

Divisions affected: *Thame and Chinnor*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT –26 MAY 2022

THAME: WELLINGTON STREET- PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the proposed zebra crossing at Wellington Street, Thame.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a consultation on proposals to provide a zebra crossing at Wellington Street, Thame as shown in **Annex 1**.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation on the proposal and its implementation if approved has been received from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

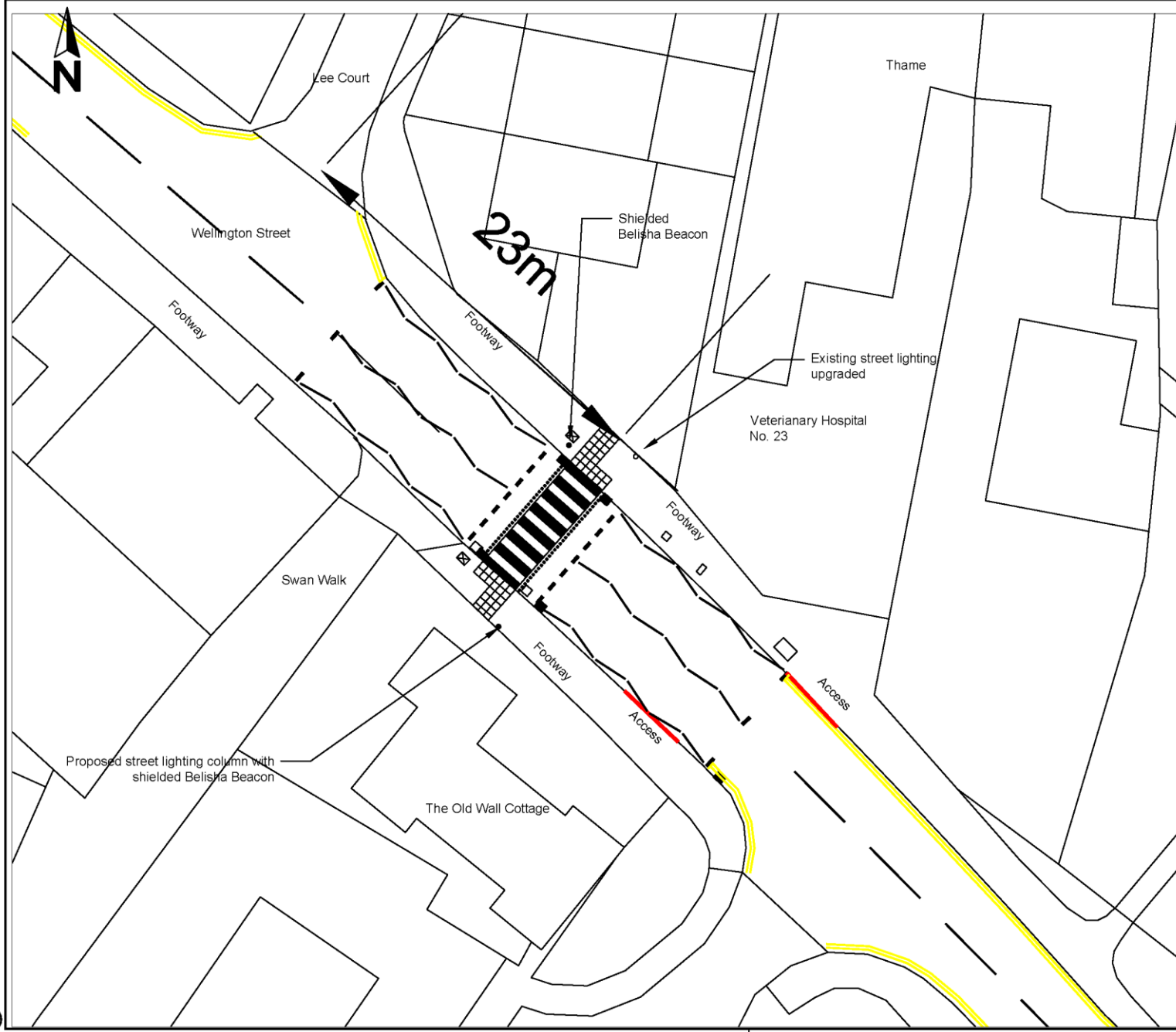
Sustainability Implications

5. The proposals would help facilitate walking.

Consultation



6. Formal consultation was carried out between 21 February and 25 March 2022. An email was sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, Thame Town Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, and the local County Councillor representing the Thame and Chinnor division. Letters were also sent to approximately 30 adjacent properties.
7. Twenty-three responses were received during the formal consultation: with 3 objections (13%), 5 raising concerns (22%), 14 in support (61%), and 1 non-objections.
8. The responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

C:\Users\ku564391\OneDrive - Oxfordshire County Council\Documents\Schemes\CIL Funded Schemes\Wellington St, Thame Zebra\CAD\Bases\8.12.21 Updated.dwg



Drawing No.	Revision
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Notes

-  Red coloured tactile paving
-  Proposed gully

SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS

CONSTRUCTION
Underground services present. TAR bound material in c/w and footway.

MAINTENANCE/CLEANING

DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION
Underground services present. TAR bound material in c/w and footway.

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

 **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Project title
Thame
Wellington Street
Proposed Zebra Crossing

