

Watchet Lane, Holmer Green

Zebra Crossing Statutory Consultation

Results of the Statutory Consultation May 2021 to June 2021

Author: Tara Rutland

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Approved by: John Pateman (Project Manager)



**Transport for
Buckinghamshire**

SUMMARY

A statutory consultation took place for Watchet Lane, Holmer Green between 24 May and 18 June 2021 to consult on the implementation of a new zebra crossing and to move the existing school keep clear yellow zig zag markings to an alternative location covering the school's entrances. This project is being funded as part of the expansion of Holmer Green Senior School.

In total, we received 24 responses to the consultation via Your Voice Bucks and by email.

Proposal: To install a zebra crossing on Watchet Lane, Holmer Green between property No. 85 and 83 and to revoke the existing school keep clear markings and reinstate them either side of the zebra crossing, across the pedestrian entrance/exit of the school.

Watchet Lane, Holmer Green					Summary of feedback
Total feedback	Objections	Full support	Part support	Comments	
24	1	21	1	1	The majority of the responses highlighted that there was a need 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.
TfB's recommendation					<p>From the responses we received, there appears to be overwhelming support to introduce the proposals to install a zebra crossing and amend the school keep clears to improve safety for children and other pedestrians who need to cross the road. The one respondent 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 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. The school keep clears will require amendments as a result of a consultation with the Parking Team to enable enforcement of the regulations at this location. The new proposal is to remove the southern school keep clears and reduce the length of the northern ones.</p> <p>Due to the overwhelming support, our recommendation is to proceed with implementing the zebra crossing proposal as advertised and to amend the school keep clears to ensure that they are enforceable.</p>

The list below reflects some of the suggestions made by respondents on how to improve the problems that they are experiencing. These suggestions could be useful when thinking about future schemes, however, they are not part of the scope for this scheme. We will pass on these suggestions to the local Buckinghamshire Councillors who may be able to seek funding for separate projects.

To look at individual redacted responses, please refer to Appendix A.

Suggestions and TfB's response:

- **Extend the zigzags/double yellow lines past the entrance of Stevens Close, due to people parking close to the junction as people and emergency vehicles find it difficult to enter and exit the close.** Unfortunately, this is not within the scope of this scheme and would require consultation with the other residents to ensure there is enough support for this suggestion.
- **Consideration should be given for safer crossings on Browns Road, Parish Piece, Orchard Way and Earl Howe Road.** We will pass this comment onto your local Buckinghamshire Councillors for future consideration.
- **To introduce a pedestrian/signalised crossing instead of a zebra crossing.** Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, we are only able to install a zebra crossing, however if there is future funding or it is decided that there is a need, this could be upgraded to a signalised crossing later on.
- **To ensure there were flashing school signs during term time.** Unfortunately, due to the regulations, we are unable to have flashing school signs in close proximity to a zebra crossing as it can be distracting for drivers. There are currently school flashing signs on the approach to and from the school, however as part of this scheme these will be removed, and a new 'school' sign will be erected.
- **An agreement between the Council and Holmer Green Sports Centre should be arranged to allow parents to park in the Sports Centre to drop off their children.** We will pass this comment on to the school to see if this arrangement would be possible.
- **If this proposal goes ahead, the whole of Watchet Lane, within 500m of the school should have double yellow lines to prevent parking and support traffic flow.** Unfortunately, this suggestion is not within the scope of this project and would need to have a separate consultation to ensure that there is enough support to implement it.
- **The new crossing should be at a midpoint between the vehicle access for Number 83 and 85.** The crossing is currently approximately 4m from the vehicular access of Number 85 to ensure the view out of the driveway is not obstructed, but as a result of this comment, we will look at trying to move the crossing further over towards 83 as much as we can. We are aware that there are some underground utilities and tree roots which prevent us moving it completely to the midpoint, as suggested. There is also a BT pole which obstructs the view from the zebra crossing which is why it is not currently proposed to be at the midpoint.