

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 16 JANUARY 2020**

### **STEVENTON - HANNEY ROAD: PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING & TRAFFIC CALMING**

**Report by Interim Director for Community Operations**

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed introduction of a zebra crossing and traffic calming measures on Hanney Road, Steventon.

#### **Executive summary**

2. The provision for pedestrian and traffic calming measures is reviewed when there are changes to the road layout as a result of development, when requested by local councils as a result of road safety concerns and as part of the on-going monitoring of reports on road accidents. Specific proposals are assessed applying national regulations and guidance on the provision of pedestrian crossings, and the Oxfordshire County Council Walking Design Standards.

#### **Introduction**

3. This report presents responses to a statutory consultation to introduce a zebra crossing and speed cushions on the Hanney Road at Steventon.

#### **Background**

4. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 have been put forward to address concerns raised over the safety of pedestrians crossing Hanney Road between Barnett Road, St Michaels Primary School and the wider village.

#### **Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 06 November and 06 December 2019. A notice was placed in the Oxfordshire Herald Series newspaper and notices placed in the vicinity of the proposed crossing and speed cushions and an email sent to statutory consultees including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, the Vale of White Horse District Council, Steventon Parish Council and the local County Councillor. Letters were sent to 28 properties in the immediate vicinity, adjacent to the proposals.

6. 13 responses were received during the consultation which are summarised in the table below:

Proposal	Support	Object	Neither/No opinion
Zebra Crossing	9 (70%)	0	4 (30%)
Traffic Calming	9 (70%)	2 (15%)	2 (15%)

7. All comments are recorded at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

### **Response to objections and other comments**

8. Thames Valley Police and the Vale of White Horse District Council did not object to the proposal.
9. No objections were received to the zebra crossing. However, two comments were received from residents, one questioning the need for the crossing and justification of the expense and the other concerned that when south eastbound traffic stops at the crossing it will block vehicles trying to turn right onto Hanney Road from Barnett Road.
10. In response to the first comment; the proposed zebra crossing is located on the pedestrian desire line between Barnett Road (which includes the recently built large David Wilson Homes development) and St Michaels Primary School and the wider village. The justification for a crossing here is demonstrated by a pedestrian survey carried out on 26 April 2019 which showed that there were 439 pedestrian movements (146 of which were children) across Hanney Road at this location between 7am and 7pm. In respect of the concern over queuing vehicles potentially blocking the Barnett Road junction, it is anticipated that any inconvenience will be minimal.
11. Two objections to the traffic calming were received from residents on the grounds of never witnessing a speeding issue in this vicinity; driving over the speed cushions will cause damage to vehicles, discomfort to passengers, be noisy for residents and that speed cushions will restrict the use of snow clearing and emergency vehicles.
12. In response to the first point, zebra crossings should not be installed on roads where the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 35mph or more. To check compliance with this regulation a 24-hour speed survey was carried out between 30 July 2019 and 6 August 2019. The recorded 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds were 35/36mph and, therefore, it is necessary to implement traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds through the crossing.
13. In respect of the remaining points, the profile of the speed cushions should not result in vehicle damage and should not cause any undue discomfort to vehicle occupants if drivers negotiate the features at an appropriate speed. The narrow 1.7m cushion width allows large vehicles (incl. emergency

vehicles) to traverse the cushions with minimal noise and delay. Snow ploughs are not affected by speed cushions as the plough can ride up and over the feature.

### **How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives**

14. The proposals will help reduce vehicle speed on Hanney Road and facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians.

### **Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)**

15. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by Steventon Parish Council, the County Council's Capital 'Parish Funded Works' budget and by the Hendreds & Harwell County Councillor through his 'Councillor Priority Fund'.

