January	Whole county	Identify centres of population where provision of crossing points will provide most benefit for the investment made.
February	Dorchester	Identify existing tactile crossings (footway categories 1 and 2) where replacement facilities are recommended, ie where high risk to visually impaired pedestrians. Present a recommended forward and annual programme to the Town Council for comment and agree a disability group representative to inspect and advise on the problematical sites (both existing and proposed).
April	Dorchester	Produce a map of the agreed forward and annual programme for 2007/8.
May	Dorchester	Issue works orders and timetable for construction.
June	Whole county (including agents)	Identify existing tactile crossings (footway categories 1 and 2) where replacement facilities are recommended, ie where high risk to visually impaired pedestrians.
July	Whole county (including agents)	Present a recommended forward and annual programme to the Town Council for comment and agree a disability group representative to inspect and advise on the problematical sites (both existing and proposed).
August	Whole county (including agents)	Produce a map of the agreed forward and annual programme for 2007/8.
September	Whole county (including agents)	Issue works orders and timetable for construction.
2008/9 and Subsequent Programmes		
December	Whole county (including agents)	Present a recommended forward and annual programme to the Town Council for comment and agree a disability group representative to inspect and advise on the problematical sites (both existing and proposed).
January	Whole county (including agents)	Produce a map of the forward and annual programme.
February	Whole county (including agents)	Confirm final programme and issue works orders and timetable for construction.

**Defined Significant Urban Areas for Use in Defining
the 2007/8 Tactile Paving Programme**

Dorset County Council Highway Office	Centres of population
North	Blandford Gillingham Shaftesbury Stalbridge Sturminster Newton
South	Dorchester Lyttchett Minster and Upton Swanage Wareham
East	Ferndown Verwood West Moors Wimborne
West	Beaminster Bridport Lyme Regis Sherborne

Highway Agency Area	Centres of population
Christchurch	Urban areas within the borough
Weymouth and Portland	Urban areas within the borough

Agenda Item:

Audit and Scrutiny Committee

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Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	13 January 2009
Officer	Director for Environment
Subject of Report	Pedestrian Dropped Crossings
Executive Summary	<p>This report:-</p> <p>Informs and up-dates the Committee on the management of pedestrian dropped crossings. It particularly covers two issues that have carried over from previous Committee reports in connection with pedestrian dropped crossings; these being:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) A layman's guide about the provision of pedestrian dropped crossings.b) The availability of a fact-sheet on the County Council's Intranet Web site.
Budget/Risk Implications	Budget provision for dropped crossings is already allocated on an annual basis. Risk is limited because the County Council is working with the local community to deliver priority schemes within available funding.
Recommendation.	That members note and comment on the application of the current process for the provision of pedestrian dropped crossings.
Reason for Recommendation	To update the Audit and Scrutiny Committee as requested.
Appendices	Web page from Dorset For You on 'Accessibility and the Highways'.

Background Papers	None
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Rodney Turner, Assistant Highways Manager Tel: 01305 216510 Email: r.turner@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1. Pedestrian Dropped Crossings – Tactile Paving.

- 1.1 This report reviews the County Council's current policy for providing pedestrian dropped crossings and affords an opportunity for members to comment on its application across the county.
- 1.2 The County Council's existing policy enlists town councils to liaise with local people who are disabled to decide on their own local priorities for providing crossings. In addition to funding these works, the County Council supports these requirements by providing technical support which checks and then facilitates delivery of the works. These works are undertaken on a rolling annual programme depending on local demand and available funding. The current works budget allocation is £50,000 per annum.
- 1.3 The existing policy provides for town councils to engage with local people who are disabled by whatever means they consider appropriate. This may involve seeking assistance from a local disabled or access group or alternatively liaising directly with the local disabled people themselves. For example, Dorchester Town Council has enlisted the local 'Access for All' Group to liaise with Dorchester's disabled community on their behalf.
- 1.4 Differing views exist with local disabled people about what may be considered local priorities. For example the provision of tactile paving at crossings may be supported by the partially sighted but not favoured by wheel chair or buggy users. Also, the positioning of crossings has generated debate within sectors of the disabled community.
- 1.5 Official national guidance is available to advise about the provision of tactile paving and the positioning of crossings. This guidance is not mandatory and enables a flexible approach to accommodate local circumstances and preferences. The County Council acknowledges its safety responsibilities by checking any proposals made by town councils or their local disabled representatives.
- 1.6 The County Council's Highway Management Group liaises with the local town councils regarding the provision of pedestrian dropped crossings in their respective areas. This is delivered via the Group's two Area Highway Offices in Dorchester and Blandford. Difficulties have been encountered in the Dorchester Office whereby the Dorset Association for the Disabled have questioned some of the works being delivered, suggesting that public money is being wasted and that lives are being placed at risk. The Association has also requested that a representative attends any meeting of the County Council that considers this matter and they have been informed of the date of this Committee meeting.
- 1.7 It is considered that the 'Access for All' Group in conjunction with County Council staff have complied with guidance and reduced risk to disabled users at the specific locations to which the Association refers. It is therefore contended that public money has not been wasted and that local priority has been accommodated.
- 1.8 There have been two issues that have remained outstanding from previous Committee reports. These have been:-
 - a) A layman's guide about the positioning of pedestrian dropped crossings.
 - b) Making available a fact-sheet on the County Council's Intranet Web site.

The Appendix to this report illustrates a layman's guide to providing pedestrian dropped crossings. This illustration has been posted onto the Authority's web-page on accessibility.

Miles Butler
Director for Environment
January 2009

