

Divisions affected: *Benson and Cholsey*

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT – 14 OCTOBER 2021

BENSON – A4074 HENLEY ROAD: PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSING

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is **RECOMMENDED** to approve the proposals for a Toucan Crossing (a signalised crossing for use by pedestrians & pedal-cyclists) on the A4074 Henley Road in Benson as advertised.

Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on a proposed Toucan Crossing (a signalised crossing for use by pedestrians & pedal-cyclists) on the A4074 Henley Road in Benson.

Financial Implications

3. Funding for consultation and the proposals themselves has been provided by developer contributions through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). £140,000 has come from the County Council's CIL monies with a further £20,000 contributed by Benson Parish Council's CIL fund.

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 safe movement of pedestrians (including those accessing the bus stop) and cyclists and thereby support the use of sustainable and active travel modes.

Consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 25 August and 24 September 2021. A notice was published in the Oxfordshire Herald Series newspaper and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the

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Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, South Oxfordshire District Council, Benson Parish Council and local County Councillor. Additionally, letters were sent to approximately 80 properties in the immediate vicinity of the various proposals and public notices were placed on site in the area.

7. 67 responses were received during the formal consultation. 56 in support (84%), 1 objecting, 8 raising concerns (12%) and two non-objections. The responses are shown at Annex 2 with copies of the original responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

8. Thames Valley Police did not object as speed data supports the proposal.
9. Benson Parish Council are partners in the project and so support it, stressing that it is desperately needed for safety.
10. Oxford Bus Company did not object.
11. Of the 56 expressions of support from local residents, 50 cited safety and the level of traffic as a reason the crossing was needed. 30 mentioned increasing pedestrian demand prompted by the desire to access facilities such as buses, the riverfront café and Thames-based activities like the towpath and footpaths for leisure and access to Preston Crowmarsh and vice versa. One response highlighted the benefit in integrating the 2 communities. Six replies cited the importance of the proposal in protecting children and two cited its calming effect on traffic flow. Four submissions highlighted the need to better manage parking and how the proposal might help in this regard.
12. Of the 8 expressions of concern. 4 supported the proposal but 2 emphasised the need to address the parking situation, another the need for a guardrail to combat possible reduced pedestrian alertness and another was concerned about pollution and congestion from slowing vehicles. Parking concerns were also cited by 3 other respondents with one suggesting unused land in St Helens Avenue could be used as a car park to reduce parked traffic and thus remove the need for the proposals.
13. Three concerns were not directly related to the proposals. One thought funds should instead go to a safe cycle route to Wallingford, another to footways along the A4074 and another to also improving the exit from Churchfield Lane through the bus layby. One person suggested the proposals weren't required as they were unaware of any accidents
14. One person suggested a far more comprehensive solution to crossing A4074 was needed instead but that a pedestrian island was required 200m further north which would also calm the traffic flow. Another person thought the crossing should be in this more northern location.
15. The sole objector was a regular user of the existing facility and saw no need to improve it as they never considered it busy. They were also concerned about the effect on traffic flow and would rather see money spent elsewhere.