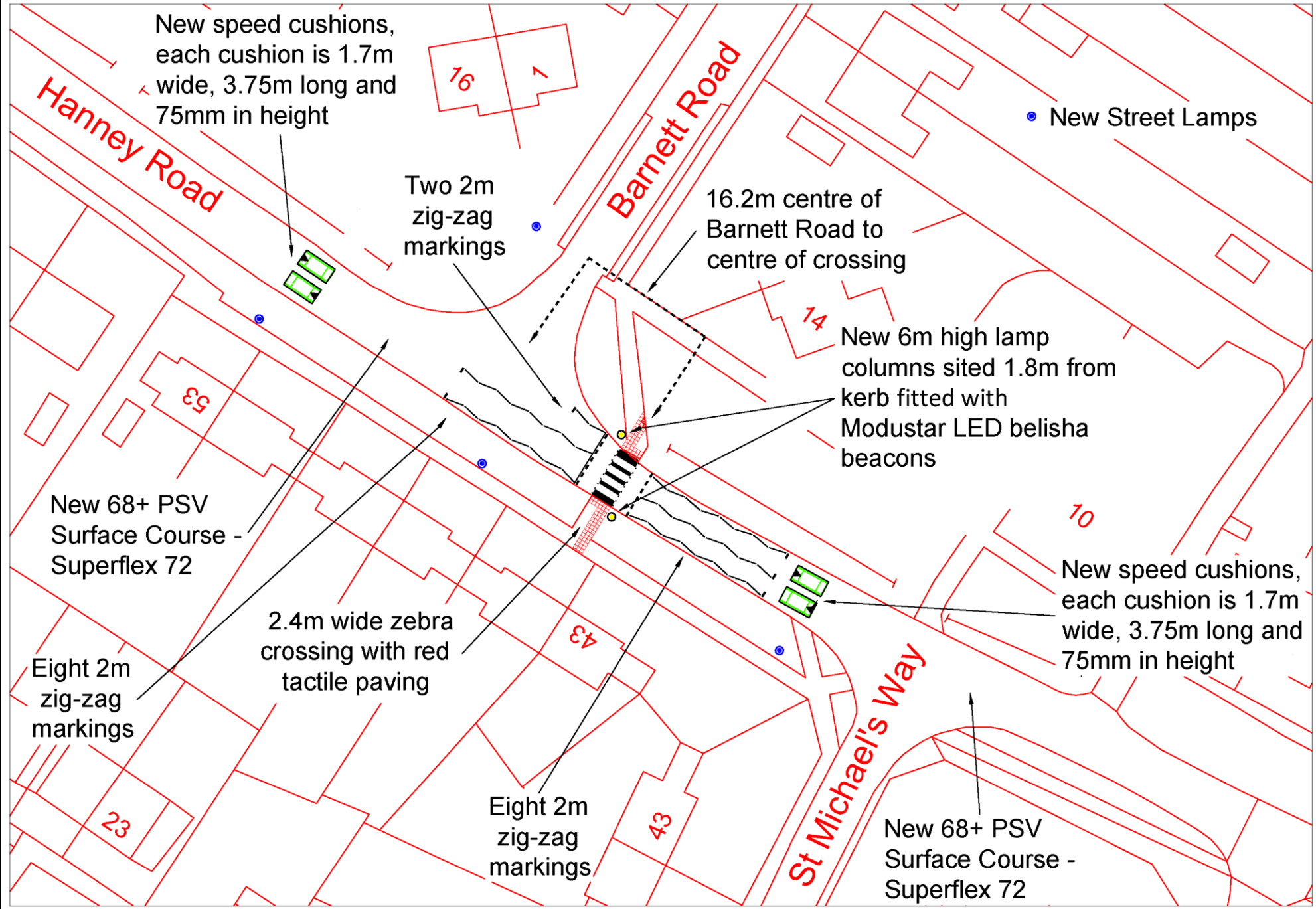
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Background papers:            Plan of proposed zebra crossing and speed cushions  
   Consultation responses

