

Individual Executive Member Decision

Northcroft Lane, Newbury - Pedestrian Improvements

Committee considering report: Individual Executive Member Decision

Date ID to be signed: 12 May 2017

Portfolio Member: Councillor Jeanette Clifford

Forward Plan Ref: ID3300

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the consultation responses on proposed footway and pedestrian route improvements along Northcroft Lane, Newbury and make a recommendation as to whether to proceed with the proposal.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (1) The footway widening on Northcroft Lane does not proceed;
- (2) The dropped kerbs and tactile paving are implemented as part of the 2017-18 capital programme;
- (3) The respondents to the consultation process are informed accordingly.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** If implemented, the measures recommended would cost approximately £5,000 and could be funded from the Capital Programme from Section 106 funds already received.
- 3.2 **Policy:** None
- 3.3 **Personnel:** None
- 3.4 **Legal:** If implemented, the project would require amendments to an existing Traffic Regulation Order to be advertised in a separate statutory consultation process.
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** If implemented, the project will be managed in accordance with the Transport and Countryside Service's approach to risk management.
- 3.6 **Property:** None
- 3.7 **Other:** None

4. Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Councillor Graham Jones has not made any comments.
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	Councillor Emma Webster has not made any comments.
Ward Members:	Councillor Dennis Benneyworth has not made any comments. Councillor James Frederickson has not made any comments. Councillor Jeanette Clifford has not made any comments. Councillor Lynne Doherty has not made any comments.
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor Billy Drummond has not made any comments.

Local Stakeholders: Consulted in March 2017 via letter drop and online consultation. See Appendix C for a summary of the responses.

Officers Consulted: Jon Winstanley, Mark Edwards

Trade Union: Not applicable

5. Other options considered

5.1 To build a footway on the South side of the carriageway to avoid pedestrians needing to cross to the existing footway. This is not considered feasible as it would reduce the width of the carriageway.

Background Papers:

none

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>

Wards affected:

Northcroft, Victoria.

Officer details:

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6. Executive Summary

- 6.1 Northcroft Lane is part of a route between Newbury town centre and Northcroft Leisure Centre and surrounding residential areas.
- 6.2 As a result of concerns expressed by local residents, officers investigated ways in which pedestrian facilities can be improved on Northcroft Lane. Currently, many pedestrians walk in the carriageway rather than the available footway on the north side of the road, and can come into conflict with vehicles. This appears to be because the existing footway is particularly narrow (1.2 metres), making it difficult for pushchair and wheelchair users to use safely, or for two people to comfortably walk side-by-side. Officers have also observed that many pedestrians walk along the footway on the south side of the road, but when this footway ends they carry on walking in the carriageway rather than cross over to use the footway on the north side.
- 6.3 There is not enough space to build a new footway on the south side of the road, but it is possible to widen the existing footway west of the West Street junction, as shown on drawing number 81141-Northcroft-001 (see Appendix D). This would cost approximately £15,000 and result in a section of the carriageway being reduced down to a single lane with priority give way markings, and the removal of 2 parking spaces. In addition, it is possible to install new dropped kerbs at the side roads to make it easier for pedestrians to use the footway rather than the carriageway at a cost of around £5,000.
- 6.4 In March 2017, residents were consulted on these potential improvements by way of a letter drop (89 properties received a letter). The proposals were also publicised on the consultation section of the Council's website.
- 6.5 Twelve responses to the consultation were received, which can be considered a low response rate. Five responses were in favour of the proposal and five against, with two responses making some general comments but not specifically stating either support or objection. The responses are summarised in Appendix C, together with Officer's comments.
- 6.6 The main area of concern is the reduction in parking spaces that would result from the widening of the footway. Although only two spaces would be lost, there is clearly significant pressure on the parking capacity for residents in the area.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 There would be a benefit to pedestrians in widening the footway, especially those with pushchairs and wheelchair users.
- 7.2 It is however, debatable as to whether the pedestrians who currently choose to walk in the carriageway would cross the road to use the footway. It is not considered that this is a particularly serious problem, given the nature of the road and low traffic speeds.
- 7.3 Overall, officers consider that the benefit of widening the footway is marginal relative to the costs of the project and the removal of the two parking spaces. Furthermore, the consultation responses are small in number and evenly split between support and objection, so cannot be considered as a mandate to proceed with the project.

7.4 It is therefore recommended that the footway widening should not be implemented. However, the proposed dropped kerbs at the side road junctions would give pedestrians a more level walking route with no obvious adverse effects to other road users and it is recommended that these are implemented.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Supporting Information

8.2 Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment

8.3 Appendix C – Summary of consultation responses and Officer's comments.

8.4 Appendix D – Drawing number 81141-Northcroft-001.

8.5 Appendix E – Letter to local residents and response form.