

Planning and Conservation Committee: 26th March 2026

Update Report: St Paul's Road junction with Sherborne Road and Norwich Road

Submitted by Cllr Louise Pramas

Introduction:

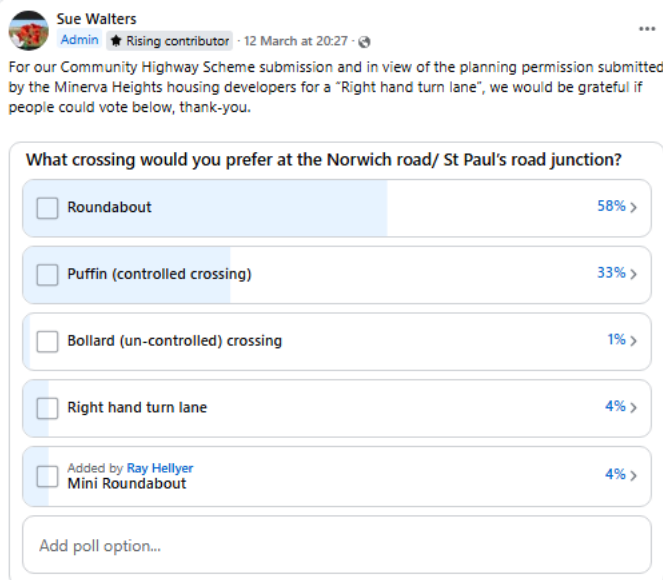
1. The Committee will be familiar with the "Safer roads for all in Chichester West" motion which was submitted to full council in September 2025; I will not rehearse the background information contained in that paper here.
2. This paper serves to provide an update to the Committee on subsequent activities, and in light of the recent planning application made by the developers of Minerva Heights, ref. 26/00213/OUTEIA make recommendations to the Committee to support decision making about support for or against the application.

Update:

1. Week commencing 6th October 2025 West Sussex County Council conducted a 'study' of the pedestrian usage on the crossing between 7am and 7pm on three days, alongside vehicle flow and speed. The data from 7th Oct was used as this was the highest pedestrian usage. This data informed an assessment on the need for a controlled crossing. The resulting score (0.59) is below the threshold for a controlled crossing to be considered (0.7). However, this is dependent on assessments, for example, accurately identifying the number of pedestrians who were under 16 – a cohort of users who impact this calculation significantly.
 - a. There were only 205 pedestrian movements observed in the 12 hour survey period of which 21 were of under 16-year olds and 5 of these were after 1730 so there are no more than 16 in the hours a crossing patrol would be active.
 - b. By contrast, there were 11,370 vehicle movements in the 12 hour period with around 1,250 vehicles in both the morning and evening peak hours
2. A meeting took place in November 2025 at the junction in question on St Paul's Road between members of the 'Campaign for a safe crossing on St Paul's Road' group, WSCC Councillor Jeremy Hunt and Officers from the Safer Schools Team at WSCC where proposals to improve the current crossing points to bring them in light with current legal requirements were discussed. This did not include a controlled crossing. Members of the community were concerned that this action was insufficient and potentially a waste of scarce resources which wouldn't address the concerns the community had raised. Cllr McHale raised this concern in his correspondence with Cllr Dennis in November 2025 (see Appendix 1). Members of the campaign group also attended the November Planning and Conservation Committee meeting.
3. West Sussex County Council advertised for a School Crossing Patrol to improve the safety of children crossing of one hour in the morning and one

hour in the afternoon; unfortunately the advertised hours didn't cover the times Bishop Luffa students would be crossing. We do not know how many applications were received for this post or if anyone was successfully appointed.

4. On 2nd February 2026, Cllrs Apel, Loxton, Pramas and Quail joined Cllrs Adrian Moss and Jonathan Brown (CDC) and Cllr Jeremy Hunt (WSSC) attended a meeting with CDC Planning Officers and representatives of the developers on Minerva Heights. We met to discuss a proposal from the developers to delay the completion of the Southern Access Road (required by the 150th occupancy of Phase 2) until the 425th occupancy in exchange for an improvement to the St Paul's Road/Sherborne Road access; the proposal now submitted to Chichester District Council as planning application: 26/00213/OUTEIA. The Councillors welcomed the opportunity to have the discussion with the developers but did not feel the proposed junction would address the concerns or equitably address the needs of the community. There were only 205 pedestrian movements observed in the 12 hour survey period of which 21 were of under 16-year olds and 5 of these were after 1730 so there no more than 16 in the hours a crossing patrol would be active. (I am assuming that only pedestrians crossing St Paul's Road were counted.)
5. By contrast, there were 11,370 vehicle movements in the 12 hour period with around 1,250 vehicles in both the morning and evening peak hours
- 6.
7. As at 22nd March 2026 a poll run by the 'Campaign for a safe crossing on St Paul's Road' group on Facebook shows almost 2/3 of respondents prefer a roundabout as the solution to the junction:



42 votes 1 share

8. x

Appendix 1: Email correspondence between Cllr McHale and Cllr Dennis

From: Sean McHale <s.mchale@chichestercity.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, December 04, 2025 10:16 AM
To: Erica Taunton <Erica.Taunton@westsussex.gov.uk>; Joy Dennis <Joy.Dennis@westsussex.gov.uk>; Jeremy Hunt <jeremy.hunt@westsussex.gov.uk>; Louise Pramas <l.pramas@chichestercity.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Response from Cllr Joy Dennis to your enquiry - Relocation of Jessie Younghusband School

Good morning

Thank you for your recent reply to the issue of a safe crossing on St Paul's Road in Chichester following the relocation of the Jessie Younghusband School.

I note you mentioned a PV2 crossing assessment. Could you give me some more details on the methodology eg how many times the assessments were done, what time of day etc. I would also like to see the raw data to help me better understand the proposed solution.

Thanks in anticipation

Sean

Councillor Sean McHale
Mayor
Chichester City Council
The Council House
North Street
Chichester
PO19 1LQ

Tel No: 01243 788502

E-mail: s.mchale@chichestercity.gov.uk

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From: Erica Taunton <Erica.Taunton@westsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 December 2025 11:58
To: Sean McHale <s.mchale@chichestercity.gov.uk>
Subject: Response from Cllr Joy Dennis to your enquiry - Relocation of Jessie Younghusband School

Dear Cllr Mchale,

Please see the attached response for your attention. I feel there may have been an email technical issue that means you have not been in receipt of the attached which was sent out yesterday.

Kind Regards,
Erica

Erica Taunton
(Pronouns: she/her)
Democratic Services
West Sussex County Council, Room 102, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ
Phone: 0330 22 26050 - Internal Ext- 26050
Email: erica.taunton@westsussex.gov.uk | Web: www.westsussex.gov.uk



From: Sean McHale <s.mchale@chichestercity.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2025 4:53 PM
To: Joy Dennis <Joy.Dennis@westsussex.gov.uk>; Louise Pramas <l.pramas@chichestercity.gov.uk>
Cc: Matt Davey <Matt.Davey@westsussex.gov.uk>; Paul Marshall <Paul.Marshall@westsussex.gov.uk>; Jeremy Hunt <jeremy.hunt@westsussex.gov.uk>; Julian Joy <Julian.Joy@westsussex.gov.uk>; Clare Apel <c.apel@chichestercity.gov.uk>; Sarah Quail <s.quail@chichestercity.gov.uk>; Stuart Loxton <s.loxton@chichestercity.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Relocation of Jessie Younghusband School, Chichester

Good afternoon

I am just following up on my last email and wonder if you have had any thoughts on the benefit or otherwise of a meeting between interested parties to discuss the concerns of residents about crossing St Paul's Road in Chichester.

Please let me know if I can help facilitate an exchange of information.

Kind regards

Sean

Councillor Sean McHale
Mayor
Chichester City Council
The Council House
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PO19 1LQ

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E-mail: s.mchale@chichestercity.gov.uk

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From: Sean McHale <s.mchale@chichestercity.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 November 2025 11:43
To: Joy Dennis <Joy.Dennis@westsussex.gov.uk>; Louise Pramas <l.pramas@chichestercity.gov.uk>
Cc: Matt Davey <Matt.Davey@westsussex.gov.uk>; Paul Marshall <Paul.Marshall@westsussex.gov.uk>; Jeremy Hunt <jeremy.hunt@westsussex.gov.uk>; Julian Joy <Julian.Joy@westsussex.gov.uk>; Clare Apel <c.apel@chichestercity.gov.uk>; Sarah Quail <s.quail@chichestercity.gov.uk>; Stuart Loxton <s.loxton@chichestercity.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Relocation of Jessie Younghusband School, Chichester

Dear Cllr Dennis

Thank you for your reply to residents concerns about the difficulties in crossing St Paul's road in Chichester.

Understandable anxieties remain as a consequence of the significant increase in traffic resulting from the Minerva Heights development and the timescale for a safe crossing to be installed. I am aware that some WSCC Officers recently met with one

of the resident groups; unfortunately their proposal has raised concerns amongst the community of a potentially ineffective intervention that will require a significant financial commitment.

I think that it would be useful if a meeting could be organised between the residents' representatives, appropriate officers from the county council and councillors (both from the county and from the city). I am happy to facilitate such a meeting and hold it in the City Council offices in North Street, Chichester.

If you agree that this could be beneficial, please let me know of a weekday and time that would be suitable and I will organise the rest.

