

## Individual Decision

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<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Oxford Road/A4 Western Ave Pedestrian Crossing Improvements, Newbury.</b>		
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	<b>Portfolio Member for Highways and Transportation Cllr. Sally Hannon</b>	<b>on:</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> April 2005</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	<b>ID0956</b>		

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### **Purpose of Report:**

- **To inform the Portfolio Member for Highways and Transportation of the results of the Informal Consultation on the provision pedestrian crossings in the vicinity of the Oxford Road/A4 Western Ave Junction.**

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### **Recommended Action:**

- **That the Portfolio Member resolves subject to formal consultation with frontagers, and amendments resulting from safety audits, that the scheme detailed on drawing no. 5028294/410/CY/004 be implemented.**

### **Reason for decision to be taken:**

To progress the above scheme as detailed in the body of the report.

### **List of other options considered:**

None Applicable

### **Key background documentation:**

- See paragraph 3.4 for schedule

<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Sally Hannon
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### **Contact Officer Details**

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## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 The A4 Western Avenue is the main route between Newbury and Hungerford, and the B4494 Oxford Road forms part of the route connecting Newbury to Wantage.
- 1.2 The roundabout junction of these two roads is a two lane circulatory with two lane approaches and single lane exits. The speed limit in the vicinity of the junction is 30mph, however an individual decision has been made to increase the speed limit along this section to 40mph to provide a consistent speed limit along the A4.
- 1.3 The junction is heavily trafficked and is difficult for pedestrians to negotiate. This has resulted in pedestrians using unorthodox routes across the junction, with a worn path visible across the central island of the roundabout, which poses a significant safety problem.
- 1.4 The land adjacent to the junction has been subject to recent development, with a new Waitrose store to the south west and a new housing development on the site of the old college to the north. Speenhamland Primary School is also situated to the east of the junction. At present Waitrose car park is being promoted as an informal park and walk for parents with children attending Speenhamland Primary School.
- 1.5 As part of the recent developments a signalised pedestrian crossing facility has been introduced to Western Avenue west of the roundabout, and traffic islands introduced to aid pedestrians on Oxford Road to the north. In addition to these works, developers have contributed £114,000 for pedestrian improvements to the other arms of the junction.
- 1.6 A pedestrian crossing survey was undertaken in the vicinity of the junction between 7am and 7pm on 17 November 2004. The results are detailed in the following table:

Location	Number of Peds Crossing
Western Avenue east of the junction.	618
Oxford Road south of the junction	532
Western Avenue west of the junction	384
Oxford Road north of the junction	97
Pedestrians crossing the central island of the roundabout	97

This illustrates that the majority of pedestrians in the vicinity of the junction cross to the east and south.

- 1.7 It is therefore proposed that due to the number of pedestrians crossing, and in light of the impending speed limit increase and volume of traffic on these roads, that pedestrian crossing improvements be implemented on the southern and eastern arms of the junction.

### 2. Drawings of the Proposed Scheme

- Detail of the proposed scheme is attached in **annex 1**:

### **3. Consultation**

- 3.1 An initial consultation letter and plan has been sent to local Ward Members and stakeholders.
- 3.2 Responses have been received from both Ward Members who are fully supportive of the scheme.
- 3.3 Councillor Vickers commented that he would like to see more in the way of cycle facilities in the vicinity of the junction, and requested the provision of footway/cycleways along Western Avenue to the east of the junction.
- 3.4 This would involve widening the footways from 2m to 3m between the junction and the new crossing point, at an approximate cost of £30,000. The existing developer contribution would not cover this additional cost. It is therefore recommended that this proposal be discussed with the West Berkshire Cycle Forum, with the possibility of additional funding being appropriated from the 2005/06 cycle improvements budget. The next meeting of the cycle forum is 13 April 2005.
- 3.5 Responses have also been received from Speenhamland School, Spokes, and West Berkshire Disability Alliance. The comments along with an officer's response are detailed in **Annex 2**.

### **4. Proposed Scheme**

- 4.1 In deciding on the most appropriate form of crossing, pedestrian movements and traffic flow and speed were taken into consideration.

#### **Western Avenue Eastern Arm**

- 4.2 The proposed scheme therefore involves the introduction of a staggered pelican crossing to replace the existing traffic island that forms part of a walk through between the Maple Crescent/Cherry Close area, Speenhamland School and the town centre.

