



Report to Leader (Transport portfolio)

Decision Date: 24 August 2021

Reference No: TR15.21

Title: Watchet Lane, Holmer Green Proposed Zebra Crossing

Relevant councillor(s): Cllr Mark Dormer, Cllr Mark Flys, Cllr Jonathan Waters.

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Ward(s) affected: Penn Wood and Old Amersham

Recommendations: That the Leader: -

- To authorise the zebra crossing scheme to proceed to implementation and construction.
- To instruct the “School Keep Clear” TRO/parking restrictions to be amended and implemented.

Reason for decision:

The installation of a new zebra crossing will provide students and other pedestrians with a new and safe means of crossing Watchet Lane, particularly at peak traffic times. The current redevelopment of Holmer Green Senior School is to cater for the anticipated increase in demand for educational places from within and beyond the current school catchment area. Included within the development plans, the Council’s Schools Commissioning Team have commissioned Transport for Buckinghamshire to install a new zebra crossing facility on Watchet Lane, which is a requirement of the planning application. Increasing numbers of students would be expecting to attend the school, many of which are likely to require crossing Watchet Lane to reach the school. Using funding from the Council’s School Commissioning Team, consultation and delivery of the scheme is a priority, prior to commencement of the 2021 Autumn term. Additionally, the current parking Traffic Regulation Order for the School Keep Clear restrictions will require marginal amendments, following the completion of the new crossing zig-zag markings. Whilst many comments were received during the statutory consultation, most of these related to parking issues linked with parental drop-off and collection of students, the majority of which cannot be resolved by TfB with the commissioned zebra crossing scheme, that was consulted upon. Full details of the respondent’s comments

can be found in Appendix A of this report along with Transport for Buckinghamshire's comments.

Executive summary

- 1.1 To approve the implementation and installation of the proposed zebra crossing and amendments to school keep clear markings. The proposals were subject to a statutory consultation.

Content of report

- 1.2 The statutory consultation for the proposed Watchet Lane crossing took place from 24th May to 18th June 2021. These proposals received a total of 24 consultation responses and included much positive feedback. The majority of the responses highlighted that there was a desire for a zebra crossing on Watchet Lane to increase safety for children and other pedestrians crossing the road. The person who objected raised concerns about the current traffic flow being slowed down more, and if the proposals go ahead, they would like to prevent parking near to the school. One of the responses indicated that they support the need for a zebra crossing, although they raise concerns that it is too near to the vehicular accesses of the nearby houses. One respondent neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposals but commented that it will not improve the traffic condition around school time.
- 1.3 There will be proposed adjustments to the existing TRO for the yellow "school keep clear" restrictions to mitigate the concerns of uncontrolled parking occurring as a result of drop-off/collection at the school frontage. This will be implemented along with the new zebra crossing. The school keep clear markings are to be adjusted after the statutory consultation, as per the consultation plan, which have been agreed with the Parking Team enabling enforcement of the regulations.
- 1.4 The scheme has been developed through joint meetings between Buckinghamshire Council Schools Commissioning Department and the TfB Design Services team.
- 1.5 The proposals have been subject to a full public statutory consultation and the outcome of the consultation is recorded later in this report.

Other options considered

- 1.6 No alternative measures have been considered.

Legal and financial implications

- 1.7 Section 122 of the Road Traffic Act 1984 places a duty on Buckinghamshire Council to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

- 1.8 Regulation 14 of the TRO Regulations state that an order making authority may modify an order. Whether in receipt of any objections or otherwise, before it is made.
- 1.9 When the decision is taken and should the recommendation be agreed, the Traffic Regulation Order will be signed and re-advertised by Buckinghamshire Council and the zebra crossing can proceed to the construction stage.
- 1.10 The responders to the consultation and persons likely to be affected will be informed of the decisions made and supplied with a link to the BC Decision Website.

Corporate implications

1.11 Equality and Diversity Issues - Equality Act 2010

This proposal will not have any disproportionate effect upon people with protected characteristics. The scheme will introduce a new zebra crossing facility which will contribute to a safer highway network for all road users.

1.12 Property implications

None identified.

1.13 Value for Money (VfM) Self-Assessment

The scheme construction works will be tendered and carried out by an approved sub-contractor working on behalf of Transport for Buckinghamshire.

1.14 Resource Implications

Future maintenance of all asset will be through the Transport for Buckinghamshire general maintenance budgets.

The funding of the scheme is from the School's Commissioning Departmental budget as part of the Holmer Green Senior School redevelopment.

Consultation and communication

- 1.15 Following consultation, the elected Members were contacted. Their responses are recorded below:

Consultee name	Response
Cllr Jonathan Waters	I very much support this proposal for the Zebra crossing. Can we ensure as far as possible that

	residents houses are shielded as far as possible from any light source as part of the design.
Cllr Mark Dormer	I am in favour of the proposal.
Cllr Mark Flys	Agree too

Consultation Feedback came from Respondents emails, Buckinghamshire Council's Your Voice Bucks Online consultation and consultees emails received by the "TRO mail Mailbox". In total, 24 responses were received; comprising 21 "In Support" of the scheme, however 1 responded that they "Part supported" the proposals, one person objected, and one respondent only left a comment. The person who objected did so on the grounds that Watchet Lane is dangerous during rush hour, that it will slow down traffic more and will make turning out of local roads harder. There is currently a school crossing patroller at the uncontrolled crossing between Poppies Day Nursery and Holmer Green First and Pre-School who will use the zebra crossing if the proposals are implemented. Therefore, we do not believe that the zebra crossing will have any further impact on traffic in comparison to the current situation as a crossing and patroller is already in force. Watchet Lane will also be safer if the zebra crossing is installed as currently there is only an uncontrolled crossing where there is less obligation for a driver to stop if a child or pedestrian was to step into the road.

- 1.16 Please refer to Appendix A for the Consultation Response Summary Report Document, containing full respondent's comments, with the general public comments listed anonymously, in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Act.
- 1.17 Thames Valley Police responded to the consultation and emailed their report on the crossing scheme, summarising that they have "no objections" to the proposals. This response was assigned as "support" in the context of the consultation process. However, they would like to see further speeds taken on the approaches to the crossing a short time after it is built. This will be to see what speeds are like after the crossing goes in, with a view to look at other speed reducing features if there are no changes in the results.
- 1.18 Bucks Fire and Rescue also indicated a positive response to the consultation and are happy to support the proposals.
- 1.19 All consultees and respondents to the consultation will be contacted by either e-mail or letter and will be informed of the decision and where they can find the details of the statutory consultation and the decision taken. This report will be published on the relevant Council web page.

Next steps and review

- 1.1 If these recommendations are accepted, Buckinghamshire Council will make the amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order for the school keep clear markings and proceed to implementing the proposed zebra crossing.

Appendices to the Report

Appendix A – Redacted feedback from the statutory consultation

Appendix B – Consultation plan

Appendix C – Statutory Consultation recommendation report

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 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk