



Report to Leader (Transportation portfolio)

Decision Date: 6 April 2021

Reference number: TR08.21

Title: Moreton Road Phase 2

Relevant councillor(s): Councillors; Warren Whyte, Simon Cole, Sir Beville Stanier Bt, Timothy Mills

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Ward(s) affected: Buckingham East

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- a. The Leader authorises the implementation of the traffic calming measures on Castle Street as set out in this report.
- b. The Leader agrees not to proceed with the traffic calming measures on High Street as set out in this report.
- c. Responders to the Statutory Consultation are informed of the Decision.

Reason for decision: To formalise traffic calming features on Castle Street, Buckingham this will reduce traffic speeds and create a safer environment for both pedestrians and vehicles.

Executive summary

- 1.1 A scheme was originally proposed to introduce various traffic calming measures within Buckingham Town Centre. These measures were advertised at a public consultation between 5th August and 4th September 2020. As a result of the feedback, only the element of the scheme receiving support is proposed to be progressed.

- 1.2 Buckinghamshire Council are underwriting the entire scheme from initiation to implementation through S106 contributions.
- 1.3 Introduction of these measures will create a safer environment for both pedestrians and vehicles.

Content of report

- 1.4 The original scheme that was subject to consultation had arisen as a result of Section 106 contributions from Bellway Homes, land north of Park Manor Road development. These proposals were to introduce a raised speed table at the location of the existing signalised crossing on A422 High Street and traffic calming features on Castle Street, Buckingham.
- 1.5 During the consultation period a number of views were expressed opposing the measures on the High Street, whilst only expressions of support were received on the Castle Street element of the scheme. More detailed information on the responses can be found in the consultation section of the report below and in Appendix B.
- 1.6 Following the consultation feedback it was clear the raised speed table on the High Street wouldn't be supported and therefore is proposed to be removed from the scheme. With regards to the Castle Street measures they received unanimous support and as such it is recommended that this element is progressed as advertised.
- 1.7 Buckinghamshire Council is responsible for the highway network within its boundary; this includes the management of safe passage for vehicles and pedestrians on the highway network.
- 1.8 Copies of the statutory consultation documentation can be found on the Buckinghamshire Council website at the following address:

<https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/roads-parking/buckingham-highst-traffic-calming/>
- 1.9 South Central Ambulance Service have provided useful information during the consultation and provided a detailed response which can be found in Appendix B. Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service have not responded to the proposals as advertised.
- 1.10 Further information is available in the attached appendices.

Other options considered

- 1.11 A meeting was held between Transport for Buckinghamshire, Local Members and Buckingham Town Council in January 2020 to discuss several highway improvement schemes. Following these discussions it was agreed that the proposed raised table on A422 High Street and priority measures on Castle Street, Buckingham were progressed.

Legal and financial implications

- 1.12 The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 gives the highway agency authority to implement the raised crossing and to ensure the scheme is consulted with emergency services and those potentially affected.
- 1.13 Sufficient budget exists to implement the traffic calming measures as advertised.

Corporate implications

- 1.14 No property implications have been identified.

Equality and Diversity Issues – Equality Act 2010. This proposal will not have any disproportionate effect upon people with protected characteristics. This scheme will introduce traffic calming measures in Buckingham Town Centre which will allow enforcement across the whole width of the designated public highway when applied on both sides of the carriageway. This will discourage pavement parking as the waiting restrictions apply from highway boundary to highway boundary; and will facilitate ease of pedestrian access along the footways.

Data protection – A privacy statement was included on the Citizen Space consultation page which stated the following: *“We will use the information you provide only for the purpose of this consultation. We will store the information securely, in line with data protection laws. The law states that we must make responses available for public inspection, but we will not share or publish any personal details.”* There is no evidence to suggest that a Data Protection Impact Assessment was mandated under the GDPR 2018 Regulations for this scheme.

Value for Money – The costs associated with this scheme has been allocated within the agreed budget and sufficient remains to implement the traffic calming measures on the ground.