Drawing title
Consultation Plan

Drawing Status Consultation

Scale @ A3	Drawn by RGr	Checked by	Approved by
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved

Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref

Drawing No.	Revision
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RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(2) Thame Town Council	Support – Thame Town Council has concerns about the loss of parking and a possible increase in speeding, however overall, it is felt that this would be outweighed by the benefits of a safer and more convenient crossing, particularly for Lee Court residents, as well improving visibility for vehicles exiting Swan Walk. It is pleasing that County Council are progressing this project which the Town Council had long campaigned for, and it is hoped this would lead to crossings being installed in other locations in Thame.
(3) Local Cllr (Thame, Ludsdon Grove)	Support - I believe that it will improve road safety, for elderly residents crossing the busy road.
(4) Local Cllr (Thame, Towersey Drive)	Support - This has been needed for the past few years to assist pedestrians cross this busy road
(5) Local Cllr (Thame, Ludsdon Grove)	Support - Wellington Street has become busier over the years and more difficult to cross particularly for the elderly
(6) An individual (Thame, Upper High Street)	<p>Object - Due to the high degree of new housing over the last 10 years in Thame and the surrounding villages (including Bucks) traffic has increased significantly in all parts of Thame making crossing town centre roads more difficult and dangerous. Traffic speeds have increased, particularly at or near roundabouts, increasing accident risks for pedestrians.</p> <p>Wellington Street does not have the traffic problems experienced in the High Street and Upper High Street. Traffic volume and speeds between Southern Road and the Oxford Road bend continue to make it difficult and dangerous to cross the road, particularly around the Church Road junction and gaining access to Thame Museum.</p>

