

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT– 26 FEBRUARY 2015

PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING – A415 KINGSTON BAGPUIZE

Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. This report presents the objections and other comments received in response to a statutory consultation on a proposed new zebra crossing on the A415, Kingston Bagpuize, as shown in the plan at Annex 1.

Background

2. The proposal arises from the residential development on land adjacent to the A415, Witney Road, Kingston Bagpuize, comprising of 63 dwellings and a 45 unit extra care facility. The planning permission contained various traffic management features along the A415 away from the development, including a zebra crossing (which is the subject of this report), an uncontrolled crossing and a village 'gateway'.

Formal Consultation

3. Formal consultation on the proposal for a zebra crossing was carried out between 29 October and 28 November 2014. The proposals were advertised formally in the local press, notices were erected on site and posted to affected frontagers, and plans deposited in Kingston Bagpuize Post Office. Copies of the notice and plans were emailed to all statutory consultees.
4. Responses to this formal consultation have been received from six local residents (at four addresses in the vicinity of the proposed crossing) together with the County Councillor, the Parish Council, and Thames Valley Police, all containing objections or comments. Copies are available for inspection in the Members Resource Centre.

Objections and comments

5. The Parish Council welcome the provision of a pedestrian crossing and is content with the location. However, they have requested that the crossing be upgraded to a Puffin (signal-controlled) crossing. In response, it should be noted that as part of the planning consent the developer is only required to implement a Zebra crossing (at a cost of approximately £20,000) and not a Puffin crossing (at a cost of approximately £50,000). Also, best practice recommends that a Puffin crossing should be located a minimum 'safe' distance of 20 metres from an uncontrolled side road

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junction. This is not achievable at the location proposed for the zebra crossing as the A415 / Oxford Rd junction is only 14 metres away from the proposed crossing location.

6. County Councillor Melinda Tilley has objected to the positioning of the Zebra crossing, but not the provision of a crossing in this vicinity. Cllr Tilley feels that at its proposed location the crossing will significantly impact on the residents living on either side of A415. She feels that the adjacent bus lay-by could be shortened with the crossing being moved further north, closer to the mini-roundabout. In response, a site meeting has been held with the bus operator Stagecoach who has stated that they require the full length of the current lay-by in order to operate their double-decker service.
7. Thames Valley Police are not opposed to a pedestrian crossing in this vicinity; however they raise a number of concerns in relation to this exact site: potential conflict between pedestrians using the crossing and vehicles entering / exiting the adjacent residential access on the west side, the narrow width of the footway on the west side, and restricted pedestrian visibility on the east side when a bus is using the lay-by.
8. The six local residents (signing the same letter) wish to point out that they are not against the planned crossing in principle. However they raise a number of objections in relation to the proposed site, including that the crossing is in the wrong location based on future growth of the village and likely pedestrian desire line, that they would not wish to set a precedent for a future upgrade to a signal-controlled crossing outside of their homes, concerns about potential conflict between pedestrians using the crossing and vehicles entering / exiting the adjacent residential access on the west side, privacy issues relating to pedestrians looking into property windows, unsightly belisha beacons in full view, conflict with waste collection, and litter issues. These residents would like the crossing relocated in line with the north end of the electrical sub-station on the west side of the A415, approximately 20m north of its proposed location. In response, this would also necessitate a shortening of the bus lay-by which unfortunately is impractical (see point 6 above).

Next steps

9. In view of the consultation responses received, officers met with Cllr Tilley and agreed to recommend not implementing the zebra crossing at the proposed location, but instead to seek a payment of £20,000 from the developer (David Wilson Homes) to be used for either funding a Zebra crossing, or as a contribution towards funding a Puffin crossing, both at a later date and at an alternative location. Future residential development in Kingston Bagpuize may result in additional funds becoming available.

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10. Officers have discussed the proposal of a £20,000 payment with David Wilson Homes and are awaiting a written agreement in principle. An update will be provided at the CMD meeting.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

11. The cost of designing the Zebra crossing has been met by the developer. The appraisal of the crossing and consultation has been undertaken by officers as part of their normal duties. This has been funded by the developer.

RECOMMENDATION

8. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to not proceed with the implementation of the proposed Zebra crossing as advertised.**

MARK KEMP

Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Background papers: Consultation documentation

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