



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

The Petitions Committee

Completion Report

**Summary of the Petitions Committee's consideration of
P-03-114 Safer Roads for Schools**

August 2008

Presented

14 March 2008

Ruled Admissible

25 March 2008

Initial Consideration

10 April 2008

The Committee considered this petition and agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Economy and Transport to ask for the Welsh Assembly Government's current policy position
- Ask the petitioners to specify the action that they would like to see taken to improve the safety of roads outside schools

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 10 April 2008, Annex 2 for the letter sent to the Minister for Economy and Transport, and Annex 3 for the letter sent to the petitioners)

Further Consideration

11 June 2008

The Committee considered an update to this petition, and agreed to:

- Invite the petitioners to give evidence.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 11 June 2008 and Annex 4 for the response received from the Minister for Economy and Transport)

09 July 2008

The Committee considered this petition, and agreed to:

- Close this petition as the petitioners have asked that it be withdrawn.

(See Annex 1 for the relevant extract from the transcript of the meeting on 09 July 2008)

**Petitions Clerk
August 2008**

Annex 1

10 April 2008

Val Lloyd: The next petition, P-03-114, is entitled 'safe roads for schools'. I am not certain about this one. The petition does not relate to the Safe Routes to School initiative, but is petitioning for safe roads outside schools. Is that right?

Michael German: It is related to the petition that we heard earlier, is it not?

Val Lloyd: It could have so many meanings. Why do we not write to the Minister first, and see whether to take it further when we get her reply?

Bethan Jenkins: Perhaps we should clarify what the petitioners mean by this problem. We have seen the problem in Blaenau Gwent very clearly, and if we had more of an idea of this school's circumstances, with evidence from the school—

Val Lloyd: That is a good idea. Let us do that. We will ask the lead petitioner to elaborate on the problem.

Mr Sanchez: So, just to clarify, are we inviting the petitioner to make a presentation?

Val Lloyd: No.

Mr Sanchez: Are we writing to her?

Bethan Jenkins: Yes, to ask her to clarify the problems faced.

11 June 2008

Val Lloyd: Safe Roads for Schools is a petition from the pupils of Whitchurch High School, who believe that the Assembly should make roads outside schools safer. As we know, this is normally a function directed by local authorities, which make a bid to the Assembly for specific money. I do not know whether you watched the television last night, but there was an item about how the Assembly Government is launching a consultation on whether traffic should go slower around schools and in areas with vulnerable road users, with the idea of possibly cutting the speed limit around schools to 20 mph. We need to take that into the equation as we decide where to go with this petition.

Kirsty Williams: Forgive me, as I am new, I am not sure of the remit of this committee, but could you not draw the attention of the petitioners to that consultation exercise and encourage them to participate in that consultation, or could we send this petition as a response to the consultation?

Val Lloyd: I think that we could take both actions. We could draw the consultation to the attention of Whitchurch High School and we could write to the Minister.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I agree with both courses of action, but I think that a far more satisfactory outcome for the petitioners might be for them to come in and give us evidence, and that evidence could be fed into the consultation process.

Kirsty Williams: That is much better.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I am not sure how our timetable would fit in with the consultation timetable, because consultations tend to last 12 weeks, do they not?

Mr Sanchez: We can ask that question and ensure that there is a fit. If there is not, we can go with the former suggestion.

Val Lloyd: That would also be in line with our aim of widening our appeal to as many people as possible. It would be good to have the school in.

Andrew R.T. Davies: We would be a component of that consultation.

Val Lloyd: I wonder whether we could manage to fit this into our next meeting or the following meeting. Do we have two meetings left this term?

Mr Sanchez: Yes. I am sure that we can fit it in.

Val Lloyd: It should be before the end of term, so that it will be within the consultation period.

Andrew R.T. Davies: They are only in Whitchurch, so it is not as if they have to travel far.

Val Lloyd: Yes, it will not be so difficult for them to come in.

09 July 2008

Janice Gregory: I inform Members that the safer roads outside schools petition has been withdrawn and that the petitioners will not be attending the committee this morning.

Annex 2

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Ieuan Wyn Jones AM
Minister for Economy and Transport
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-114

30 April 2008

Dear Ieuan

PETITION - MAKING ROADS AROUND SCHOOLS SAFER

This petition was given initial consideration by the Petitions Committee on 10 April 2008. During the meeting the Committee agreed to write to you in order to establish the Welsh Assembly Government's current policy position on road safety outside schools.

I should be grateful if you could consider this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Val Lloyd,
Chair, Petitions Committee

Annex 3

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Mrs Andrea Sandiford
Whitchurch High School
Penline Road
Whitchurch
Cardiff
CF14 2XJ

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: PET-03-114

18 April 2008

Dear Mrs. Sandiford

PETITION - MAKING ROADS AROUND SCHOOLS SAFER

The Petitions Committee considered your petition on 10th April. The Committee asked that you provide further information about the problem and what action specifically you are seeking from the National Assembly for Wales. A short statement providing further explanation would be fine. I should be grateful if you could liaise with the Clerk, Stefan Sanchez who will advise you further if required. He can be contacted on 02920 898505 or stefan.sanchez@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



**Val Lloyd,
Chair, Petitions Committee**

Annex 4

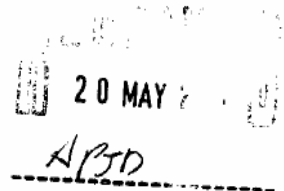
Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/00899/08

Val Lloyd AM
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



15 May 2008

Dea Val

Thank you for your letter of 30 April 2008 following a petition that was given consideration by the Petitions Committee on 10 April concerning road safety around schools.

I consider the improvement of road safety to be a priority and have taken action to promote and implement a number of road safety measures. Our Road Safety Strategy for Wales was launched in January 2003 with the aim of bringing together key measures and policies to address the causes of road collisions and reduce casualties. One element of the Strategy focuses on safety for children.

Since 2000 the Welsh Assembly Government has provided funding to local authorities via the Local Road Safety Grant which they can use to make safety improvements on the local road network and develop and implement road safety education initiatives for children. Since 2000 over £54million has been provided. In addition since 2000 we have been funding a Child Pedestrian Training Co-ordinator in every local authority in Wales. These co-ordinators are responsible for running child pedestrian training schemes which teach children road safety awareness by means of practical training at the roadside.

Our Safe Routes to School initiative was launched in 1999 with the aim of not only tackling the congestion caused by the school run, but also to remind children and parents that there are alternatives to using the car. Over £27million has been provided for schemes in Wales. This year a new Safe Routes in Communities Programme replaced the Safe Routes to School initiative and £10million has been provided for the implementation of 91 schemes around Wales. The main focus of this new programme continues to be on schools but also aims to improve accessibility and encourage walking and cycling more generally within communities.

Ieuan Wyn Jones

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8198
PS.DeputyFirstMinister@wales.gsi.gov.uk

