

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Lower Way Thatcham – Proposed Toucan Crossing		
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Keith Chopping	on:	4th April 2006
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1172		

Purpose of Report:

To advise the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the results of the consultation process on measures designed to improve safety of school children and to recommend a course of action.

Recommended Action:

That the Executive Member Resolves to:-

Authorise construction of the Toucan Crossing at Lower Way, Thatcham as detailed on drawing No 81293/10A

Reason for decision to be taken:

To provide a safe means of crossing Lower Way and improve the safety of school children

List of other options considered:

Those detailed on the supporting information attached

Key background documentation:

- Drawing No 81293/10A Proposed Toucan Crossing Preliminary Layout Option 1
- Drawing No 81293/5 Proposed toucan Crossing Location Options (1 to 6)
- Drawing No 81293/11 Proposed Toucan Crossing Preliminary Layout Option 3
- Drawing No 81293/12A Proposed Toucan Crossing Preliminary Layout Option 6
- Lower Way, Thatcham, Formal Consultation, Observations and Objections

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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Following a request for a crossing from Parsons Down schools and local members consultation of the scheme (Option 1) took place with local members on the 20th October 2005.
- 1.2 Various concerns were expressed over the location of option 1. As a result a further plan was drawn up to relocate the crossing nearer to Heron Way/Lower Way junction (Option 3). A plan showing the former 6 Options was sent to members for consultation on the 27th October 2005 with return of comments by 11th November 2005.
- 1.3 A meeting was held on 10th November 2005 between Local members and Parsons Down schools on site to discuss the various options of crossing locations available. Options 3 and 4 were considered to be unsuitable due to the proximity of houses and options 2 and 5 were discounted for safety reasons. It was agreed that Options 1 or 6 were the preferred locations for the crossing in Lower Way.
- 1.4 Full consultation was carried out on option 6 adjacent to Swansdown Walk as it was felt that this option would benefit the wider community and be more frequently used. Consultation took place on the 6th December 2005 with return of comments by the 6th January 2006
- 1.5 Considerable initial opposition to Option 6 was received and a petition objecting to the crossing's location was received. Therefore full consultation was carried out on option 1 on the 14th December 2005 with return on the 6th January 2006. No objections were received to this option.
- 1.6 However concerns have been expressed that the Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre should not be used for parking and the possibility of using part of the former tip as a car park should be considered. This is currently being investigated. Should the tip not be available as a future car park then the use of Muddy Lane leading to the Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre will also be investigated. It is not considered essential to provide a car park at this stage but will be essential should parking restrictions be introduced in adjoining streets to Parsons Down School.
- 1.7 Thatcham Town Council voted in favour of option 6
- 1.8 A meeting of the Thatcham Area Forum held on the 26th January 2006 recommended option 1 be implemented and that Highways Officers should investigate the suitability of land as a drop off car park in the vicinity of the toucan crossing
- 1.9 Due to impending Sewer works by Thames Water construction of the Toucan cannot begin until the sewer works are completed.

Recommendation

That the Executive Member for Planning and Highways resolves to authorise the construction of the Toucan Crossing at Lower Way, Thatcham as detailed on drawing No 81293/10A.

Appendices

Results of consultation.

Implications

Policy:	None arising from this report
Financial:	The project is being funded from Section 106 contributions.
Personnel:	None arising form this report
Legal:	None arising form this report
Environmental:	None arising form this report
Equalities:	None arising form this report
Partnering:	N/A
Property:	None arising form this report
Risk Management:	N/A
Community Safety:	None arising form this report

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Graham Jones - No comments received
Select Committee Chairmen:	Jeff Brooks - No comments received
P&L Committee Chairman (where appropriate):	N/A
Ward Members:	Jeff Brooks - No comments received Keith Woodhams – Agrees and supports Option 1 as stated on the plan.
Opposition Spokesperson:	Owen Jeffery - No comments received
Advisory Members:	N/A
Local Stakeholders:	Local members, Local residents and businesses, Town Council, Thatcham Area Forum, schools, and other statutory consulties.
Officers Consulted:	John Ashworth, Mark Edwards, Charles Stickler
Trade Union:	N/A