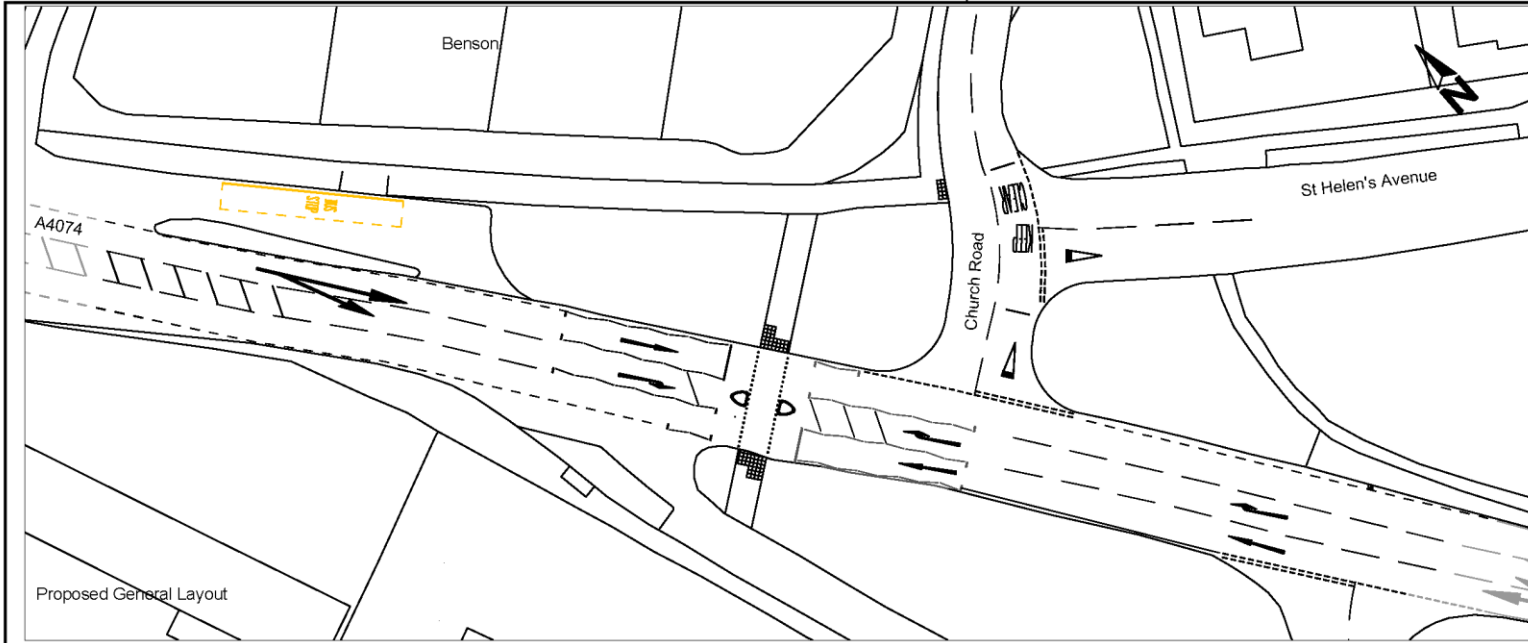
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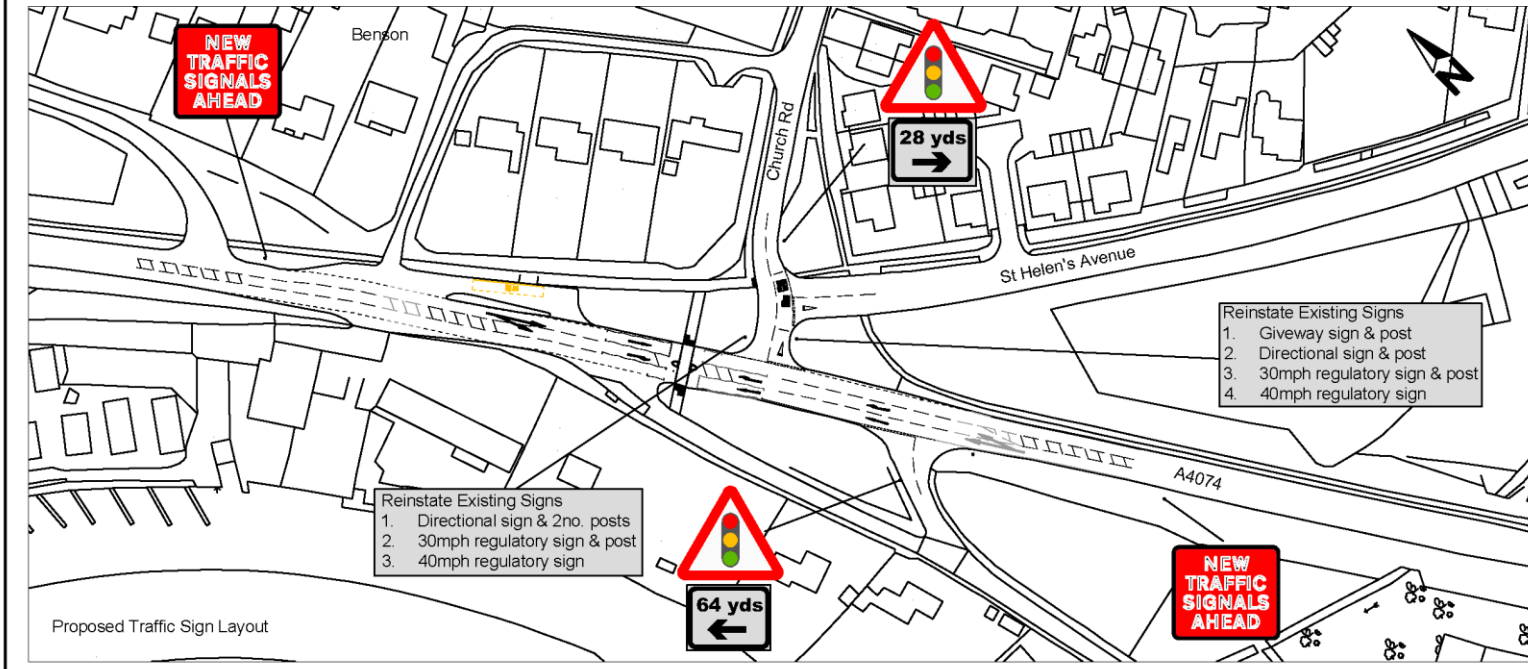
Annexes Annex 1: Consultation Plan
 Annex 2: Consultation responses

