

Divisions affected: *Kingston & Cumnor*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 17
NOVEMBER 2022**

**KINGSTON BAGUIZE: A415 FARINGDON ROAD - PROPOSED
ZEBRA CROSSING**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed zebra crossing on the A415 Faringdon Road at Kingston Bagpuize.

Executive summary

2. Following representations being made by Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council and the local County Councillor on the safety and amenity of pedestrians – and in particular those walking to and from the adjacent primary school, shop and housing developments, proposals comprising the provision of a zebra crossing & associated removal of the redundant bus stop on Faringdon Road in Kingston Bagpuize, as shown in Annex 1 have been taken to formal consultation as detailed below.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for the proposal, including consultation, if approved has been received from Section 106 developer funding.

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, and the safety of pedestrians in the immediate vicinity.

Consultation

6. Consultation on the proposed zebra crossing was carried out between 31 August and 30 September 2022. An Email was sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, and the local County Councillor representing the Kingston & Cumnor division. Letters were also sent to approximately 35 adjacent properties, and public notices placed on site.
7. Fourteen responses were received during the course of the consultation, comprising of: four objections, five citing concerns, three in support, and two non-objections.
8. The responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Officer response to objections/concerns

9. Thames Valley Police did not object to the proposals providing that the necessary monitoring had taken place, and the crossing fully meets latest design guidance.
10. Objections were received stating that the proposed new zebra crossing should be in Witney Road, this scheme relates to a much-needed proposed new crossing in Faringdon Road, Witney Road was not considered as part of this scheme
11. The proposed zebra crossing has been sited at the specific location shown as this not only meets current guidelines but provides the maximum vision possible compared to other locations on this section of carriageway, the existing uncontrolled crossing point nearer the roundabout is to be removed as the vision is deemed sub-standard.
12. Some concerns were raised in the consultation about the safety of the proposed location, and it is confirmed that a full safety audit will take place and that implementation will only proceed subject to any issues identified in the audit being satisfactorily resolved

Bill Cotton
Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes

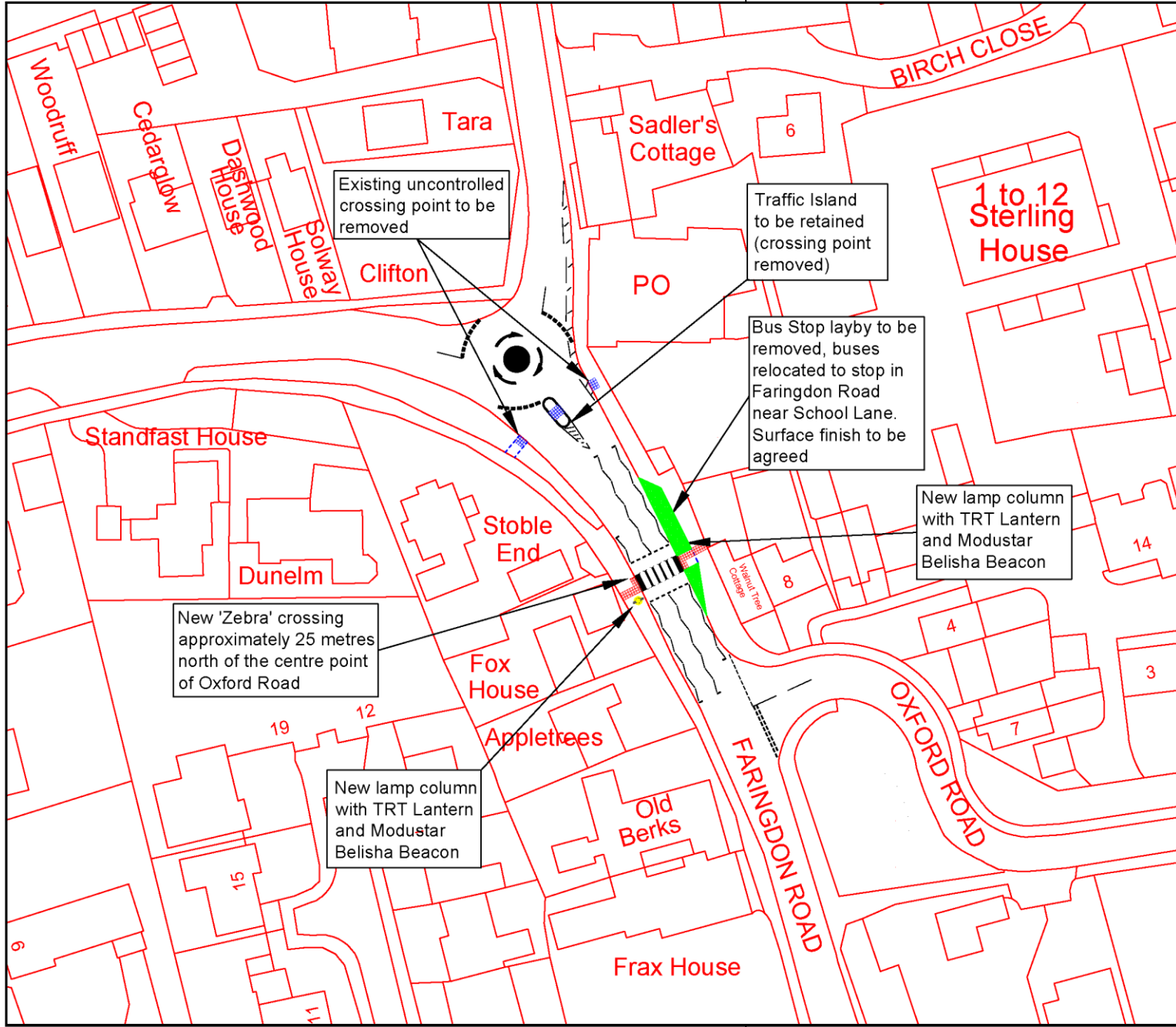
Annex 1: Consultation Plans
Annex 2: Consultation responses

