

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Caroline Roberts, Cabinet Member for Transport		
DECISION DATE:	On or after 23rd August 2014	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
		E	2641
TITLE:	Whiteway Road, Bath – Zebra Crossing		
WARD:			
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM			
List of attachments to this report: Appendix A: Drawing No. TC2227/03 Traffic Regulation Order Plan Appendix B: Comments & Objections Schedule Appendix C: Equalities Impact Assessment			

1. THE ISSUE

1.1. This report considers the responses to the formal advertisement of the proposal to introduce a zebra crossing facility on Whiteway Road, north of Englishcombe Lane and associated amendments to waiting restrictions.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet member is asked to agree:-

2.1 that the crossing is implemented at the location shown in Appendix A on drawing no. TC2227/03;

2.2 that associated waiting restrictions are amended in accordance with drawing no. TC2227/03, cater for the proposed crossing; and

2.3 that £16k budget be approved for this project, funded by s106.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The project is estimated to cost £16k. This is proposed to be funded by s106 contribution received as part of the development of the former Jubilee Inn Public House on Whiteway Road.
- 3.2. In addition to the capital costs, the revenue maintenance costs associated with the project, consisting of additional signs and road markings will be incorporated within the existing highways maintenance revenue budget.

4. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.
- Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and feel safer. The proposal will improve the environment by reducing the effect that the motor vehicle has on resident's physical and mental health.
- Improving transport and the public realm. The proposal will encourage people to walk and cycle more, and give more independent mobility for children and the elderly.
- It will be self-enforcing.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 As part of the development of the land on the site of the former Jubilee Public House on Whiteway Road, a sum of £16,000 is available through the S106 agreement with the developer.

The Planning agreement with the developer stated a requirement for a crossing facility along the road, between Englishcombe Lane and the garden centre, to provide a safe crossing point for school children walking to and from the nearby Bath Community Academy (formally Culverhay School) on Rush Hill and as a public transport improvement for passengers using nearby bus routes.

As part of the site location assessment, road speeds and pedestrian counts have been undertaken, as well as site visits to determine the most appropriate location for the crossing. A formal zebra crossing arrangement was deemed to be the most appropriate, taking account of traffic volumes and road speeds.

Three locations were considered as part of this exercise:-

Between 86 and 88 Whiteway Road

Initial requests were for a crossing between 86 and 88 Whiteway, which is near a footpath on the eastern side of the road, running up to Mount Road to the rear of Southdown Junior School. The location is on a prime pedestrian desire line for school children and others and provides good visibility in both directions.

This location was deemed unacceptable by property owners and strongly objected to the proposal on the following basis:-

- Wouldn't able to park outside their properties due the zig-zag lines;
- Noise pollution created as vehicle stop and start at the crossing;
- Light intrusion from floodlights and yellow beacons.

South of Haycombe Lane

A location towards the garden centre was also considered, as it was felt by local people to be of greater benefit to allow access to the garden centre itself. Pedestrian counts determined that in fact greater number of pedestrians currently walk and cross Whiteway Road further south, including children of school age. On observation of a potential site, footways are generally narrower at this location and have a number of underground services, which would present problems siting beacon poles. Visibility was also compromised through extensive parking on the western side of the road, with little or no off-road parking outside adjacent properties, negating potential parking restrictions.

Between 84 Whiteway Road and the Barbers Shop

Following further reconsideration and site visit with the local member, the crossing location was proposed midway between No 84 Whiteway Road and the Barbers Shop near Padleigh Hill/ Englishcombe Lane junction.

This location provides good visibility in both directions, although informal parking for the Barber Shop has been moved further south through amendment of the length of waiting restrictions (Double Yellow Lines) on the western side to provide a further visibility improvement. The location also offers a safe crossing point and is on the most appropriate desire line.

Property owners within the vicinity are now amenable to the proposal, following formal consultation of Traffic Regulation orders for the waiting restrictions and crossing in May.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The report author and Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6. EQUALITIES

The EqIA is attached to this report (Appendix C).

7. RATIONALE

A Zebra crossing point between 86 Whiteway Road and the Barber shop is preferred as a result of the on-site design acceptability, without compromising local residents. With a safe crossing point, walking to and from local schools will be encouraged.

8. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Other options have been considered and have been outlined within Section of this report.

10. CONSULTATION

10.1 Ward Councillors; Cabinet members; Staff; Local Residents; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer.

10.2 Consultation was carried out by an informal leaflet letter drop; and a formal consultation of the Statutory Consultees, by public advertisement of the proposals for 21 days; and circulation of this report.

11. ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety.

12. ADVICE SOUGHT

The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Simon Thomas – 01225 395160
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	