	<p>I would have thought that there is a greater need for a new pedestrian crossing in this part of the town than in Wellington Street, which has parked traffic along most of its length, slower traffic speeds and fewer pedestrians than in the High Street/Upper High Street. There is only one controlled crossing in the whole length of these main town centre roads. If there is funding for a further pedestrian crossing in Thame, it would be better used for a new controlled crossing in the Lower High Street.</p>
<p>(7) An individual (Thame, Wellington Street)</p>	<p>Object – I fully support the need to maintain pedestrian safety in the area, however, the proposed location would adversely affect us in everyday life, and for several reasons I am objecting to this.</p> <p>As a resident Wellington Street, we would be directly affected. The Consultation Plan proposes the removal of four of the existing eight parking spaces in this area. This will exacerbate the already chronic shortage of on-street parking for us and other residents with cars.</p> <p>The Consultation Plan shows zig-zag lines extending across the driveway to our property. These prohibit waiting at any time, meaning that by doing so, we or visitors temporarily pulling up outside our driveway to load/unload or pick-up/drop-off passengers would be causing an offence.</p> <p>Access to/from our driveway by car is particularly hazardous at the best of times. This involves reversing in at an acute angle after temporarily pulling up against the flow of traffic outside Playford Court and exiting against the flow of traffic until safe to join the correct side of the road. The proposed crossing will not mitigate this hazard.</p> <p>Having initially approached the Council about the proposal they have responded confirming that the scheme for the crossing was originally proposed following lobbying by the Councillor (at the time) Nick Carter who in turn was lobbied by several residents of Lee Court. The Council have stated that despite the residents of Lee Court living close to the town centre, they have been deterred from accessing the amenities due to difficulties crossing Wellington Street.</p> <p>I would, therefore, request the Council’s consideration of an alternative location for the Zebra Crossing a little further along Wellington Street to the west, approximately midway between Lee Court and North Street, and within the stretch of road marked by double yellow lines. Wellington Street is wider here and an island could be incorporated which would make the crossing safer for pedestrians as each section would be negotiated separately. Traffic flow would also be less affected with the crossing constructed in two halves. Any associated additional cost in providing an island is likely to be minimal. This alternative location would also satisfy the lobby to provide safe access to the town’s amenities sought by the residents of Lee Court. Additionally, this location would have the benefit of providing a logical and safe crossing point for all pedestrians heading to/from the bus-stops, library, shops, and Cattle Market/Waitrose</p>

	<p>areas in North Street, and would not involve the loss of any existing on-street parking.</p> <p>To help improve pedestrian safety in the area, I would also request that the Council consider the adoption of a default 20 mph speed limit and traffic calming measures along the whole of Wellington Street.</p>
(8) An individual (Thame, Wellington Street)	<p>Object – As a resident, I will be affected more than most by this proposal, I have many objections and comments regarding this.</p> <p>Firstly, there are 16 houses from the junction into Playford Court and North Street, with at least 20 vehicles needing to park on the road. At the moment there are only 8 spaces along this part of the road so as you can imagine it's a daily struggle. This proposal removes 4 of these spaces, leaving just 4 between 20 cars.</p> <p>Also, we are opposite the very busy vets, and due to the size of their car park many people will park on yellow lines outside our house if they can't find space along the road.</p> <p>Secondly the zig zag lines will be in front of our entrance making it difficult to get into our driveway or pull up outside to load/unload.</p> <p>Having spoken to other residents in the street we question why this location has been proposed. If it was placed nearer the end of Wellington Street it would not take any parking spaces as there are already yellow lines there, it would also better service pedestrians walking into town from the Cattle Market car park.</p>
(9) An individual (Thame, Wellington Street)	<p>Concerns - I own two properties in Wellington St, one of which will be affected by the removal of parking spaces. I am concerned about the positioning of the crossing as it will remove 4 parking spaces. There is a real shortage of parking for the residents not lucky enough to have a drive, coupled with the fact that most households have more than one car. It seems surprising to take away 4 of the existing 8 spaces. Could there not be an alternative sighting of the crossing? Further towards North Street where there are double yellow lines? Or a 20mph speed limit to slow the traffic down.</p>
(10) An individual (Thame, High Street)	<p>Concerns - Can you confirm you have sent letters to those in Kings Close? As there are several residents who do not have off street parking and rely on parking on the street. With the new parking enforcements in place by Conduit local residents in Kings Close are now finding they are having parking tickets for parking illegally on the grass verges as there is no other official parking spaces.</p>