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October 2021



Proposed General Layout



Proposed Traffic Sign Layout

Drawing No.	Revision
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SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION			
IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDOUS RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS			
CONSTRUCTION			
MAINTENANCE/CLEANING			
DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION			

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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked/Approved

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Project title
 Benson
 A4074 Proposed Toucan Crossing

Drawing title
 Consultation

Drawing Status Information			
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 – The Police have no objection providing that speed data supports such a facility at this location, and design meets current standards.
(2) Oxford Bus Company	No objection – No issues with this proposal
(3) Benson Parish Council	Support – We are supporting this proposal. It is desperately needed for safety. The proposal has been agreed at full Council.
(4) Local Resident, (Benson, Church Close)	Object - I use the crossing several times every week and see no need to upgrade it. I have never known it to be very busy. The upgrade was expensive and I would rather see the money spent on other things, such as library support or social services. It will impede the flow of traffic on the A4074.
(5) Local Resident, (Benson, Churchfield Lane)	Concerns - The proposed crossing is directly at the rear of our property. As such we have no objection to the proposed crossing, however, the illegal parking which takes place around the bus stop and the 4074 and Churchfield Lane entrance will one day causes a serious accident. The fencing off of the green space has made a positive difference to the number of illegal parked cars, but now the bus stop and foot paths have become parking spots, a number of times we have problems exiting Churchfield Lane onto the 4074 as parked cars obstructing any view. Therefore, while carrying out work on the crossing, you need to take action to stop the illegal parking.
(6) Local Resident, (Benson, Churchfield Lane)	Concerns - The uncontrolled expansion of the waterfront cafe has caused severe parking issues especially in the bus stop. The fencing recently erected around the grass area has made the situation much better but it is still dangerous to exit Churchfield Lane (unadopted gravel part) on to the main A4074. Siting a Toucan crossing as proposed will only encourage people to again park inconsiderately in the bus stop. Part of this proposal must include putting in parking restrictions in the bus stop and making it clear that this is a bus stop only. Also a "Keep Clear sign should be painted

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	<p>on the road at the exit of Churchfield Lane (as there is at the Church Road end). I notice that the Saxon Close exit to St Helens Avenue has had a line painted to stop people parking and obstruction the view. Churchfield land onto the main road is much more dangerous</p> <p>Also consideration should be given to making the unused land down St Helens avenue into an off-road car park. This would reduce the parked traffic in St Helens Avenue and enable people to walk on the path under the road thus making the need for a toucan crossing unnecessary.</p> <p>There is also a question of the added pollution from vehicles stop /starting at the crossing and in this day and age of reducing pollution this does not seem to be the correct approach.</p> <p>Having lived here for twenty-one years we have not known of any accidents occurring in all this time. However, the way people park in the bus stop has caused people to have to walk in the road and buses not to stop or are forced to park on the main road. More consideration should be given to this rather than a new crossing.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Benson, Old London Road)</p>	<p>Concerns - I am worried the at there is little thought to a safe cycle route from Benson to Wallingford - how does this fit into the cycle strategy and is possible to either adapt current coding to ensure cycle-safe crossing / cycle markings and before cars/ or provide an additional safe pedestrian cycle crossing at the Agrivert/Howberry Park end of the A4074 to permit school children (abs all cyclists) to cycle between our towns?</p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Benson, Triggs Mead)</p>	<p>Concerns - As much as I think it will be a good thing for when crossing, I also worry about the traffic it will cause in busy periods (summer etc) and how it could be detrimental to the environment with everyone's cars on standby. I do however think it will make crossing easier, although with the island it isn't too much of a burden either. I do think some kind of crossing further up towards the BP roundabout where you cross at the footpath and go in the alley next to Benson house as that can be very dangerous and is the main walkway to the river for most of the residents of that side which is also getting bigger with all the new developments going up in that area</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Benson, Churchfield Lane)</p>	<p>Concerns - The exit from Churchfield Lane onto the A4074 through the Bus stop layby is already unsafe due to parking restricting view of fast moving traffic. This should be addressed simultaneously.</p>

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<p>(10) Local Resident, (Benson, Preston Crowmarsh)</p>	<p>Concerns - Whilst I strongly support the Proposal to provide a Toucan Crossing, there are related Pedestrian Safety issues that must be recognised and resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whilst the minor carriageway from its junction with the A4074 (by the northbound bus stop) into Preston Crowmarsh is generally seen and used as a Car Park, it is a Live Roadway carrying vehicles exiting the fast-moving A4074 (via the filter provided) and entering the hamlet. As the principal safe access from the North into Preston Crowmarsh's fifty homes, it carries substantial private car and commercial vehicle traffic. 2. I am sure you will have observed that passengers having alighted from northbound buses almost always walk round the back of the bus, straight onto the live carriageway (1 above) and take a direct line across to the mid-road (A4074) traffic island ... quite oblivious of any traffic that might be entering the lane from the A4074. If and how that might change, with a Toucan Crossing in place, should be considered. <p>The safety assurance provided by the Toucan arrangement will surely add to the risk (lack of alertness) to pedestrians crossing towards the river as they step onto the minor carriageway. Pedestrian Crossing marking – linking that point to the Bus Stop ought to alert and guide people but the practical issues of providing it are recognised. Provision of some barrier fencing to guide pedestrians may/or may not be helpful, too.</p> <p>It is to be observed, also, that pedestrians still walk from the Bus Stop to the Waterfront Café along the edge of the A4074 carriageway (with traffic approaching them from behind). Quite alarming to watch! A clear and easy-to-use pathway is much needed.</p>
<p>(11) Local Resident, (Benson)</p>	<p>Concerns - People have been complaining about the parking for a number of years as the cafe has expanded without an associated increase in on-site parking. We have been told a number of times that when the Toucan Crossing is installed parking in the bus stop will also be addressed. There is no evidence of this in the proposal.</p> <p>Access out of Churchfield Lane (Unadopted section) is dangerous. More dangerous than the exit from Saxon Close on to St Helens Avenue yet that has had lines painted to try and stop people parking. It was agreed at a Parish Council meeting that a Keep Clear sign would be painted (There is already one in church road).</p> <p>Please can you confirm (or otherwise) what is being proposed for the bus stop.</p> <p>The fence around the grass area has made a big improvement although someone has crashed into part of the fence adjoining Church road. When is this going to be repaired?</p>

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<p>(12) Local Resident, (Benson)</p>	<p>Concerns - In the 1940s, my childhood, and for the following two decades, the Thames was easily accessible and the main facility for villager's leisure - fishing, swimming and boating. On my retirement 29 years ago I was appalled to find the A4074 had become so busy that villagers were only able to get to the river with great difficulty. I therefore instigated a campaign to get some form of crossing in place. Mums with pushchairs with the press available eventually got the then County Councillor's support and the present crossing was built. It is not relevant to tick either the "for" or "against" box. I simply feel that, now that Benson is virtually expanding into a town, a much better solution is needed.</p> <p>When the Benson bye pass was built in 1934 it cut straight across a public footpath lying just north of the new Benson Care home, which led down to the river. Presumably there is some responsibility on the Highways Authority to ensure the footpath can still be used, safely crossing the main road at that point. As the main house building is going on north and west of Littleworth an increasing number of new residents might presume to have safe access to the river and should be able to use that footpath. Numbers will increase steadily in the coming years.</p> <p>Conversely, whilst having no statistical evidence, it is clear from the number of parked cars, that many users of the Waterfront Restaurant arrive via the main road. Pedestrians using the children's paddling pool are no greater than they ever have been.</p> <p>In summary, whilst I can see no point in going to the cost of upgrading the present crossing, there is every need to place an island to ensure a safe crossing 200 yards further north for the public footpath. This would also safely slow the traffic along the present fast stretch in front of the Care Home.</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Benson)</p>	<p>Support - I welcome the proposed toucan crossing, the road is extremely fast and very dangerous to cross, also many children cross alone, for access to Rivermead.</p> <p>My problem is with the car parking, which has been made worse by the introduction of low-level fencing close to the bus stops. My property is situated next to the Rivermead recreation grounds and at times cannot access my drive, due to inconsiderate public parking.</p>

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	<p>This parking on the one way only stretch of Preston Crowmarsh is also very dangerous as it is often double parked, if there was ever a serious incident or a fire I doubt whether the emergency departments could get prompt access. The other issue is that when cars park in the one way stretch of road they either have to reverse out of a very narrow road or indeed reverse into my drive to turn around. The issue here is that on several occasions the gates and entrance posts have been damaged.</p> <p>I accept that the riverside cafe and bus stops are very popular, although it appears nothing is planned for car parking. If the crossing is constructed, then surely it makes sense to restrict the parking on the Preston Crowmarsh one way section / junction and encourage parking in a safer place.</p>
(14) Local Resident, (Benson, St Helen's Avenue)	<p>Support - As Benson resident I support the need for this crossing which is a very well used crossing point. There have been a number of near misses and the reflective bollards on the centre refuge area have been replaced several times.</p>
(15) Local Resident, (Benson, St Helens Avenue)	<p>Support - The crossing is extremely dangerous with the speeds the cars travel down the A4074. School buses use these bus stops and there is no safe place for the students to cross the road. Trying to pull out on to the A4074 from Church Road is also dangerous so a crossing may help this also.</p>
(16) Local Resident, (Benson, Saxon Court)	<p>Support - It is extremely dangerous trying to cross the road here and also very difficult turning right out of church lane onto the A4074 towards Oxford due to the volume and speed of traffic on this road</p>
(17) Local Resident, (Benson, St Helens Avenue)	<p>Support - Having lived in the village all of my life, the crossing of the main road has always been an issue, Introduction of a crossing would be much safer. A roundabout at the junction would also make a massive difference in access, both in and out of the village.</p>
(18) Local Resident, (Benson, Elm Bridge Mead)	<p>Support - Fully support the proposal, and the reasons outlined within the proposal.</p> <p>Most notably, it is a very busy/active crossing, and particularly for families with young children, there is a heightened safety concern not having a safe means of crossing the A4074.</p> <p>There is typically a lot of traffic, and movement at this location, with vehicles entering/exiting the Church Roach</p>

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	Junction, vehicles entering/exiting the Waterfront Cafe, along with the volume of traffic passing along the A4074. This makes it very challenging to safely cross this road.
(19) Local Resident, (Benson, Passey Crescent)	Support - Long overdue. Will be safer for people crossing especially during busy periods. Thank you
(20) Local Resident, (Benson, Port Hill Road)	Support - The a4074 is a very busy road and I think a safe crossing will benefit the village
(21) Local Resident, (Benson, Littleworth)	Support - I feel the crossing is essential for safety. I am an able-bodied adult and I find the road challenging to cross. For anyone elderly, disabled, with children or a teenager I feel it is currently an accident waiting to happen. I also feel that not having a crossing is a barrier for some people to getting to the cafe as well as the bus stop on the other side.
(22) Local Resident, (Benson, Preston Crowmarsh)	Support - Use it every day to get to school and son will need to use crossing on own to catch school bus. Totally unsafe at the moment, a crossing is desperately needed
(23) Local Resident, (Benson, The Cedars)	Support - I see lots of people 'rushing' to cross this road. 40 MPH is pretty fast to need to have to stop in an emergency. We cross this road weekly and have occasionally had a glass of wine at the Waterfront. A crossing will add extra caution when crossing. A wait before crossing is what we already do BUT not everyone sees danger.
(24) Local Resident, (Benson, Potash Mead)	Support - A safer crossing is needed here and a few very dedicated Benson residents have worked very hard to raise this awareness and get this put into action. My only concern is that this won't improve the ease or safety of vehicles turning right out of Church Road onto the A4704.
(25) Local Resident, (Benson, Oxford Road)	Support - This is very important for road safety and to stop illegal parking around this junction - thank you for actioning.

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<p>(26) Local Resident, (Benson, Bell Weather Furlong)</p>	<p>Support - This is a busy pedestrian route across a busy road! It needs a proper crossing to avoid an accident. The Waterfront and Thames path are a huge draw to families and all ages and abilities should be able to get there safely!</p>
<p>(27) Local Resident, (Benson , Old London Road)</p>	<p>Support - This road is very busy now and I have teenage children crossing it numerous times a day for the bus to and from school/college</p>
<p>(28) Local Resident, (Benson, St Helens Way)</p>	<p>Support - it is well overdue to make crossing the road safer and for calming the traffic down</p>
<p>(29) Local Resident, (Benson, Old London Road)</p>	<p>Support - So many people are crossing and the road area is confusing and cars travel quickly. Only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt due to increase in pedestrians wanting to cross the road.</p>
<p>(30) Local Resident, (Shillingford, The Avenue)</p>	<p>Support - This has needed a crossing for years. It's a very busy section of road, that is only getting busy. I cross regularly with my toddler and baby and the middle of the current crossing is not large enough for my pram with great big lorries hurtling past.</p>
<p>(31) Local Resident, (Benson, Castle Square)</p>	<p>Support - As a regular user of the road as a crossing to allow access to the bus stop, river walks and the cafe, I'm concerned that the dart across the traffic will ultimately lead to a dreadful accident also it's difficult to hold my dog in the centre reservation area with traffic at the rear and front</p>
<p>(32) Local Resident, (Benson, Brook Street)</p>	<p>Support - Important to fill a need for safe crossing of this busy road</p>
<p>(33) Local Resident, (Benson, St Helen's Avenue)</p>	<p>Support - It's a busy crossing point and the 4074 is very busy. Even with a speed camera on one side vehicles are still travelling at a high speed. This is a long overdue need for the village.</p>
<p>(34) Local Resident, (Benson, The Cedars)</p>	<p>Support - This is a very busy road to have to cross from the village to get to the river.</p>

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<p>(35) Local Resident, (Benson, Watlington)</p>	<p>Support - It has always been difficult to cross this road and with the huge expansion of the village this crossing is now in constant use. The current crossing is inadequate as the central island is too small for a lot of buggies and you feel very vulnerable when traffic is speeding past you on both sides. I am aware of people who have been clipped by the traffic passing them.</p>
<p>(36) Local Resident, (Benson, Monarchs Court)</p>	<p>Support - It's dangerous to cross the road there at the moment. I use the crossing to cycle my toddler to nursery, and even though I get off my bike to walk across the Road, it doesn't feel safe. A toucan crossing sounds just like what we need! Thank you!</p>
<p>(37) Local Resident, (Benson, Millar Close)</p>	<p>Support - Safety of pedestrians, before someone is killed.</p>
<p>(38) Local Resident, (Benson, Millar Close)</p>	<p>Support - At present, crossing the A4074 represents a significant risk to the pedestrian and support the application for a crossing. I have concerns about how close the proposed crossing is to the junction with St Helen's. I don't think adding a no right turn would help as this would divert traffic past the school. Perhaps moving it further up the A4074 is an option? Additionally, I think that the speed limit needs to be reduced to 30mph through Benson and traffic calming measures introduced. I would also like to see a pavement on the side of the Waterfront cafe for added safety. Overall, it's long overdue that there is a consultation about a crossing on this road, it's fortunate there hasn't been a fatality.</p>
<p>(39) Local Resident, (Benson, Sunnyside)</p>	<p>Support - The a4074 is getting busier, also you get a lot of foot traffic across the road to get to the riverside facilities. With the amount of new housing on the horizon I wholeheartedly support this proposal.</p>
<p>(40) Local Resident, (Benson, St Helens Avenue)</p>	<p>Support - As a resident of Benson and long -erm supporter of a safe crossing for people to cross the incredibly busy A4074 to gain access to the river path to Wallingford/Shillingford and to get my 5m long kayak across this road safely, I am excited at the prospect to have a safe means of achieving this aspiration. And the sooner, the better in my opinion. For me to get my kayak over safely It will need to be a side-to-side crossing as it will block over half of the 2 carriageways if I get caught in the middle.</p>

