

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Anthony Clarke, Cabinet Member for Transport	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 30th April 2016	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2837
TITLE:	Newbridge Hill Zebra Crossing	
WARD:		
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Appendix 1 – TC3212/103 “Proposed Zebra Crossing General Arrangement”.</p> <p>Appendix 2 - INFORMAL Consultation Response Details and meeting notes.</p> <p>Appendix 3 - FORMAL Consultation Response Details.</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment / Equality Analysis.</p> <p>Appendix 5 - Plan TC3212-100 –revision C</p> <p>Appendix 6 - Road Safety Audit, stage 2</p> <p>Appendix 7 – Transition Bath Study ‘Making Chelsea Road Local Centre Thrive’</p>		

1. THE ISSUE

- 1.1. Consideration of the responses to the informal and formal consultations of the Traffic Regulation Orders for the installation of a zebra crossing and associated works.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to agree that the proposed zebra crossing and associated works go ahead.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1. The cost of carrying out the works to implement this scheme is estimated to be £35,000. The cost of this work is funded from within the approved 2015/16 Transport Improvement capital programme.
- 3.2. Lines have a life expectancy of between 7 and 10 years. The consultation process included Highways, and no concerns were raised regarding on-going maintenance costs, and these works can be incorporated within the existing revenue budget.
- 3.3. The highways maintenance budget is prioritised for road safety issues in the first instance; however parking restrictions do need to be maintained to ensure enforcement can be undertaken. Continued adoption of new highways assets and infrastructure within existing resources will likely lead to increasing prioritisation and rationing of existing highways maintenance budgets.

4. STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1. An Equalities Impact Assessment / Equality Analysis has been carried out. No discriminatory factors have been identified. The Equalities Impact Assessment is included as Appendix 4.
- 4.2. Section 23 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended,
- 4.3. The following corporate objectives apply:
 - Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live;
 - Building a stronger economy.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The proposed zebra crossing was requested by the Transport Group within Transition Bath who are: 'a local voluntary environmental organisation whose aim is to build a sustainable future by harnessing the power of community in the face of declining natural resources and increasing fuel and food costs. Transition Bath support moving to a low carbon, local economy and building positive, self-reliant communities. Their aim to demonstrate by example how to make bath more sustainable'.
 - 5.1.1 The Transport Group (within the Transition Bath organization) has a specific aim; *"to reduce the carbon footprint in this city, putting an emphasis on greener transport projects including cycling & walking"*.
 - 5.1.2 With this in mind Transition Bath Commissioned a study/report (attached in Appendix 7) looking into ways of 'Making Chelsea Road local centre thrive'. The study asked 2000 local residents & 31 local traders many questions in

relation to issues that had previously been raised with regards to cycling and walking access to the Chelsea Road Area. The particular question relevant to this report was whether the residents/traders agreed to two new zebra crossings being installed on Newbridge Hill, to which 75.39% of residents/traders agreed was a priority. These results were then fed back to the community at a public meeting on 20th March 2015.

- 5.2 Transition Bath contacted the Council Traffic Management Team as well as Cllr Roberts who decided to support the proposals as it is clear that the two locations are busy crossing points on Newbridge Hill; where people cross from the popular Chelsea Road shopping area up towards the Royal United Hospital and Weston Village area (particularly the existing island crossing point to the west of the mini roundabout).
- 5.3 There is no record of any major accidents at this location however the proposed zebra crossing will clearly further assist pedestrian access to and from Chelsea road by giving pedestrians priority and provide a safer method of crossing Newbridge Hill. This facility will assist pedestrians with mobility difficulties who currently could find it difficult to cross Newbridge Hill.
- 5.4 Area Traffic Engineer Peter Bailey therefore agreed to prioritise a new zebra crossing scheme (initially at the western location on Newbridge Hill) on the 2015/16 Transport Improvement Programme.
- 5.5 Design work began in Summer 2015. The crossing at the existing pedestrian refuge was the location to be developed first. Two options were considered at this location. Option 1 was incorporating the existing pedestrian refuge within the proposed zebra crossing. Option 2 was removing the existing pedestrian refuge and constructing the zebra crossing at the same location.
- 5.6 A Stage 2 safety audit was carried out on September 30th 2015. This did not highlight any particular problems. (See Appendix 6)
- 5.7 Option 2 was the preferred option and was taken forward to Formal consultation as it was the preferred & safest design and would meet the goals of the scheme brief. At peak times crossing Newbridge Hill can be difficult; this proposed zebra crossing will allow pedestrians to cross easier and quicker with a minimal impact on traffic flows.
- 5.8 The formal consultation results are summarised in appendix 3.

The main objections received to the proposals as well as officer responses are detailed below;

Objection; Safety concerns pulling out of B&B access. Main concern was that people may loiter at the crossing point and therefore outside of the pedestrian gated access to owners property, which could in turn bring antisocial behaviour problems.

Council response: the zebra is close to the desire line so will give a safe convenient place to cross, no safety issues were raised in the safety audit. As this is already the location for an uncontrolled crossing point the new zebra crossing will not bring any additional antisocial behaviour. We have removed the bin and bench to help discourage people from loitering in the area.

Objection; Scheme is unnecessary and waste of money. Has been advised that we will not provide a shield on the beacons which is not acceptable to local residents.

Council response: Shields will be provided to belisha beacons and the results of the Transition Bath study seem to indicate that the scheme will be well received and provide benefits to the local community and economy.

6. RATIONALE

- 6.1 There are a substantial number of pedestrians and cyclists who cross this busy road and at peak times this can be difficult. The proposed zebra crossing will improve the pedestrian/cyclist environment and allow an easier route across Newbridge Hill.
- 6.2 The Council' Joint Local Transport Plan gives highest priority to pedestrians and so this scheme fits well with this.
- 6.3 The project will also provide important support for the Core Strategy in promoting less use of the car.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1. Ward Members; Internal transport colleagues; Other B&NES Services; Local Residents; Emergency Services.
- 7.2. Support was gained from Cllr Roberts & Transition Bath for this crossing as documented in an email exchange during September 2015 to progress to formal consultation.
- 7.3. Consultation was carried out by e-mailing internal and external contacts. Notices were also advertised in the local press and erected on site for 21 day period from 11th February to 2nd March 2016. All affected people had the opportunity to participate in the TRO consultation process, and to make their opinions known.
- 7.4. A responses breakdown to the formal consultation is included as Appendix 3.
- 7.5. Section 151 officer, monitoring officer and Strategic Director Place had opportunity to review and input into this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1. A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	