Kind regards

Sean McHale

Mayor
Councillor Sean McHale
City Councillor (South Ward)
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The Council House
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PO19 1LQ

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From: Kinga Jasik <kinga.jasik@westsussex.gov.uk> on behalf of Joy Dennis <Joy.Dennis@westsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 01 August 2025 15:49

To: Sean McHale <s.mchale@chichestercity.gov.uk>; Louise Pramas <l.pramas@chichestercity.gov.uk>

Cc: Matt Davey <Matt.Davey@westsussex.gov.uk>; Paul Marshall

<Paul.Marshall@westsussex.gov.uk>; Jeremy Hunt
<jeremy.hunt@westsussex.gov.uk>; Julian Joy <Julian.Joy@westsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Relocation of Jessie Younghusband School, Chichester

Dear Mr McHale and Ms Pramas,

Thank you for your enquiry of 25 July 2025 regarding the relocation of Jessie Younghusband School.

The County Council is aware of local concerns about this junction and the potential increase in pedestrian use when Jessie Younghusband moves. My Officers are developing a scheme as part of the Active Travel to School programme and I have provided some further information on the work below.

The proposed improvements will aim to enhance accessibility and safety along St Paul's Road and Centurion Way through a phased approach. The scheme is currently at feasibility stage and preliminary designs are being developed. Taking a phased approach to the development of scheme allows us to adapt and respond to evolving needs as the future footfall patterns become clearer once the school has moved. Phase 1 of the scheme will focus on closing unsafe crossings, installing tactile paving and dropped kerbs along St Pauls and realigning junction/crossing to provide a suitable location for a future school crossing patrol. It will also remove overgrown vegetation, and obstacles that impede pedestrian access. Phase 2 will consider the widening of footways, creation of new crossing points, address flooding issues and potentially enhance street lighting.

These measures will be designed to create a safer, more accessible, and well-connected network for pedestrians and other users. Phase 1 of the scheme is currently programmed for implementation in 2026/27, subject to the outcome of preliminary design, consultation and the availability of funding. My Officers will continue to work with the Head Teacher at Jessie Younghusband and West Sussex County Council Education to ensure that the proposals will meet the needs of the school community.

Regards,
Joy

Joy Dennis

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Member for Hurstpierpoint and Bolney Division
Covering: Burgess Hill (Gatehouse), Albourne, Bolney, Fulking, Hurstpierpoint, Newtimber, Poynings, Pyecombe, Sayers Common and Twineham Parishes

WSCC 033022 23729

- The quickest and most effective way to report highway problems, defects or faults is to report them [online](#)

- Sign up to our Highways, Transport and Planning [newsletter](#) and keep up to date with the work of our highways teams

From: Sean McHale <s.mchale@chichestercity.gov.uk>

Sent: 25 July 2025 12:29

To: Joy Dennis <joy.dennis@westsussex.gov.uk>

Cc: Matt Davey <Matt.Davey@westsussex.gov.uk>; Paul Marshall

<paul.marshall@westsussex.gov.uk>; Jeremy Hunt

<jeremy.hunt@westsussex.gov.uk>; Julian Joy <julian.joy@westsussex.gov.uk>;

Louise Pramas <l.pramas@chichestercity.gov.uk>

Subject: Relocation of Jessie Younghusband School, Chichester

****EXTERNAL****

Dear Councillor Dennis

Relocation of Jessie Younghusband Primary school and the School Streets Initiative.

The Jessie Younghusband primary school is being relocated from Woodlands Lane in Chichester to a new site within the Minerva Heights development.

We would like to draw your attention to the absence of a safe crossing point on St Paul's Road in Chichester, which is causing concern within the community. This new position is to the west of St Paul's Road compared with the school's current position to the east of St Paul's Road. Children will now have to cross over from the East Broyle estate to Minerva Heights. There is not a safe crossing between Norwich Road and Sherborne Road to make active travel either safe or desirable.

We are aware that West Sussex County Council consider the Centurion Way path to be a suitable route for pedestrian access. However, we contend that this is not a year-round route. The path can flood as it passes under St Paul's Road during the winter. Furthermore, there is no lighting, making it unsuitable for shepherding young children during the darker afternoons after daylight-saving time ends.

A local community speed watch group reports that, on average, 400-500 vehicles per hour are driving north along St Paul's Rd (north of Sherborne Road) between 8am-9am, with greater estimated numbers heading south in the same period. Without a safe crossing point being established, it will mean more car journeys being made or the need for parents and children to manage risk trying to cross safely.

This has been discussed with the County Councillors for the Chichester North and Chichester West wards, and they support the establishment of a safe crossing on the St Paul's Road between Norwich Road and Sherborne Road. I hope that you do as well.

Kind regards

Sean McHale

Louise Pramas

Mayor of Chichester

City Councillor for Chichester West

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PO19 1LQ

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