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<p>(41) Local Resident, (Benson, Old London Road)</p>	<p>Support - The A4074 has become a lot busier, probably due to all the housing developments in the South Oxfordshire area, meaning it is increasingly difficult to cross the road safely. The road divides Benson from Preston Crowmarsh, the popular Waterfront Cafe and the X38/39 bus stop to Oxford. The number of people crossing the road to get to the bus stop and Waterfront Cafe has increased considerably and they need a safe crossing point.</p>
<p>(42) Local Resident, (Preston Crowmarsh, A4074)</p>	<p>Support - The A4074 takes very heavy traffic at peak times, whilst there is an increasing number of pedestrians seeking to cross the road to access the leisure facilities by the river. Cyclists are also on the increase, and a safe crossing point for them is needed. Residents of Preston Crowmarsh are becoming cut off from essential Benson facilities by the road traffic.</p> <p>The pedestrian survey I helped to organise as part of the NP showed the need very clearly, and the proposed crossing was very popular in the plan.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Team of the NP put a great deal of work into this proposal, and the finance was agreed using CIL, so it now needs to be done.</p>
<p>(43) Local Resident, (Benson, Brook Street)</p>	<p>Support - Both footfall and motorised traffic is increasing at the Junction A4074 and Church Road due to the large developments built and proposed in Benson. The junction also provides the main bus transport with stops to Henley, Wallingford, Reading and Oxford so a safe crossing is needed.</p>
<p>(44) Local Resident, (Benson, Brook Street)</p>	<p>Support - Unlike the other crossings on this road the footfall is high this was proven with a survey done by residents about three years ago for the following reasons :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1] Bus stop on both sides for X38 X39 and X40 [as well as Saturday pick up for Reading Football Club supporters] 2] Very busy water front Caffé 3] People diverting into Benson when walking the Thames Path Long Distance Route 4] General dog walkers making their way to the weir. 5] Children's recreation area including paddling pool <p>Also I think there is a case for major changes to the lay out of this road junction and I believe plans have been discussed also a speed reduction from 40 to 30 MPH</p>

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(45) Resident, (Oxford, Minster Road)	Support - I catch the bus to Benson to walk the Thames Path or to walk to Ewelme and it is very often difficult or dangerous to cross the road.
(46) Local Resident, (Benson, Brook Street)	Support - It is a very busy road which I have to cross on a regular basis
(47) Resident, (Oxford, Southmoor Road)	Support - Difficulty crossing the road during high traffic periods without a controlled crossing
(48) Local Resident, (Benson, Church Road)	Support - The crossing is needed on this increasingly busy main road. People, including wheelchair users, people with young children etc elderly people have to cross the roads to get to bus stops on the other side of the main road and also to access the river bank and the riverside cafe.
(49) Resident, (Oxford, Minster Road)	Support - I frequently catch the bus to Benson and have trouble crossing the road
(50) Local Resident, (Benson, Old Barn Close)	Support - To give pedestrians a chance for a safe crossing of a major road.
(51) Local Resident, (Benson, Westfield Road)	Support - I cross this road several times a week and find it getting more difficult with the increase in traffic especially during school term time.
(52) Local Resident, (Benson, Church Road)	Support - I live close to the proposed site of the crossing and the current arrangements (a traffic island) are insufficient for the level and speed of traffic and the numbers of pedestrians.
(53) Local Resident, (Benson, Westfield Road)	Support - Traffic too much for pedestrian safety. Lot of crossing at this point to access River Thames areas and local cafe. Improved safety needed. Would reduce speed of traffic especially large volume of motorcycles at weekends connected with their bike cafe at Berinsfield roundabout.