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October 2022

Drawing No.



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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved

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Project title
 Proposed Zebra Crossing
 Faringdon Road
 Kingston Bagpuize

Drawing title
 Consultation Plan

Drawing Status

Scale @ A3	Drawn by MJF	Checked by LJT	Approved by LJT
	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)	<p>No objection – I am aware this crossing has in the past been subject to consultation .The latest proposals have been amended to try and address previous concern from residents living close to the crossing.</p> <p>Based upon the latest drawing and providing the necessary monitoring has taken place, and the crossing fully meets latest design guidance, I have no objection.</p>
(2) Oxford Bus Company	<p>No objection - we have no issues with these proposals.</p>
(3) Member of public, (Kingston Bagpuize, Poppy Close)	<p>Object - This crossing is in the wrong position. Due to there amount of new properties on the Orchard Gate & Kingston Park developments the crossing should be on Witney Road near to Petypher Gardens extra care scheme. The amount of residents who have to cross the busy road to get either their children to schools, bus stops or to access the co op which is near to where the proposed crossing is going to be is far greater on the Witney Road than the Faringdon Road.</p> <p>The amount of times I have witnessed people having to run across the busy road with children, pushchairs or animals to access the playing field which has the shorter route to John Blandy school is too many to count. You are proposing to install the crossing in an unsafe place as traffic coming through the village will not be able to safely see anyone until they are nearly on top of it due to the bend. Yes I know there have recently been two accidents near the vicinity of the proposed crossing but in both incidents that involved dangerous driving, just imagine if that were the case and someone was on that crossing....absolute catastrophe waiting to happen!</p> <p>Like I said the near misses on the Witney Road are a regular occurrence, what is it someone has to die before you put the safety of 100s of people at the forefront of doing what the public want.</p>