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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<b>No objection</b>
(2) Vale of White Horse District Council	<b>No objection</b>
(3) Local Resident, (Steventon)	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Neither/Concerns</b> - When traffic stops it will block vehicles trying to turn right onto Hanney Rd from Barnett Rd. It is already often tricky to see clearly to pull out. Vehicles park right at the junction on Barnett rd. making it effectively one lane at the top of the road, which already makes getting in and out of the junction awkward.</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Object</b> - Those who live locally will have to drive over these lumps daily increasing wear and tear on tyres and suspension. More importantly though, do they not restrict any snow/ice clearing machines and Emergency vehicles?</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Steventon)	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Neither/Concerns</b> - I've not seen evidence that a zebra crossing is necessary for this road. are there gathered statistics for accidents etc?</p> <p>My concern is that, while this is a noble gesture is the expense justified? I would rather that the money is spent to fix the holes and bumps in the Hanney road - the corner with the high street is great, but the rest of it is not smooth since the extensive roadworks laying cables.</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Object</b> - I see this as another car damaging interference. I have never witnessed issues with speed in this vicinity and if a crossing is inserted then this will act as calming in its own right.</p> <p>What are the costs of deployment of cushions? What is the noise impact of accelerating traffic to the residents? Unnecessary damage to vehicle suspension and discomfort to passengers. Fix the bumps that exist in the road, we do not need to add more.</p>

(5) Local Resident, (Steventon)	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Support</b> - This should have been installed by the developer David Wilson when VOWH DC granted permission to build the new estate. It is essential for the safe crossing of the road by families using the school and the rest of the village.</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Support</b> - The large HGVs should not be coming through the village. Again, another failure by the DC and CC to look after our villages. Also, the amount of traffic generated by all the development in the area has meant an increase in the volume of traffic especially at peak times and the majority of whom seem to break the speed limit ( as has been proven by figures supplied by the Parish Council) except when the traffic has backed up from the junction of Hanney Road and the High Street.</p>
(6) Local Resident, (Steventon)	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Support</b> - The zebra crossing is badly needed, esp. to help children cross safely from the Abbots Meadow estate to the nearby St. Michael's school. This stretch of Hanney Rd/ Barnett Rd junction is very busy at peak times and during the day, and the traffic is fast moving (30-40mph). Thank-you for consulting residents on this important issue.</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Support</b> - I use this junction every day and traffic (cars + HGVs) travel fast, often in excess of 30mph, making it difficult (and time-consuming) to cross safely. The traffic calming measures would be essential to slow traffic before the zebra crossing.</p>
(7) Local Resident, (Steventon)	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Support</b> - Hanney road is a busy road and in particular at peak times of children going to school. There is a large number of elderly residents that live in the vicinity of Hanney Road and, with the new developments a significant increase in the number of families that have to cross the road. The Zebra crossing is needed to enable safe pedestrian crossing of the road.</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Support</b> - There is a significant amount of traffic that travel more than 35mph along Hanney Road.</p>

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<p>(8) Local Resident, (Steventon)</p>	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Support</b> - It is long overdue and particularly relevant at School time, as the start of School coincides with workers rushing to either Didcot Station or Milton Park</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Support</b> - The cushions are necessary because as illustrated on the High Street zebra crossing, very few drivers understand they should observe pedestrians approaching the crossing</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Steventon)</p>	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Support</b> - This is a road abused by speeding cars and with the addition of the housing estate on the opposing side of the road to the school this is a badly needed improvement to the village and the safety of its residents. I fully support the addition of a zebra crossing.</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Support</b> - No comments</p>
<p>(10) Local Resident, (Didcot)</p>	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Support</b> - It can sometimes take ages to get across the road, many cars drive too fast along that road</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Support</b> - No comments</p>
<p>(11) Local Resident, (Steventon)</p>	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Support</b> - A large number of young children attempt to cross Hanney Road at least twice daily, negotiating heavy traffic and grossly inappropriate HGVs passing through the village. Without a crossing is only a matter of time before a fatality occurs.</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Support</b> - Anything that deters HGVs (which should pass through Rowstock and Wantage) is a positive move</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Steventon)</p>	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Support</b> - No comments</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Support</b> - No comments</p>

<p>(13) Local Resident, (Steventon)</p>	<p><u>Zebra Crossing</u> - <b>Support</b> - My daughter has to walk to and from Steventon bus stop each week day and unfortunately, it's incredibly dark at the top of Barnett Road. People are driving too fast on the Hanney Road. It's incredibly dangerous and a zebra crossing, more lights and a speed camera should be put along that stretch of road to ensure drivers are driving safely and realise children have to cross that road independently every day.</p> <p><u>Traffic Calming</u> - <b>Support</b> - No comments</p>
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