

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Wigmore Lane, Theale, Petition to improve road safety for people crossing the A4
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	18 June 2014
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2791

Purpose of Report: To respond to a petition that has been submitted to the Council requesting improvements for people crossing the A4 at Wigmore Lane, Theale 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 provide a response to the petitioners.

Other options considered: N/A

Key background documentation:

- The petition

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Pamela Bale - Tel (0118) 9842980
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Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Andrew Garratt
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Implications

Policy:	None arising from this report.
Financial:	Any improvements will be funded as part of the A4/A340 Local Safety Scheme from the approved capital programme 2014/15.
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 - To date no response has been received, however any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Councillor Brian Bedwell considers it to be the most sensible solution.

Ward Members: Councillor Alan Macro - To date no response has been received, however any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.

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 Cole, Mark Edwards

Trade Union: N/A

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:</p> <p>The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Item is Urgent Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Report is to note only <input type="checkbox"/></p>		

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 A petition containing 12 signatures was submitted to West Berkshire Council during December 2013. The petition states:

“We, the undersigned, petition the Council to take measures to improve safety for people crossing the A4 road to get to and from Wigmore Lane, Theale.

Crossing the A4 at this point is dangerous because it is close to the A4/A340 roundabout, traffic is moving fast and visibility to the west is restricted by a bend.

People crossing the A4 at this point include:

- Residents accessing shops and other facilities in Theale,*
- Schoolchildren going to and from school,*
- Residents and workers using the bus stop,*
- Walkers using the public footpath at the end of the lane,*

Measures considered should include provision of a pedestrian refuge and a made-up path to and across the existing traffic island.”

- 1.2 The A4 is the main route between Reading and Newbury and Wigmore Lane is a cul de sac accessed off the A4 and A340 roundabout at Theale. There are two bus stop lay-bys just west of the A4/A340 roundabout.
- 1.3 Wigmore Lane has 19 residential properties and some local businesses. There is a footpath that links the A4 and Wigmore Lane by the residential properties which provides access to the bus stops. On the A4 there is a footway adjacent to the eastbound carriageway, however there is only a short length of footway between the link footpath and the westbound bus stop.
- 1.4 Within the latest three year period to the end of March 2013 there have been 10 recorded injury accidents on the A4 at the A340 roundabout, which resulted in 2 serious and 8 slight injuries being received. None of the accidents involved pedestrians as 9 involved rear end shunts at various entry points to the roundabout and 1 involved a collision with a pedal cyclist.
- 1.5 Due to the number of accidents at the A4 and A340 roundabout it has been identified for investigation in the approved Traffic and Road Safety works programme 2014/15.

2. Measures to assist pedestrian movements

- 2.1 Due to the low number of pedestrian movements a formal facility such as a pelican crossing is not justified. However there are two possible options to assist pedestrians crossing the A4.
- 2.2 Option 1 is the introduction of a pedestrian refuge on the A4 by the link footpath and between the two bus stops. This would cost in the region of £13,000 and would involve local widening of the A4 as there is insufficient room to install a pedestrian refuge and allow for HGV traffic to safely pass the refuge.

2.3 Option 2 is the introduction of a footway between the link footpath and the splitter island on the A4 and a footway across the splitter island to link with the existing footway on the eastbound carriageway. This option would cost in the region of £16,000.

3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

3.1 The introduction of a pedestrian refuge or footway would assist all user groups to cross the road.

4. Conclusion

4.1 It is considered that the number of pedestrian movements from Wigmore Lane to Theale is too low to justify a formal crossing facility.

4.2 The introduction of a pedestrian refuge or footway as described above would assist pedestrians to cross the A4 when walking between Wigmore Lane and Theale. These measures will be considered as part of the investigation into the recorded injury accidents for the A4/A340 roundabout which is identified in the approved Traffic and Road Safety works programme 2014/15. The most appropriate solution would then be implemented.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the introduction of a pedestrian refuge or footway as described above are considered as part of the investigation into the recorded injury accidents for the A4/A340 roundabout and the most appropriate solution be implemented.

5.2 That the petition organiser be informed of the decision.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.