<p>(4) Member of public, (Kingston Bagpuize, Poppy Close)</p>	<p>Object - I moved to the village 6 years ago and was promised a zebra crossing to help residents from the Orchard Gate estate on the Witney road. Currently there is no safe crossing point for us, over the fastest areas of the Witney and Faringdon roads. Children cross regularly on both roads for access to school, cars speed, regardless of speed signs, and it is unsafe.</p> <p>The proposed crossing does nothing to help literally 100s of people, children especially, get to school or to the coop. If this crossing goes ahead there needs to be an additional crossing on the Faringdon road (around the school Lane area) to help people to actually reach this new crossing. It does absolutely not thing to help a great deal of residents where it is proposed.</p>
<p>(5) Member of public, (Kingston Bagpuize, Bloor Estate - Kingston Park)</p>	<p>Object - I think it would be more suited to have 2 crossings. It's fantastic that it's been approved for a crossing but it's not in the place that's needed. It would be more suitable if you either had 2 crossings... one where it is proposed on the Faringdon Road although there is a blind bend before this that could cause problems and possibly another on the Witney Road where it is most needed. There is a retirement home off the Witney Road and older people have problems crossing due to the speed of cars leaving the a420, the other problem is children crossing from both the Bloor Estate and Orchard Gate to the bus stops. Please please consider having two crossings and maybe a 20mph speed limit between the two? Alternatively if you aren't going to consider two crossing maybe a speed camera on both sides of the Witney road would be beneficial to slowing the cars down. Ultimately these changes are for the whole community and it's sad that one day / we could go out for a walk and potentially come home injured or worse maybe not even alive. Please do consider whether something better could be done.</p>
<p>(6) Member of public, (Southmoor, Storksbill Lane)</p>	<p>Object - I object to the proposed location of the crossing, believing it is too close to the Hinds Head roundabout. Traffic from the Faringdon Rd already have to contend with high volumes of traffic on the A415 and potential traffic exiting the Co-op car park. The close proximity of the zebra crossing adds a third variable in the decision making process which will ultimately lead to long queues for Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor residents leaving the village.</p> <p>The crossing would be much better suited on the Witney Rd. Traffic generated from pedestrians using the crossing would not cause as much disruption to traffic using either the Hinds Head or A420 roundabouts.</p> <p>The only benefit in the proposed location is safer access to the millennium green. However, access to the green is available through the Bloor Homes development. As a result, a crossing on the Witney Rd would still serve this purpose.</p>

<p>(7) Member of public, (Kingston Bagpuize, Faringdon Road)</p>	<p>Concerns - The road in question is Abingdon Road A415 not Faringdon Road which is the old A420.</p>
<p>(8) Member of public, (Kingston Bagpuize, Frax Close)</p>	<p>Concerns - Should be where the existing crossing is sited</p>
<p>(9) Member of public, (Southmoor, Lime Grove)</p>	<p>Concerns - The positioning of the crossing is entirely wrong. It follows a blind bend coming from the Frilford Heath direction not giving enough time for traffic to slow down and stop. A Zebra crossing only requires the vehicle to stop when a pedestrian is standing at the side of it. Unless the driver is already aware of the crossing there is little time to prepare to stop. The crossing would be far better placed on the other side of the mini roundabout (Witney Road) where vehicles are travelling at a lesser speed having slowed down at the roundabout.</p> <p>A crossing in this position would better serve both estates on either side (especially the elderly residents of Peptypher House) and being closer to the bus stop and shop. Residents from the David Wilson Estate (Petypher Gardens) would first need to cross the Faringdon Road near School Lane to get to the new Zebra crossing which defeats the object if going to the shop or the (proposed relocated) bus stop.</p>
<p>(10) Member of public, (Southmoor, Laurel Drive)</p>	<p>Concerns - As it appears to be a flashing beacon crossing in that position and given experience of the area, traffic from either direction will not slow enough to prevent danger. A crossing of this type would be better each side of the roundabout with a 20mph speed limit. The approach speeds to this roundabout from Abingdon or Witney are unacceptable for a road where people need to cross. I have been involved or witnessed several near misses and seen the aftermath of a collision on this roundabout all due to excess speed.</p>
<p>(11) Member of public, (Kingston Bagpuize, Faringdon Road)</p>	<p>Concerns – Whilst supporting the principle and need for a pedestrian crossing on the A415, we believe for a number of safety and practicality reasons the currently proposed location for this crossing is not the best option.</p> <p>Safety Concerns: This is a very ‘busy’ section of the A415 (in terms of where a pedestrian crossing will fit safely) and already has in place a number of conflicting safety & access requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Co-op car park • A bus layby (although we understand this will go if the zebra crossing goes ahead)

- An electricity substation
- A requirement for residential access to properties along this section of road.