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(54) Local Resident, (Benson, Preston Crowmarsh)	Support - This is a dangerous place to get across the road and the amount of people needing to get across is increasing.
(55) Local Resident, (Benson, Millar Close)	Support - I strongly believe that this closing is very important. A huge number of pedestrians cross the A4074 at this point, many to walk down by the river and many to get to the Waterfront restaurant/cafe. The current crossing facilities are not really safe for families coping with push chairs/buggies, or those with lively/poorly controlled dogs.
(56) Local Resident, (Benson, Oxford Road)	Support - The road is a very busy road and you need to cross it to get to walk to Wallingford, to go to the Waterfront cafe/boat hire complex or to reach the Thames Path
(57) Local Resident, (Benson, Castle Close)	Support - So many people including children are crossing to get to the cafe, buses and the paddling pool park that a safer option to cross the road must be found, before a tragedy occurs.
(58) Local Resident, (Wallingford, Blackstone Road)	Support - This road is very busy being the main A road route between Reading and Oxford. The volume of traffic makes it hazardous crossing the road. At this point there is also a very popular riverside cafe to which people come from far and wide. The cafe's limited parking facilities mean patrons' cars are left at inappropriate places along this road and at other parts of the junction, adding to the dangers of crossing the road on foot.
(59) Local Resident, (Preston Crowmarsh, Preston Crowmarsh)	Support - Because crossing the A4074 at Benson is becoming increasingly hazardous
(60) Local Resident, (Benson, Castle Square)	Support - The A 4074 is a main road between Oxford and Henley/Reading, and as such produces a large amount of traffic, day and night. Benson residents and visitors alike need to cross the road in safety, in order to reach the river and its facilities, as well as Preston Crowmarsh. The bus-stop for Oxford-bound buses is also on the opposite side of the road from Benson village. Despite the 30mph speed limit along that stretch of the road, the traffic is still fast and continuous. A Toucan crossing is an excellent idea, and it is surprising that it has not been put in place years ago.

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<p>(61) Local Resident, (Benson, A4074 Henley Road)</p>	<p>Support - I live very close to the road and cross it frequently. The traffic using the road, especially motorcycles, have little regard to the speed restrictions of 30mph and a controlled crossing will make it so much safer for local residents and visitors to the Waterfront Cafe. Not forgetting the recent opening of the retirement home immediately adjacent to the A4074</p>
<p>(62) Local Resident, (Benson, A4074)</p>	<p>Support - It is a very bad junction turning in and out of Benson and access to the Riverfront for pedestrians.</p>
<p>(63) Local Resident, (Benson, St Helen's Avenue)</p>	<p>Support - A sensible improvement to the existing crossing</p>
<p>(64) Local Resident, (Benson, Preston Crowmarsh)</p>	<p>Support - To slow down traffic in particular motorcycles and safer for pedestrians crossing the busy road.</p>
<p>(65) Local Resident, (Benson, Preston Crowmarsh)</p>	<p>Support - I am in total support for the proposal for the reasons in your letter. I have lived in the village for many years now and have noted the ever-increasing numbers of pedestrians trying to cross this really busy main road. The Crossing must surely improve safety for pedestrians and help to reduce the informal parking which often obstructs the Thames Travel bus service.</p>
<p>(66) Local Resident, (Benson)</p>	<p>Support - I am in full agreement with the proposal.</p>
<p>(67) Local Resident, (Benson, Benson Waterfront)</p>	<p>Support - the sooner the better. And if your department carries out a survey on the results, following the installation do send a copy to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police. The road either side of that intersection, is a regular "rat-run" for local motor cyclists.</p> <p>A speed restriction would be no bad thing, but it would need to be enforced.</p>