



Community and Enterprise Resources
Executive Director **Michael McGlynn**
Roads and Transportation Services – Transportation Engineering

Parent / Carer

Our ref: CS/SL
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Stuart Laird
Phone: 01698 453607
Date: 24/3/17

Dear Parent / Carer

Removal of School Crossing Patrollers

As you may be aware, the Council's income from government grant is falling and at the same time as demand for our services is increasing. The Council has had to achieve significant levels of saving in recent years, and that remains the case as it plans for 2017/18 and beyond.

This has resulted in difficult choices having to be made. The removal of patrollers from locations which no longer satisfy the current criteria for the provision of a patroller was one of these decisions, having been taken at the 24 February 2016 meeting of the Executive Committee. Further to this, savings proposal CER62 was approved by the Council on 16 February 2017 which is a continuation of the savings approved in 2015/16 involving the withdrawal of lunchtime provision at all sites and the withdrawal of provision at any existing sites which would not satisfy the current criteria for provision of a patroller.

Figures passed to the council in December showed that South Lanarkshire provides the second highest level of funding of all 32 councils in Scotland in delivering this service. In total, we continue to invest some £1.2million in school crossing patrollers each year, meaning that we spend more per head of population than 30 of the 31 other councils in Scotland, including four of the five that have bigger populations than we do.

However, there is no escaping the current financial climate and, as with everything else, the council has had to critically review this and all other areas of service provision, especially those we are offering over and above our legal requirements. The council has no legal obligation to provide school crossing patrollers but, despite this, we have continued to fund this service at significant levels. Following a review of the service, a number of patrollers will continue to be removed on a gradual basis, where it is appropriate to do so.

Please see the end of this letter for details of locations which will be affected. One of the patrols affected by the decision to reduce the number of locations may be on your child's journey to school. The purpose of this letter is to explain how these savings will be implemented.

I wish to advise you that patrollers at the 22 identified locations will be permanently removed from 18th April 2017.

When making this difficult decision a significant consideration was the fact that there is no statutory duty on any Scottish council to provide school crossing patrollers at any location. Rather, parents/carers are deemed to have responsibility for getting children safely to school. However,

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South Lanarkshire Council took the decision to provide patrollers in many locations, and approximately 135 sites are currently in operation.

Risk assessments have been undertaken at all of these locations by an experienced road safety professional to ensure that the road can still be crossed safely provided that reasonable care is taken. Please note that this assessment assumes that children are accompanied by an adult if required.

The ability of any child to cross the road safely will depend on traffic conditions and facilities present at or near the crossing point and the child's road safety skills. Similar to the walking routes to school assessment the Council adopts, parents need to assess if their child is competent to cross the road safely. If parents do not feel this to be the case, then arrangements require to be made for an adult to accompany the child on the route to / from school.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Stuart Laird on 01698 453607 or Colin Smith on 01698 453757.

Yours sincerely

Colin Park
Engineering Manager

Area	Locations
Law	Station Road/ Muir Street
Carluke	Belstane Road/ Sandy Road
Lanark	Cleghorn Avenue
Carstairs	Lanark Road
Lesmahagow	Balgray Road (at Priory Rd/ Balgray Road junction)
Kirkmuirhill	Thornton Road/ Carlisle Road
East Kilbride	Maxwellton Avenue
East Kilbride	Stewartfield Crescent/ Lymekilns Road
Blantyre	Broompark Road / Stonefield Road
Blantyre	Craig Street/ Hardie Street
Uddingston	Lower Millgate /North British Road
Bothwell	Fallside Road/Appledore Crescent
Hamilton	Chantinghall Road/ Wellhall Road
Hamilton	Townhill Road/ Luss Brae
Hamilton	Clarkwell Road/ Hillhouse Road, Hillhouse
Hamilton	Newlands Drive/ Aitken Road
Larkhall	Duke Street/ Maple Drive
Larkhall	Glengonnar Street/ Shaw Street
Larkhall	Raploch Street/ McNeil Street
Larkhall	Caledonian Road/ McNeil Street (cross at a point away from the junction if required)
Larkhall	Glen Avenue
Larkhall	Ashgillhead Road/ Stewartgill Place, Ashgill