

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 19 DECEMBER 2019**

### **GROVE: OXFORD LANE – PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING**

#### **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 on Oxford Lane, Grove.

#### **Executive summary**

2. The provision for pedestrians 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 received to a statutory consultation to introduce a zebra crossing on Oxford Lane Grove.

#### **Background**

4. This proposal as shown at Annex 1 has been put forward due to the School Crossing Patrol at this location being withdrawn and no candidates applying in the course of a recruitment to fill the post and also noting the significant number of pedestrians crossing here, particularly at school journey times, together with the increased traffic flows due to residential development in the village.

#### **Consultation**

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 6 November and 6 December 2019. A notice was placed in the Oxfordshire Herald newspaper and notices placed in the vicinity of the proposed crossing and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, the Vale of White Horse District Council, Grove Parish Council and the local County Councillor. Letters were sent to 12 properties in the immediate vicinity adjacent to the proposals.
6. Fifty-nine responses were received. 2 objections, 55 (93%) expressions of support and 2 neither objecting nor supporting. The responses are recorded

at Annex 2 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

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

7. Thames Valley Police did not object to the proposal and the Vale of White Horse District Council responded with no comment.
8. County Councillor Jenny Hannaby, the local member, expressed strong support for the proposal noting the loss of the School Crossing Patrol and the increasing volume of traffic due to development in the village.
9. Grove C of E Primary School also support the proposal.
10. Two objections were received from local residents, citing concerns over the lack of need for the crossing and the risk of lack of compliance by drivers and noting instances of drivers failing to give way at the adjacent mini roundabout.
11. In response to the first concern, a significant number of pedestrians cross at the site of the proposed crossing especially at school journey times, as evidenced by the former provision of a school crossing patrol. In respect of concerns over driver compliance with the zebra crossing such crossings are widely used in the county and, while accepting that non-compliance by drivers with both zebra and signalled crossings is regrettably occasionally observed, such crossings nevertheless operate with good levels of safety while noting also that the layout of the proposed crossing fully complies with national guidance.
12. Fifty-four expressions of support were received from members of the public, all residents of the Grove and Wantage area.

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

13. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians.

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

14. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by the County Council's Capital 'Parish Funded Works' budget, by the Wantage & Grove County Councillors through their 'Councillor Priority Fund' and by Section 106 contribution.

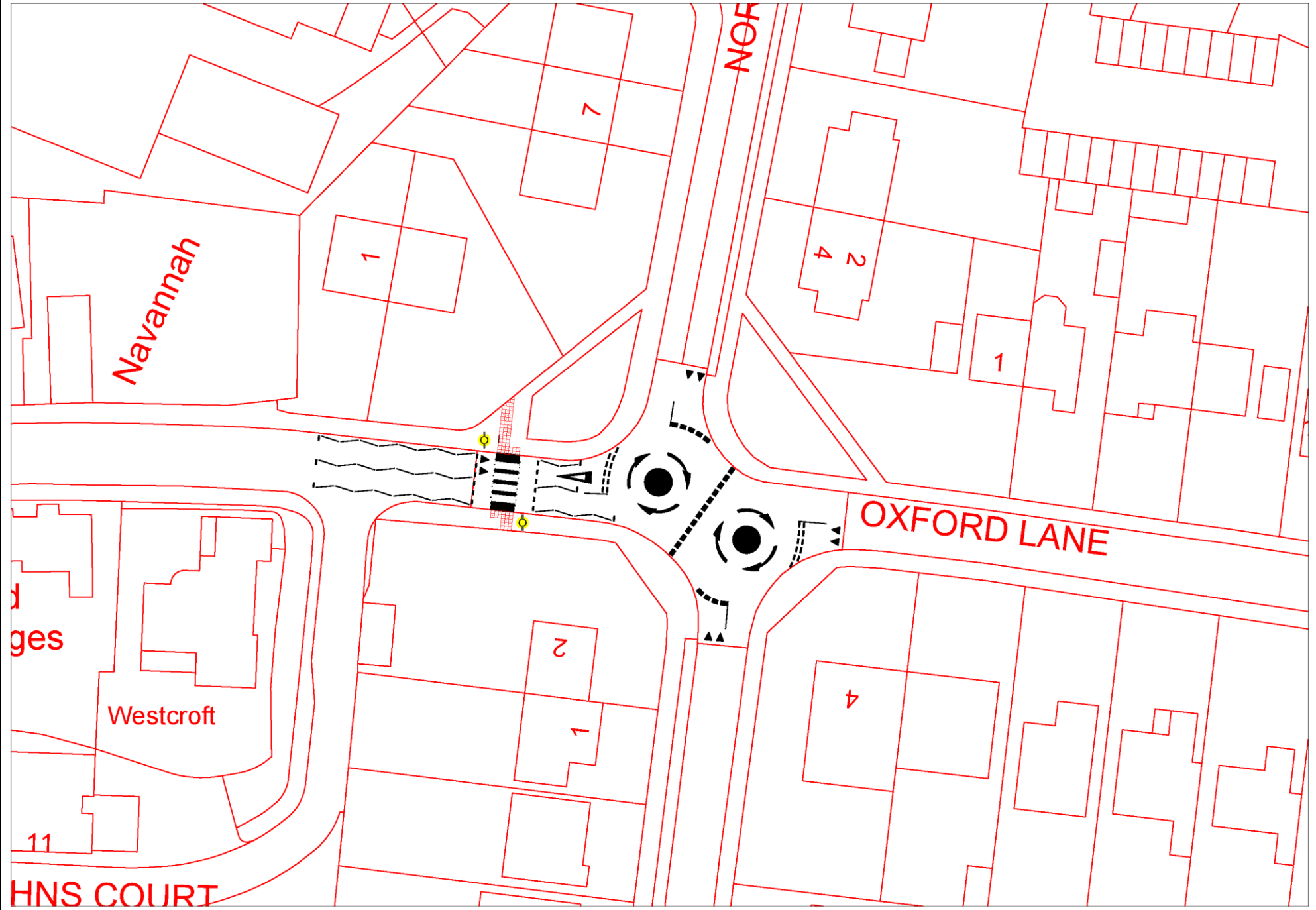
JASON RUSSELL

Interim Director for Community Operations

Background papers:           Plan of proposed zebra crossing  
  Consultation responses

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December 2019



HNS COURT

Navannah

OXFORD LANE

NOF

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Westcroft

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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<b>No objection</b>
(2) Development Management, (Vale of White Horse District Council )	<b>No comment</b>
(3) Local County Councillor, (Wantage & Grove Division)	<p><b>Support</b> – I am pleased to support the cost with a five thousand pounds grant from my Cllr Priority Fund.</p> <p>Reasons for support. The loss of the traffic lady who officially helped the children and families cross this very busy road by the Church of England primary School. This road has increased in traffic since the major housing developments on Grove Air Field has started. Oxford Lane is also one of the major bus routes.</p> <p>Safety of our children and residents must be our priority. I urge the commencement of this crossing as soon as possible.</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Object</b> – I feel it is unnecessary as cars naturally slow down at that roundabout junction and will cause parking issues for the houses (including my own) which are close by.
(5) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Object</b> – An accident waiting to happen. We live in North Drive and at least 5 days out of 7 traffic coming from A338 down Oxford Lane never give way to us turning right - go speeding straight across as though it doesn't apply to them (All different times of the day) So imagine them having to brake suddenly if they see someone in the road on a crossing. Anyway, most Children are driven to the school blocking the paths and residents' driveways and parking dangerously.

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<p>(6) Local Residents, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – My wife and I are very much in favour of this proposal. It will certainly improve pedestrian safety and be particularly beneficial to the parents and pupils from Grove C of E Junior School in North Drive.</p> <p>We witness vehicles speeding in both directions along the road. Installation of the crossing will hopefully draw driver's attention to lower their speed and be more aware of the necessity to be more safety conscious.</p> <p>Are the two mini-roundabouts at the junction going to be raised to some degree? The majority of traffic at present proceeds directly over the roundabouts making no attempt to manoeuvre around them correctly. Raising of the roundabouts would go some way to slow the traffic approaching from the east to the proposed Zebra Crossing.</p> <p>There are traffic humps directly in front our house which ideally should slow the traffic down, but our experience is otherwise as the majority of vehicles ride roughshod over the humps at speed. We hope that the installation of a Zebra Crossing will encourage vehicles to slow down and result in Oxford Lane being a safer highway for pedestrians and motorists alike.</p>
<p>(7) Local Resident, (Wantage)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i></p>
<p>(8) Local Resident, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – This crossing is much needed. The school is located the other side of the main route out of Grove, and as such the road is very busy, especially in the morning and afternoon, and there is currently no safe place for the children to cross unassisted (especially relevant now that there is no lollipop person!).</p>
<p>(9) Local Resident, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – This is desperately needed to keep residents and school children safe.</p>
<p>(10) Local Resident, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – After the loss of the school crossing patrol (lollipop lady), this will be a godsend to the families trying to cross Oxford Lane at rush hour - either to get to Grove c of e or going from the new estates to Millbrook school. The traffic on this road is very heavy and the cars parked along it make it very dangerous to navigate as a pedestrian.</p>

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<p>(11) Local Resident, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – This zebra crossing is very much needed. Oxford Lane, Grove has an exceptional amount of traffic, both local, business, construction and buses. During peak times children and parents can be waiting five minutes plus for traffic to slow and allow them to cross. This is exacerbated during the darker and wetter winter evenings. The double roundabout in close proximity, does not help the ability to cross by foot, as vehicle traffic priority is unclear, and it often leads to vehicles entering the roundabout in a muddled order - in turn meaning pedestrians cannot predict vehicle movements.</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – This is an absolute necessity for our community, and I am amazed this has not been done already! Please put a zebra crossing here to enable our children to walk to school safely.</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i></p>
<p>(14) Local Resident, (Wantage)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i></p>
<p>(15) Local Resident, (Wantage)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – A school zebra crossing will be invaluable for the safety of our children and future children to the school.</p>
<p>(16) Local Resident, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – An absolute must on this busy junction right next to the school as well as for the increased footfall due to the new developments being built.</p>
<p>(17) Local Resident, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Would make walking my child to and from school safer.</p>
<p>(18) Local Resident, (Wantage)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Its needed for the safety of parents and children trying to cross this busy road</p>
<p>(19) Local Resident, (Grove)</p>	<p><b>Support</b> – Will make my children's journeys to and from school much safer. Along with the safety of the general public</p>

