

Divisions affected: *Bicester Town; Ploughley*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT –  
8 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**BICESTER: A4421 CHARBRIDGE LANE - PROPOSED TOUCAN  
CROSSING AND EXTENSION OF SHARED USE FOOTWAY /  
CYCLETRACK**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed toucan crossing and associated extension of a shared use footway and cycle track.

**Executive summary**

2. This report presents responses received to a consultation on a proposed toucan crossing and associated extension of a shared use footway and cycle track as shown in **Annex 1**. The proposal seeks to provide a safe and convenient crossing for pedestrians and pedal cyclists travelling between Launton and Bicester.

**Financial Implications**

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals and design and delivery of the scope has been provided by OCC drawdown on the OCC contribution to the EWR Project (NR EWR EEH Work in Kind (WiK) Funding Mechanism).

**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 the safety of pedestrians and pedal cyclists.

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### Consultation

6. Consultation was carried out between 29 June and 29 July 2022. An email was sent to statutory consultees & key stakeholders, including: Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, Bicester Town Council, Launton Parish Council, Cherwell District Council, and the local County Councillors representing the Bicester North, Bicester Town, and Ploughley divisions. Street notices were also placed on site in the immediate vicinity of the proposals.
7. 30 responses were received during the formal consultation, and these are summarised in the table below:

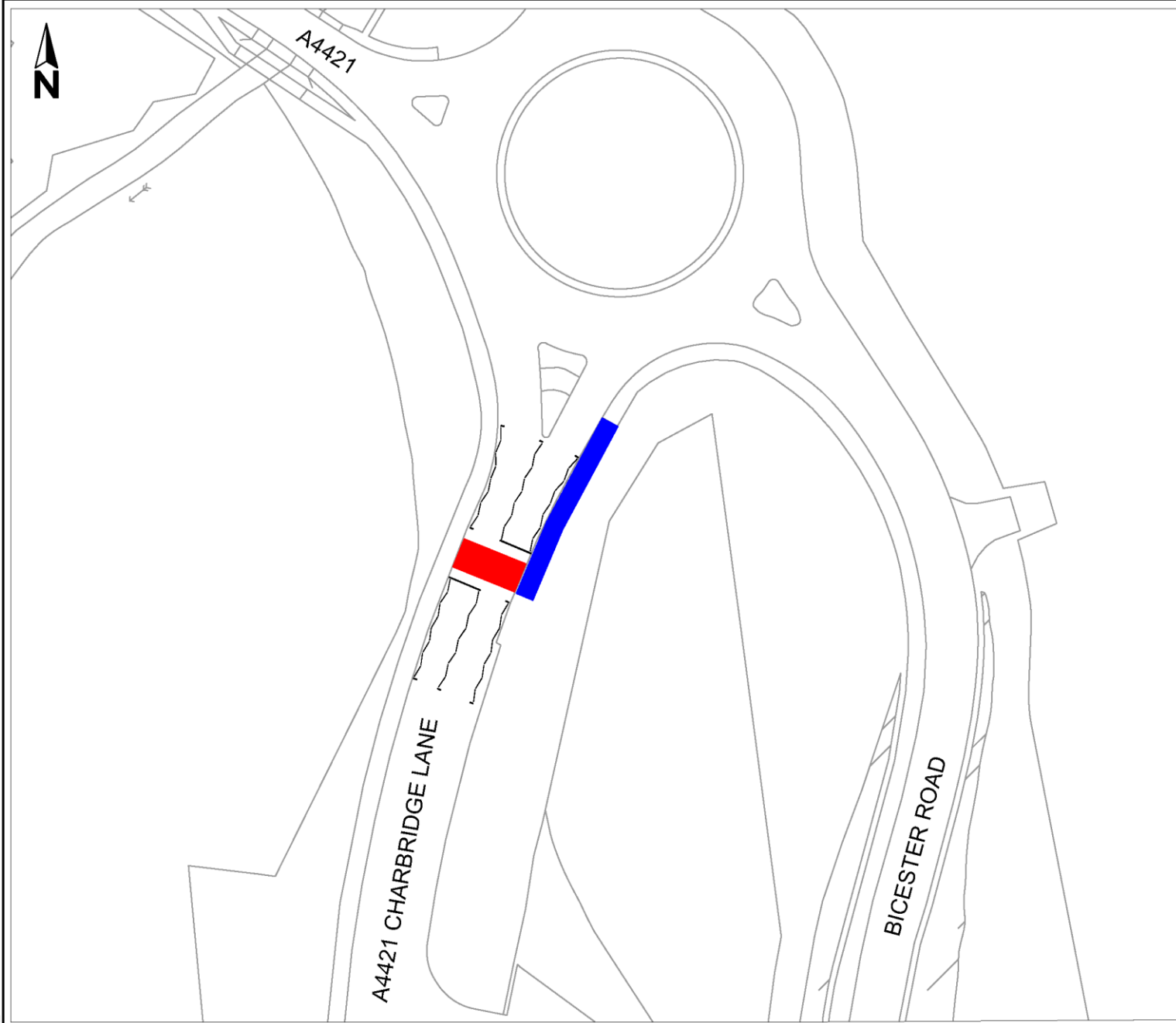
Proposal	Object	Concerns	Support	No opinion/ objection	Total
Toucan crossing	3 (10%)	3 (10%)	24 (77%)	1	31
Shared-use cycle path	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	26 (84%)	2	31