Consultation and communication

- 1.15 In compliance with the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 a statutory consultation was undertaken between Wednesday 5th August and Friday 4th September 2020. A summary of the feedback is shown in Appendix A.
- 1.16 The full written responses to the statutory consultation are contained in Appendix B. These have been reviewed and considered against the proposals as advertised.
- 1.17 The written responses raised a number of comments on the proposed raised table on A422 High Street which have been summarised below.
- i. No information provided as to whether there has been any speed checks
 - ii. No information as to whether there has been any accidents
 - iii. The traffic lights slow the traffic down enough as it is.
 - iv. It would greatly reduce the progression of ambulances under emergency conditions
 - v. The raised table provides an uncomfortable experience for frail and elderly patients.
- 1.18 During the statutory consultation we received an objection from the South Central Ambulance Service; their full objection can be viewed in Appendix B. Following receipt of the objection Transport for Buckinghamshire made contact with the ambulance service and arranged to set up a Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss their issues and concerns with the proposals.

During the meeting Transport for Buckinghamshire put forward the following points:

- The proposals on A422 High Street are to help facilitate pedestrians traverse from one side of the crossing to the other as the footway shall be raised accordingly to provide a level platform, this provides particular benefits to pedestrians with mobility issues.
 - We are also following guidance from the Department for Transport who have stated that the maximum cross fall on a footway should be no more than 2.5% or 1:40 gradient, the site in question has a significantly steeper gradient than this.
 - The raised table would highlight the crossing point, encourage motorists to slow down which would reduce the severity of potential accidents.
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- The design that was consulted upon could be amended by extending the ramps which would create a shallower gradient and ultimately provide a more comfortable traverse for all motorised vehicles.

In response to the points listed above the ambulance service stated the following:

- Whilst we respect that the proposals will address the footway issue have any pedestrian collisions occurred at this location?
- We have a hospital located in Maids Moreton where we transport elderly and vulnerable patients to and from Stoke Mandeville Hospital on a daily basis.
- The experience of going over a road hump or raised table is very unpleasant in the back of the ambulance vehicle. It was suggested that if COVID restrictions didn't apply then we would be given the opportunity to experience this ourselves.
- On a previous scheme where a raised table was proposed in South Court, Aylesbury the ambulance service gave people the experience of going over a raised table under emergency conditions. Following this the scheme was discontinued.
- The raised table would delay emergency response times where every second counts and in the worst case could mean the difference between life and death

1.19 Reviewing the feedback received from the South Central Ambulance Service in conjunction with all other responses during the consultation process, it is recommended that further work is undertaken on Castle Street and that the existing raised table proposals on A422 High Street are not implemented as advertised.

1.20 The area where the traffic calming proposals are situated are within the Buckingham East electoral division which is covered by the following councillors:

- Councillor Sir Beville Stanier Bt
- Councillor Simon Cole
- Councillor Timothy Mills
- Councillor Warren Whyte

TfB invite all of the local members to provide a comment on the traffic calming proposals advertised at statutory consultation. We have received the following comments below:

1.21 Councillor Warren Whyte stated the following:

“Priority Scheme - Support

Ideally needs the plaque to say "max two cars ahead" (or something similar) as the main issue here is too many cars waiting in the pinch point and then a car can't come eastbound as it's blocked with too many westbound cars.

Raised table - Support

However, there needs to be some careful detail design to work with the Browns entrance steps”.

Councillor Timothy Mills stated the following:

“I certainly support the illuminated "Give Way" sign by Villiers Hotel, it's been necessary for years and should have been done years ago.

I object to the raised crossing in High Street. I've lived in the town for 36 years and haven't seen or heard of anyone who has difficulty crossing the road there as the existing crossing works well. I realise some cars exceed the speed limit but it wouldn't really affect people crossing further away, they can always walk a short distance to the existing crossing.

It would be a complete waste of money”.

Next steps and review

All consultees and responders to the consultation will be contacted by either email or letter and will be informed of the decision and where they can find the details of the statutory consultation and the decision taken. The report will be published on the Council's webpage.

Background papers

Appendix A: Summary of Objections & Feedback - Moreton Road Phase 2

Appendix B: Responses to Statutory Consultation – Moreton Road Phase 2

Appendix C: Consultation Plans – Moreton Road Phase 2

Your questions and views (for key decisions)

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider, please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone to 01296 382343 or email

democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

