

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Raised Zebra Crossings in Pangbourne Village
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	25 July 2013
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2679

Purpose of Report: To inform the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision of the responses received during the statutory consultation on the proposed improvement and traffic calming of the pedestrian crossings in Pangbourne and to seek approval of officer recommendations.

Recommended Action: That the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 5 of this report.

Reason for decision to be taken: To enable the proposed improvement measures to be progressed to implementation.

Other options considered: N/A

Key background documentation: Plan Nos TM/200/001-003.
Responses received during statutory consultation.

Portfolio Member Details	
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Contact Officer Details	
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Implications

- Policy:** The consultation was in accordance with the Council's Consultation procedures.
- Financial:** The Statutory Consultation and advertisement procedure and implementation of the physical works will be funded from Section 106 developer contributions.
- Personnel:** None arising from this report.
- Legal/Procurement:** None arising from this report
- Property:** None arising from this report.
- Risk Management:** None arising from this report.

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes	Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:			
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)			
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consultation Responses

Members:

- Leader of Council:** Councillor Gordon Lundie - No comments have been received as Councillor Lundie is due to consider the Individual Decision as the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operations), Emergency Planning, Newbury Vision is the Ward Member.
- Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:** Councillor Brian Bedwell - This is a very busy area of the village with the crossing in constant use, this proposal will improve pedestrian safety and has my support..
- Ward Members:** Councillor Pamela Bale - Thanks for this report which covers all the issues.
- You are correct that the 20mph zone has improved the village centre for pedestrians, but my experience is that drivers still have difficulty recognising the location of the pedestrian crossings - particularly the ones on Station Road

and the High Street. Widening the crossing on Reading Road has proved very successful, and raising the height of all 3 crossings will further assist pedestrians.

Thank you for attending meetings with me and the Parish Council to discuss the issues and put forward the proposals in this report.

These are supported by the Parish Council, and the residents who have contacted me in response to the consultation.

This a good use of the S106 money which has been accrued from several small developments in the village.

**Opposition
Spokesperson:**

Councillor Keith Woodhams - To date no response has been received, however any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.

Local Stakeholders: N/A

Officers Consulted: Mark Edwards, Mark Cole

Trade Union: N/A

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Pangbourne is located on the A329 to the West of Reading. The village experiences a significant level of traffic movements in both the AM and PM Peak periods with queuing often occurring on all approaches to the village. The village centre has narrow carriageways and tight turns, and there are a high number of pedestrian movements.
- 1.2 Concerns have often been expressed about road safety within the village centre and as a result a 20mph speed limit was introduced on 26th October 2009. The Parish Council still has concerns about pedestrian safety especially when using the zebra crossings.
- 1.3 Within the latest three year period to the end of April 2013 there have been five recorded slight injury accidents within the lengths covered by the 20mph speed limit zone and involved:
 - a pedestrian being hit when using the zebra crossing on the Reading Road,
 - a car being hit from behind by a pedal cyclist when it stopped to let a pedestrian cross on the Station Road zebra crossing,
 - a pedestrian being hit by a car when using the footway on Whitchurch Road,
 - a vehicle turning right out of Pangbourne Hill and colliding with a vehicle on the A340 Tidmarsh Road,
 - a vehicle turning right out of St James Close into the path of a vehicle which was heading away from Pangbourne on the A329 with its left indicator on.
- 1.4 To improve pedestrian safety and assist pedestrians to cross the road at the zebra crossings it was proposed to introduce a raised table at each crossing location. This would create an at grade crossing, thereby making it easier to use for those with less mobility and it would highlight the crossing location, which would reduce the risk of a pedestrian and vehicle conflict.
- 1.5 The statutory consultation and advertisement of the proposals was undertaken between 23 May and 13 June 2013.

2. Responses to statutory consultation

- 2.1 At the end of the statutory consultation period 3 responses had been received.
- 2.2 One response was from Reading Transport who indicated that they have no objection in principle but requested consideration be given to their needs in relation to table top dimensions and construction materials. The proposals have taken account of these needs.
- 2.3 The remaining two responses to the consultation were objecting to various issues of the proposals.
- 2.4 A summary of all the comments received during the statutory consultation, together with officer comments, is provided in Appendix A to this report.

3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 Local Residents - The main aim of this item is to propose introduction of raised plateau areas at all the zebra crossing locations within the village for the benefit of the community in general.
- 3.2 Improved road safety – The raised table areas will require moving traffic to approach the crossings and travel through the village centre at speeds at or below the current 20mph speed limit.
- 3.3 Child Pedestrians - Improved road safety on approaches to the crossings
- 3.4 Persons with less mobility – The at-grade nature of the facility will improve movement for both ambulant and non-ambulant pedestrians who will not be required to negotiate kerbs of any description.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 When traffic queues within the village it often queues across the zebra crossings making it difficult for pedestrians to use the crossing safely as they have to cross between two queuing vehicles. Experience at other locations where raised tables have been introduced at crossing locations have shown that queuing traffic tends not to queue on the raised table, thus making it safer for pedestrians.
- 4.2 Having carefully considered the responses to the consultation it is considered that no adjustments further to the proposals are required and the scheme should be implemented as advertised.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That the proposed measures be introduced as advertised.
- 5.2 That the respondents to the statutory consultation be informed accordingly.

Appendices

Appendix A - Summary of Comments to Statutory Consultation