8. The full responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are also available for inspection by County Councillors.

### Officer response to objections/concerns

9. Thames Valley Police raised no objection, providing that necessary speed data had been collected and it supports such a crossing, and that the current design standards have been fully met. Noting these comments it is confirmed that speed data has been obtained and that the national design guidance has been met
10. Three objections to the proposed toucan crossing were received from members of the public on the grounds of a lack of need, with also a separate concern being raised that the siting of the crossing might encourage rat-running through Launton village if drivers saw the crossing travelling south east on the A4421 perimeter road saw queuing for the crossing when the signal is at red for traffic, and that an alternative location of the crossing west of the roundabout would avoid this risk.
11. In respect of the objections on the grounds of a lack of need, pedestrians and cyclists wishing to travel to and from Launton and Bicester currently have to cross the A4421 at an uncontrolled crossing, and it is anticipated that usage – which is already moderate – will increase appreciably in the future.
12. The concern over the possible diversion of traffic through Launton village is noted but mindful that even with increased crossing demand, the proposed crossing is unlikely to very materially change the attractiveness of a route though Launton mindful that there is already a shuttle working signal layout across the rail bridge; furthermore Launton Parish Council in their response to the consultation stated that while they are aware that there has been a concern about drivers deciding to use Launton as a cut through rather than wait at the





Drawing No.	Revision 0				
<b>Key</b>					
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: red; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Proposed location of Toucan Crossing				
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	Proposed Shared Use Cycle Track				
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright, and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Oxfordshire County Council Licence No LA078895					
<b>Rev.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose of revision</b>	<b>Drawn</b>	<b>Checked</b>	<b>Approved</b>
Bill Cotton Corporate Director of Environment and Place Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0345 310 11 11 Fax: (01865) 241577					
<b>Project title</b>					
PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSING AND SHARED USE CYCLE TRACK					
<b>Drawing title</b>					
A4421 CHARBRIDGE LANE BICESTER					
<b>Drawing Status</b>					
<b>Scale @ A3</b>	<b>Drawn by</b>	<b>Checked by</b>	<b>Approved by</b>		
N.T.S.	JaC				
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	06/22				
<b>Oxfordshire Project No. &amp; File Ref</b>					
Drawing No.					Revision 0

