Division(s): Banbury Grimsbury & Castle

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 13 OCTOBER 2016

PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSING – A423 SOUTHAM ROAD, BANBURY

Report by Interim Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

 This report presents an objection and comments received in the course of the statutory consultation on the proposal to install a toucan crossing on the A423 Southam Road approximately 100 metres north of its junction with Dukes Meadow Drive, Banbury.

Background

2. The toucan crossing (a signal controlled crossing for use by both pedestrians and pedal cyclists) is proposed to help improve pedestrian and pedal cyclist safety in light of the development of adjacent land for residential purposes. The location and detail of these proposals is shown at Annex 1 and Annex 2.

Consultation

- 3. The formal consultation on the proposals was carried out between 19 May and 10 June 2016. A public notice was advertised in the Banbury Guardian on 19 May, and street notices were placed at intervals along the road in the immediate vicinity. An email was sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Town & District Councils and the relevant local County Councillors (including those representing the other neighbouring divisions).
- 4. One objection to the proposal was received during the consultation period, and this along with other comments received as part of the consultation are summarised at Annex 3. Copies of all the responses received are available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.
- 5. Thames Valley Police had no objection to the proposal, but did raise some concerns regarding the current conditions at the site.
- 6. Councillor Beal (the local Member for Banbury Grimsbury & Castle) indicated his support for the proposals.

Objections and concerns

7. The objection was submitted on the part of residents of an existing dwelling adjacent to the proposed crossing on the grounds that the crossing would result in large number of pedestrians congregating to use the crossing and the consequent loss of privacy, and that the crossing would result in noise disturbance due to vehicles (including lorries) braking and then waiting at the crossing, together with the noise from the audible crossing signals. Additionally concerns were expressed over safety, including on the grounds that the current 40mph speed limit is poorly respected, and also that it would increase the difficulties for drivers of vehicles exiting the access to adjacent properties.

Response to objections and concerns

8. Signalled crossings are routinely provided on roads of a similar character (taking account of the traffic flows, speed limit and the proximity of residential development and accesses) and have very good safety records. It is accepted that the major residential development in the area has and will continue to change the character of the environment in the vicinity of the existing residential premises, and that there will clearly be an increase in pedestrian activity and the potential for some additional noise for the reasons cited. However, again on the basis of experience of other similar sites, it is not judged that these will lead to a significant nuisance. Specifically on the matter of the audible signals, these in fact would not be provided with the layout proposed due to the possibility of pedestrians mistaking which of the two separate signalled crossing points the audible signal applied.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

9. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians and pedal cyclists in the area which will significantly increase as a result of the adjacent residential development.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

10. Full funding for the proposal has been secured from the developer. The appraisal of the proposals, consultation and preparation of all paperwork has been undertaken by E&E officers as part of their normal duties.

RECOMMENDATION

11. The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the implementation of proposal as advertised and described in the report.

CHRIS McCARTHY (Interim) Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Background papers: Plan of proposed restrictions

