

## **Pedestrian Crossing, A3052 Newton Poppleford Coroner's Inquest**

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

**Recommendation: It is recommended that the request from the Assistant Coroner that consideration is given to allowing additional time for pedestrians to cross and to improve any existing lighting at the pedestrian crossing is noted, and a full report is presented to the next meeting of this Committee.**

### **1. Summary**

This report advises of a request from the Assistant Coroner following the Inquest into the death of a pedestrian following a collision on the pedestrian crossing of the A3052 in Newton Poppleford.

### **2. Background**

On 23 December 2020, a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle while using the 'Puffin' crossing on the A3052 Station Road, Newton Poppleford (adjacent to the Post Office). The pedestrian suffered a significant head injury and died 3 days later.

On 20 December 2021, the Assistant Coroner for Exeter and East Devon wrote to DCC in relation to the collision. The letter explained how an inquest had been held into the death on 10 December 2021, with the conclusion being that it was caused by a Road Traffic Collision.

### **3. Assistant Coroner's request**

On 20 December 2021, the Assistant Coroner for Exeter and East Devon wrote to Meg Booth as a result of the Inquest.

The Assistant Coroner explained that whilst it is possible that factors such as reduced visibility due to poor weather and the LED lights of a waiting vehicle may have contributed to the collision, a number of witnesses to the incident have stated that:

- (a) the crossing is poorly illuminated;
- (b) there appears to be insufficient time for pedestrians to cross the road before the lights change to green, indicating to waiting vehicles that it is safe for them to drive across.

Having considered witness statements, the Assistant Coroner highlighted excerpts from Devon and Cornwall Police's Forensic Collision Report and evidence from the County

Council's Traffic Signals and Streetlighting Team Manager, which stated that the signals were operating correctly at the time of the collision.

The Assistant Coroner requested that the evidence be taken into account and consideration be given to allowing additional time for pedestrians to cross and to improve any existing lighting at the crossing.

#### **4. The Next Steps**

Officers are considering the evidence and investigating the Assistant Coroner's request in light of national guidance and specifications. A full response will be sent to the Assistant Coroner, who will then inform interested parties including the bereaved family.

#### **5. Legal, Environmental Impact and Risk Management Considerations**

These considerations will be assessed and included in the report to the next meeting in light of the response sent to the Assistant Coroner.

#### **6. Reasons for Recommendations**

It is recommended that a full report is brought to the next meeting of this Committee, once investigations have been completed, a response has been sent to the Assistant Coroner, and interested parties include the bereaved family have been advised of the outcome.

Meg Booth  
Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

**Electoral Division: Otter Valley**

**Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers**

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<b>Background Paper</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>File Reference</b>
Letter from Assistant Coroner	Dec 2021	Case ref: 3806212

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