

Potential Questions & Answers

	Question	Answer
1.	The route hazard has been made good for some time now, so why are you proposing to implement it now?	<p>We are aware that the schemes have been in place for some time now. In the case of the Fallibroome Academy walking route, this was made available in early 2020. However, with the upheaval surrounding Covid we were unable to progress the process to formally make the routes available. We are now in a position to do this.</p> <p>In the case of the crossing at Cheerbrook roundabout this has been in place for many years and as such should have been deemed available as a walking route previously, we are now correcting this omission.</p>
2.	When were the schemes formally signed off as completed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B5087 Prestbury Road was signed off as completed on 6th January 2020 • Nantwich By-pass Cheerbrook Roundabout was signed off as completed on 14th October 2008
3.	Will there still be a bus available that we can pay a fare on?	Those pupils who are deemed as still eligible will receive free transport which will be arranged as normal via our transport team. The provision of a paid for bus service will be a commercial decision by any potential supplier. The Council will approach the existing supplier to understand the viability of such a scheme
4.	Some parts of the walking route do not have lighting are pupils required to walk in the dark?	Generally school start and finish times are such that pupils can walk to school in daylight. There will be a limited number of times when this is before sunrise and after the sun sets i.e. in twilight hours. In these cases it is the parents' responsibility to accompany their child if they feel it is appropriate. A parent may decide that a child can walk unaccompanied but the legal responsibility remains with parents to make appropriate arrangements to ensure that their child attends school. If a continuous suitable footway exists then street lighting is desirable but may not be required for a route to be assessed as available

5.	What is the process you will follow to notify us if we are affected?	We will be implementing as detailed within the school transport policy which requires the Council to provide 12 weeks notice of withdrawal of free transport where a walking route becomes available.
6.	What about personal safety issues for my child	<p>In accordance with the law, all routes are assessed with the assumption that pupils are accompanied as necessary by a responsible person. Routes are not classed as unavailable solely due to the fact that they are a lonely route. An extract from the Councils policy on Available Walking Routes, is shown below:</p> <p><i>6.5 In accordance with the law, the council assumes that children are accompanied by an adult as necessary. Routes are not classed as unavailable solely due to any or all of the following factors. They are, however, used to assess risks and hazards that a child may face that can be avoided if the child were to be accompanied as necessary in assessing the availability of a route:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lonely routes.</i> • <i>Moral danger.</i> • <i>Routes that pass close to canals, rivers, ditches, lakes, ponds etc.</i> • <i>Routes that require railway crossings if a suitable, authorised crossing is present.</i>