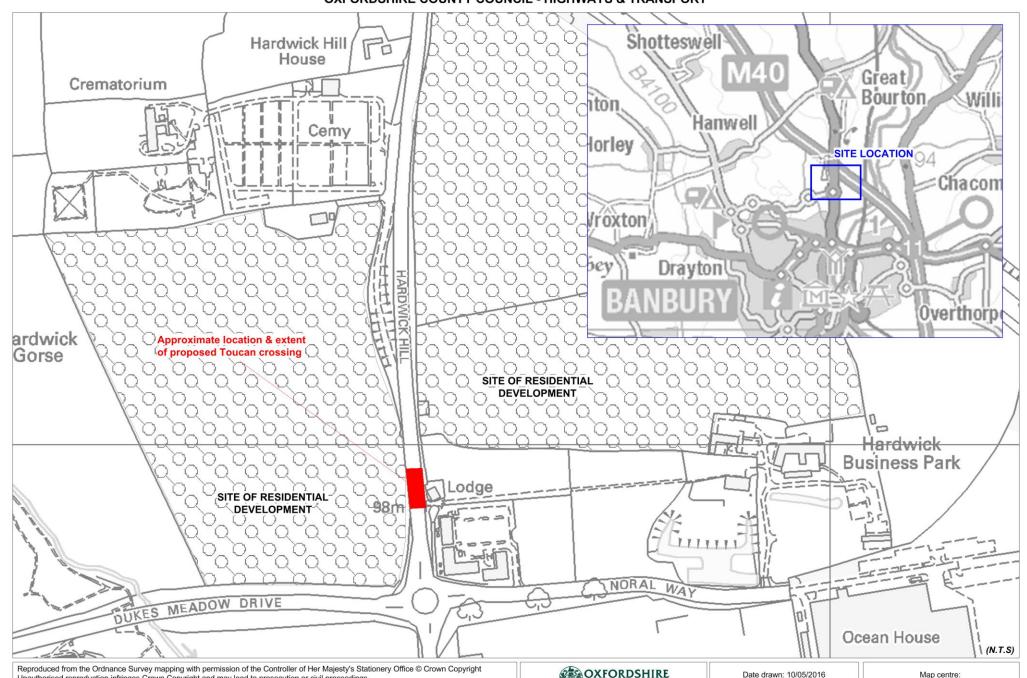
Consultation responses

CMDE4

Contact Officers: September 2016 David Tole 07920 084148

ANNEX 1

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

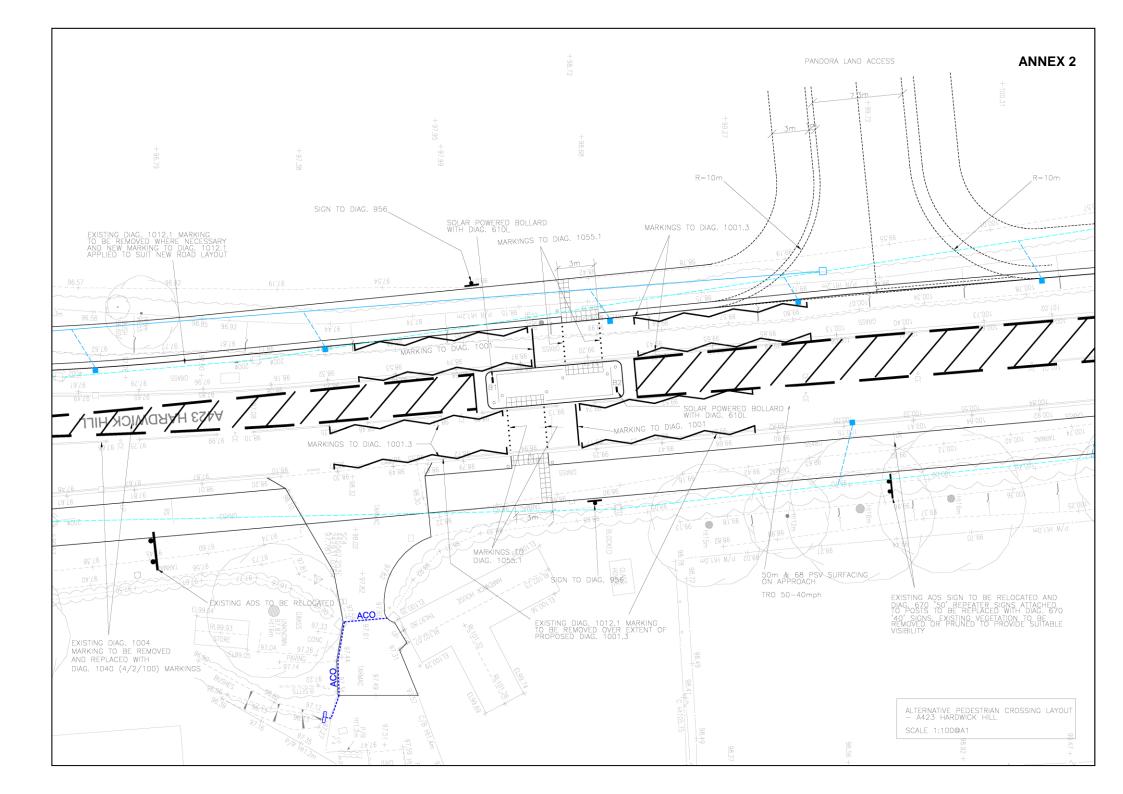


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Drawn by: CJM

Map centre: easting. 445656, northing. 243118



ANNEX 3

| RESPONDENT | SUMMARISED COMMENTS |
|---|---|
| (1) Thames Valley Police | No objection – with the following comments: Accepting the proposed crossing in the current state of the road character and condition is a risk that the highway authority must take, especially in view of the likely developer contribution towards construction costs. This however is not considered best practice when establishing a road safety feature, where key infrastructure has not been completed that could potentially affect its safe operation and use. The sightlines are currently good and inter-visibility is not currently considered a safety factor. The crossing is located close to one residential property and a reasonable distance north of the roundabout junction. However there is the potential for rear end shunt accidents when the light crossing lights are red for traffic. |
| (2) Local County Councillor | Supports – with the following comments: • Seems to be a very sensible thing to put a crossing on this road. |
| (3) Resident, (Southam Road, Banbury) | Objects – with the following comments: There will be pedestrians continually stood right outside our bedroom window & garden 24 hours 7 days per week. When pedestrians press the button to change the lights and stop the traffic to successfully cross the road safely, this will be a continuous beeping and flashing of the traffic lights which come with a toucan crossing able to be heard and seen whilst in our house at all hours of the day with no rest. The traffic stopping directly outside our house will also poses a high noise problem and at unsociable. |

- hours of the day especially lorries.
- Please also consider the amount of extra cars which will be travelling up & down the Southam Road. The speed limit is 40 hardly anyone adhering to this as it stands now. There would be an accident waiting to happen if a toucan crossing was installed in the proposed location.
- The Toucan Crossing will also cause significant traffic problems for us & our neighbours at Hardwick house turning right and left outside of the driveway.
- These points I have highlighted significantly reduce our privacy as the height of the footpath has been raised for the current housing development being undertaken. I am as you can imagine not happy with the positioning of this proposed toucan crossing.