#### **Oxford Road Southern Arm**

- 4.3 This involves the provision of a zebra crossing. Combined with the above improvements this will provide a safe link to Waitrose, and this will also assist in promoting the park and walk scheme from Waitrose car park to Speenhamland Primary School.
- 4.4 In addition to the above measures some minor safety and access improvement measures are proposed in the vicinity of the junction. These are detailed on the scheme drawing in **annex 1**.

### **Annexes**

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Appendix 1 – Scheme drawing.

Appendix 2 – Consultation Responses

## Implications

<b>Policy:</b>	This scheme contributes to the corporate priorities of: (i) CP5 - Ensuring the street environment is clean, well maintained and safe (ii) CP8 - Improving transportation
<b>Financial:</b>	Cost - <b>£112,500</b> This scheme has been identified in the Highways and Engineering Capital Programme for 2005/06, and can be funded from developer contributions.
<b>Environmental:</b>	The scheme will encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, and improve the environment for pedestrians and residents in the Newbury area.
<b>Community Safety:</b>	The proposed schemes will improve road safety and reduce community severance.

## Consultation Responses

### **Members:**

<b>Leader of Council:</b>	Cllr. Royce Longton is happy with the recommended action provided that the Ward Members support the proposals.
<b>Select Committee Chairmen:</b>	Cllr. Brian Bedwell has been consulted and has raised no objection to the scheme.
<b>Ward Members:</b>	All West Berkshire Council Members representing the Northcroft Ward have been consulted and are in favour of the scheme.
<b>Opposition Spokesperson:</b>	Cllr. Brian Bedwell has been consulted and has raised no objection to the scheme.
<b>Local Stakeholders:</b>	Spokes, Newbury Ambulance Service, Vodafone, Newbury Police, Newbury Fire Service, Waitrose, Newbury Town Council, Local Ward Members, Speenhamland Primary School, Disabilities Group.
<b>Officers Consulted:</b>	Mark Edwards, Derek Crouch, Frances Fernandes, Mark Cole, Phil Frost, Andrew Garratt.
<b>Trade Union:</b>	n.a.

## Annex 2

Consultee	Comment	Officers Response
Speenhamland School	<p>Generally very supportive of the proposals. However they would prefer the zebra crossing on Oxford Road to be to the south of the Waitrose entrance. They consider this would be more beneficial to parents/children parking and walking from Waitrose and walking from the Old Bath Road area.</p>	<p>The location of the crossing point is to aid access to Waitrose – the main pedestrian accesses being to the north of the Waitrose site.</p> <p>It is suggested that further discussion takes place with the school and Waitrose to encourage parents to use the northern pedestrian access points to the Waitrose car park, in order to gain the benefit of the zebra crossing in the proposed location.</p>
West Berkshire Disability Alliance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Concerning the pelican crossing on Western Avenue, the Disabilities Group commented on the need for careful design of tactile paving and the position of push buttons on the central island.</li> <li>2) The disabilities group would like to see the proposed zebra crossing on Oxford Road changed to a Pelican Crossing. It is commented that the partially sighted would find it difficult to cross the road without traffic signals.</li> </ol>	<p>This will be accommodated within the design and discussed further at the detail design stage.</p> <p>It is considered that providing a signalised crossing point this close to the junction could give the motorist the impression that the roundabout is fully signalised, especially as a signal controlled crossing exists immediately to the west of the junction. This could give rise to motorists seeing a green light from the crossing on the approach to the junction and thinking they have right of way on the roundabout. This problem has been noted on the western approach, and it is considered an additional signalised crossing at the proposed location would only exacerbate the situation.</p> <p>If a signalised crossing were to be provided this would have to be at a distance from the junction, which would take the crossing point away from the observed pedestrian desire line, making it far less effective.</p>
Spokes	<p>Spokes are supportive of the proposals, however have suggested a number of low cost signing and lining improvements on the approaches to the roundabout to aid cycle movements.</p>	<p>These proposals will be discussed with Spokes in more detail with a view to incorporating them in the design where appropriate. Any amendments will be discussed and agreed with the local Ward Members prior to implementation.</p>