	<p>The zebra crossing is essential, but the parking spaces lost cannot be offset with is going to cause more issues, there is also a new development going into Wellington Street that is also taking official street car parking spaces. If there was any way it could be moved to where double yellow lines are placed without impacting valuable parking areas this would be appreciated by the local residents.</p>
<p>(11) An individual (Thame)</p>	<p>Concerns - Although I'm not against a crossing in Wellington Street I'm concerned about losing precious parking spaces. Has this been sent to the residents who may be affected, not just pinned on a post and possibly blown away in the recent gales?</p> <p>Wouldn't it be better further towards North Street where there are already double yellow lines so there would be zero effect on local parking?</p>
<p>(12) An individual (Thame, Swan Walk)</p>	<p>Concerns - The proposed siting of the crossing has presumably taken into account that the most frequent users of the crossing will be the residents of Lee Court, who then use Swan Walk to access the town centre. If the crossing was situated further down it is likely that some would still choose to take the direct route, negating the whole point of having the crossing anyway. From my office window I witness the constant stream of pedestrians up Swan Walk and can attest that a high proportion of them move quite slowly and in many cases rely on walking aids, so I see little benefit in expecting them to have to walk further.</p> <p>The proposed siting also has another safety benefit because, at present, driving out of Swan Walk onto Wellington Street is a risky undertaking because of the proximity of parked cars and the resulting inadequate vision splay. It is impossible to see vehicles approaching from either direction along Wellington Street and is always a case of easing out very gently, listening for the warning from car horns, and eventually committing with fingers crossed. Despite being ultra-careful I have had quite a few close shaves and it's only a matter of time before someone hits the front end of a car (whether mine or that of another resident). The zig-zag zone either side of the crossing would significantly improve the visibility.</p> <p>I would normally side with resisting any loss of parking spaces near the town centre, but I do support the need for this crossing and feel that the proposed siting is optimum insofar as it will encourage the majority to actually use it. It will also deliver other safety improvements for vehicular traffic.</p>

<p>(13) An individual (Thame)</p>	<p>Concerns</p> <p>1. Parking in Wellington Street is already extremely limited with residents struggling to park even as things currently stand. We are extremely concerned as this proposal, which would result in the loss of several roadside parking spaces, will clearly make this problem even worse. Provision needs to be made to replace any current roadside parking that would be lost as a result of this proposal. In addition, failure to provide such parking would in turn have a knock-on effect on parking problems in other nearby streets.</p> <p>2. An upgrade to the current street light next to the proposed crossing is a matter of concern as there is already a lot of light pollution & any additional bright lighting in close proximity to residents' homes would cause further problems.</p> <p>3. Belisha Beacons although partially covered they will still visibly flash & would be dreadful for residents if this were to be visible inside their homes.</p>
<p>(14) An individual (Thame, Hunt Road)</p>	<p>Support - This is our regular walking route into town and work. It's also important for pupils getting to and from the schools in town.</p>
<p>(15) An individual (Thame, Corbetts Way)</p>	<p>Support - I am a runner and often need to cross wellington street. This will make it much safer for all who need to cross there</p>
<p>(16) An individual (Towersey, Chinnor Road)</p>	<p>Support - Wellington Street is a busy road in Thame and there are many children who attend Barley Hill School who need to cross it. This should encourage more walking.</p>
<p>(17) An individual (Thame, Moorend Lane)</p>	<p>Support - use this point to crossroad daily with disabled husband. It would be much safer to use a designated crossing.</p>
<p>(18) An individual (Thame, Harrison Place)</p>	<p>Support - Dangerous road due to junction with North St</p>
<p>(19) An individual (Thame, Wellington Street)</p>	<p>Support - As an affected resident, regularly exiting/entering Swan Walk and driving & walking on Wellington Street</p>

(20) An individual (Thame, Upper High Street)	Support - Would help residents of the care home that's on Wellington St. Should also slow traffic on this busy road
(21) An individual (Thame, Fairfax Close)	Support - It can be difficult at busy times to cross Wellington St and is especially so for the elderly who cannot cross quickly.
(22) An individual (Thame, Wellington Street)	Support - Elderly residents close to proposed location. It would be very welcomed
(23) An individual (Thame, High Street)	Support - A crossing will reduce hazards for pedestrians.