The zig zag lines of the proposed crossing will cross the residential access.

The access serves three properties and is used many times each day and also by trades. There is no turning facility within the driveway and most traffic must reverse into, or out of the driveway.

- The Oxford Road junction.

- The zig zag lines across the residential access may require a 'Keep Clear' zone road markings to prevent unavoidable road traffic offences.

All of these fall within approx 50 metres of each other and each requirement presents its own safety concerns and MUST be individually assessed as part of the safety case for a new crossing. It is inevitable that the above requirements will only serve to increase the safety risk rating for the crossing, and the likelihood of some form of accident at (or near) the proposed crossing location is increased accordingly.

This proposed location is directly adjacent to the previously proposed location which, at the time, had objections and concerns raised by residents, the then County Councillor and in particular Thames Valley Police. This proposal was subsequently rejected by the County Council on safety grounds.

It is not clear why the proposed location for the 'new' crossing is considered to be any safer.

Pedestrian Access & Line of sight issues:

Currently, a significant amount of pedestrian traffic comes from along Faringdon Road, Southmoor direction to the Co-op store and vice-versa, and they cross at the roundabout, where there is already dropped kerbs, central reservation and tactile paving in place.

Removal of this (as proposed) will not stop pedestrians crossing there. Given that the proposed crossing location is approx. 25 metres from the roundabout, it is very unlikely that people will walk this extra distance and will continue do what they have always done in the past – which is to cross at the roundabout. This again may pose additional safety issues.

One of the issues apparently identified with a crossing on the roundabout is line of sight. I, personally, have used the 'informal' crossing many, many times and have never found this to be an issue. The same issue of line of sight exists at the proposed location, mainly because of the bend in the road.

The footpath is also very narrow on the north east side of the proposed site. The already narrow foot path will only be made even narrower by the installation of a new lamp column and belisha beacon. This could also potentially present an additional line of sight safety issue for traffic exiting the residential access.

Summary:

	<p>Whilst we support the need for a crossing, it has to be a crossing at a location that is first & foremost safe and that people will use. As stated before, the existing 'informal' roundabout crossing is perhaps not ideal, but it is where people feel safest and are happy to use it.</p> <p>The 'informal' crossing at the roundabout has an existing central refuge so that pedestrians can cross safely in two stages. The new one will not have this facility adding to the safety concerns All of the residents I have spoken to, think that the roundabout location is the safest and most convenient location for the new crossing.</p> <p>Primarily for safety related reasons, we would, respectfully, ask the County Council to look again at placing the proposed crossing at the roundabout, or alternatively, at another location. I am sure that everyone agrees that safety must always be paramount to monetary and other concerns.</p>
<p>(12) Member of public, (Kingston Bagpuize, Rlmes Farm Lane)</p>	<p>Support - Very good plan. There is no safe way to cross the A415 to the Coop and Millenium Green for the largest part of the village. This proposal fixes the problem.</p>
<p>(13) Member of public, (Southmoor, Blandy Avenue)</p>	<p>Support - Because the proposal has been going round in circles for years with nothing being done. A crossing here is sorely needed as anyone going to the millennium green open space or shop at the moment has to negotiate a busy road.</p>
<p>(14) Member of public, (Steventon, Stonebridge Road)</p>	<p>Support - The Faringdon Road near the roundabout by the Co-operative store car park entrance is very busy and has poor visibility with traffic appearing with little warning. Crossing the road by the existing central refuge is fraught with danger as it is adjacent to the roundabout where one needs 360° vision to cover the three roads and car park entrance.</p>