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ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<b>No objection</b> – In principle I have no objection providing the necessary speed data has been collected and it supports such a crossing, and that current design standards have been fully met.
(2) Launton Parish Council	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b>            Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Launton Parish Council considered the proposal for the installation of the toucan crossing across the A4421 Charbridge Lane at a meeting on 7 July and strongly supported it.</p> <p>We understand that there has been a concern about drivers deciding to use Launton as a cut through rather than wait at the lights but the Council agreed that the crossing was more important and that this was unlikely to be a major deciding factor in coming through Launton.</p>
(3) Member of public, (Launton, The Glades)	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Object</b>            Shared-use cycle path - <b>Object</b></p> <p>This is not required. Traffic light madness prevails every time there is a roundabout. Let's annoy the motorist yet again with a crazy toucan crossing. Looks like another insane "money to waste" venture. As for a cycle path, what cyclist actually uses them?</p>
(4) Member of public, (Launton, Sherwood Close)	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Object</b>            Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I don't believe there is sufficient need to justify the cost of a pelican crossing across Charbridge Lane</p>

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<p>(5) Member of public, (Launton, Sherwood Close)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Object</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>The crossing isn't needed. I have no issue with the current waiting to cross and I do this most day's stuff Putting in a toucan will slow down traffic flow and also increase my wait time to cross</p>
<p>(6) Member of public, (Launton)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Concerns</b> Shared-use cycle path – <b>No opinion</b></p> <p>The proposed location is likely to affect our village. With the location of the proposed toucan crossing on Charbridge lane this is likely to cause more vehicles to use Launton as a cut through to save getting caught at lights. We currently have gridlock through the village during Peak times and this adds more safety risks to the villagers and road users (not to mention more pollution from vehicles).</p> <p>Proposal: Could the crossing be located on the Bicester road side of the roundabout and then a second crossing being put opposite the entrance to the allotments/ EWR entrance (on the road going up to Launton bridge). This may work as an deterrent for the rat runners coming through the village so therefore would be a safety/ traffic calming measure at the same time. (I've adapted your plan attached ... my locations in yellow with footpath on side of green line).</p> <p>I do recognise the importance of having a crossing especially for the amount of families that walk/ cycle to the village school from Bicester, we just need to find the right place for it.</p>
<p>(7) Member of public, (Launton, Ancil Avenue)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Concerns</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Concerns</b></p> <p>Traffic</p>
<p>(8) Member of public, (Launton, West End)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Concerns</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p>

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	<p>I'm concerned that the crossing is too far from the roundabout. The people you should be most trying to help are children on bikes heading to/from Cooper school in the morning/afternoon. It's unlikely they will travel an extra 36 metres out of their way only to cross and then go another 36 metres back again. Most likely they will continue to use the existing crossing (unless you are going to put a barrier there?). Why not do the crossing nearer to the roundabout? You see crossings like this (usually traffic light controlled) at many other busy roundabouts. Also odd that this wasn't all planned as part of the EWR road upgrade - doubtless would have been cheaper to combine the works then rather than consider this only now.</p>
<p>(9) Member of public, (Bicester, Foundation Square)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Concerns</b></p> <p>The road is too fast for the amount of pedestrian/cycle traffic that will eventually use it. No-one maintains the shared cycleway properly</p>
<p>(10) Local Cllr, (Launton, Skinner Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I am partially sighted and regularly need to walk between Launton and Bicester. My children also both bike to and from The Bicester School and I have wanted to have a safer path for them to navigate the fast and heavily used roundabout. I fully support this application, especially as a resident.</p>
<p>(11) Member of public, (Bicester, Oak Close)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>It will be great to help pedestrians and cyclists get safely across the road.</p>
<p>(12) Member of public, (Launton, Yew Tree Close)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Important for improved access to Bicester. May also act as traffic calming into Launton.</p>

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<p>(13) Member of public, (Launton, Blackthorn Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Crossing Charbridge Lane - which a lot of children have to do to get to Cooper School from our village - is difficult and the speed of oncoming vehicles can make it dangerous. This proposal makes a lot of sense.</p>
<p>(14) Member of public, (Launton, West End)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Safety</p>
<p>(15) Member of public, (Launton, Sycamore Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I feel it is dangerous for children and other residents of Launton to safely cross the road to and from Launton to Bicester. A number of children and young teenagers walk or ride bikes each day to get to school in Bicester.</p>
<p>(16) Member of public, (Launton, Blackthorn Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Safety of pedestrians &amp; cyclists</p>
<p>(17) Member of public, (Launton, Blackthorn Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>My Child cycling to school</p>



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<p>(18) Member of public, (Launton, Chestnut Close)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Our son might cycle to school when he goes to secondary school.</p>
<p>(19) Member of public, (Launton, West End)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I occasionally walk or cycle from Launton into Bicester, a crossing would make it safer. I would also suggest some 'rumble strips' to slow vehicles before the new crossing as they gather speed coming off the new bridge.</p>
<p>(20) Member of public, (Launton, Yew Tree Close)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>With the additional speed that cars are making on the new bridge it is essential that there is a safe crossing for children going to school from Launton and for cyclists travelling into town.</p>
<p>(21) Member of public, (Launton, Station Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I see many school children and families trying to cross this busy road. Visibility due to the speed with which the traffic approaches from the roundabout and the new EWR bridge makes more dangerous.</p>
<p>(22) Member of public, (Launton, Station Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Children cycling to school, charbridge road is a discount road to cross and I feel a toucan crossing would improve safety and reduce the risk of fatality at this crossing.</p>

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<p>(23) Member of public, (Launton, Coppice way)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I live in Launton and it can be hard to cross that road safely during busy times. The road is big and wide with a straight approach so a toucan crossing seems safe and easy to put in. It will significantly improve the safety of cyclists and pedestrians accessing Bicester from Launton and vice versa</p>
<p>(24) Member of public, (Launton, Station Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Charbridge lane is now very busy, and vehicles leaving roundabout do so at speed. Many residents, and school children walk or cycle to Bicester regularly. Only concern would be if no barrier was put on the curve of the road preventing crossing before the toucan crossing, I think a barrier is a must.</p>
<p>(25) Member of public, (Launton, Sherwood Close)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I often walk to Bicester with my Grandson.</p>
<p>(26) Member of public, (Launton, Bicester Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Very busy and difficult to cross the road</p>
<p>(27) Member of public, (Launton, Woodland Close)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>It is currently dangerous for school children crossing, and also for cyclists going to and from Launton.</p>

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<p>(28) Member of public, (Launton, Yew Tree Close)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>I believe the current set up there is unsafe for adults particularly wheelchair users and those with buggies or cyclist with a trailer on to transport children.</p> <p>The road users fail to use their vehicle indicator and it is often difficult to predict the direction the road user will take in their vehicle.</p> <p>The vehicles drive at speed, I worry they wouldn't be able to stop if there was a secondary school child crossing on their way to school and found it hard to predict when to cross the road.</p> <p>I find it difficult as an adult and regular user of Charbridge Lane. I am a registered childminder, the children and I walk this route once or twice a week. I have personal experience of finding it difficult to predict what some road users are doing when they fail to follow the Highway Code.</p> <p>Charbridge Lane crossing is very busy and I fear for people's lives when they cross from Launton especially. This includes children, adults, families with buggies or bikes, walkers, runners and also cyclists.</p>
<p>(29) Member of public, (Launton, The Spinney)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - Support Shared-use cycle path - Support The current situation is dangerous, during the summer months visibility of cars coming from Launton or from the ring road for pedestrians crossing is poor and the road is very busy and is getting busier.</p> <p>Children regularly have to cross the road to get to secondary schools from the village and it is a matter of time before we have an accident.</p> <p>I would encourage the distance to get to the crossing from the roundabout to be the bare minimum otherwise people will take risks and not use it, preferring the shorter riskier route.</p>
<p>(30) Member of public, (Launton, Blackthorn Road)</p>	<p>Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b></p> <p>Vehicles drive fast around island and onto Charbridge Lane across which children walk to school, people and bikes cross etc. My own child was nearly hit there a few years ago.</p>

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(31) Member of public, (Launton, Blackthorn Road)	Toucan crossing - <b>Support</b> Shared-use cycle path - <b>Support</b>  Easier crossing of a busy junction., increased safety