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(20) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – This is long overdue, but a zebra crossing isn't safe enough. There still needs to be a lollipop person helping the children cross the road.
(21) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – My child crosses that road to attend school.
(22) Grove C of E Primary School	<b>Support</b> – The safety of our children should be a priority.
(23) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – It should be mandatory for every School to have a safe crossing for the children to, it baffles me why we haven't had one for so long!!
(24) Local Resident, unknown	<b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i>
(25) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i>
(26) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i>
(27) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<p><b>Support</b> – This is a necessary addition on a very busy main road out of Grove. I have witnessed several near misses walking my own children to Grove C of E, whereby a car has stopped to let people cross the road the car behind will go to overtake the stationary car.</p> <p>With the addition of the new houses nearby there are also plenty of people walking from there to Millbrook school who also cross the road there.</p> <p>Most children live close to the school and the older children should be able to walk to school independently however given the busy road that most need to cross many parents are reluctant to let their children do so.</p>

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(28) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – I feel that this crossing is a must have for the primary school as the road is too fast for the older children who walk to and from school by themselves. An accident is waiting to happen.
(29) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – Safety!!
(30) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – I have written in about this as I feel very strongly for the safety of our children, we need a safer way to get to school. A zebra crossing alone probably won't be sufficient but it's a step in the right direction.
(31) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i>
(32) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – I work at grove CE School and have seen too many near misses and dangerous situations. Please provide the crossing for the safety of our children and families.
(33) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i>
(34) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i>
(35) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i>
(36) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – I support the proposed installation of the zebra crossing for several reasons; for the time taken to cross during busy periods and for the safety of pedestrians (namely older children who walk/cycle to school alone).
(37) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – Child safety should be paramount. The zebra crossing will greatly improve pedestrian safety generally in the Oxford Rd area but particularly so for the children attending Grove C of E School and the local elderly residents too. Given the presence of the two mini-roundabouts and the speed bump, I do not believe the zebra will cause much



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	additional delay to traffic, but it will definitely make crossing the road far safer. It's hard to believe that a crossing wasn't incorporated into planning when the school was originally commissioned.
(38) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – Many children and adults cross the road at this location a zebra crossing would make it much safer for all.
(39) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – My daughters both attend Grove C of E school and the crossing in Oxford Lane is essential for the safe crossing to and from school especially now that Grove is growing in size due to all of the new homes and the resulting rise in number of cars on the road
(40) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – This zebra crossing is essential for children in Grove crossing over to school.
(41) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – I Believe, in the interest of safety, that it is essential for a crossing to be put by the school.
(42) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – I don't understand why a zebra crossing outside a primary school should even require 'consultation'. This should have been installed when the school was built. The road is extremely dangerous, with poor visibility one way and a double roundabout the other way.
(43) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – I strongly support the crossing. It is vital for the safety of the children of Grove C of E.
(44) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – As a resident of Grove for the last 40 years I attended Grove C of E School back in the 80s and the crossing was terrible then it is well needed for the children safety and the parents as my child attends a school and we find it very difficult crossing the road because the traffic can be so fast and I'm scared of one of the children being hit or a car accident happening so please consider putting a cross in there it is well needed

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(45) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – No comments
(46) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – No comments
(47) Local Resident, (Grove)	<p><b>Support</b> – I am the mother of three young children (six, four and two years old). Two of my children attend Grove C of E Primary School meaning I cross Oxford Lane at the proposed crossing site every day, with my two-year-old in a buggy and my four and six year old children walking.</p> <p>The installation of the proposed zebra crossing would make our journey to and from school significantly safer. Oxford Lane is often very busy and certainly will become even more so as more of the many new houses currently being built in Grove are completed and occupied. Currently when waiting to cross the road at the proposed zebra crossing site, I often find a car will stop to let us cross but that cars coming from the other direction, however, often don't. This can cause confusion and I have to keep a close eye that my children don't start crossing the road when a driver waves us across, as I first have to ensure traffic from the other direction is also going to stop. I believe the installation of a zebra crossing would greatly increase the likelihood that traffic from both directions would stop when people are waiting to cross. This would make pedestrians safer and I imagine also improve use of the road for motorists as it is clear where and when they should stop for pedestrians.</p> <p>I am very much looking forward to the installation of the zebra crossing.</p>
(48) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i>
(49) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – My children attend the grove c of e school and we definitely need a zebra crossing there for the safety of our children
(50) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – The crossing are good for the sake of the safety for the children

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(51) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – I have 3 children who have to cross this road 5 to 6 times a day.
(52) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – <i>No comments</i>
(53) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – My son goes to school on North drive and it can be very difficult to get across the road due to the traffic. It would be much safer with a crossing.
(54) Local Resident, (Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – We need a safe crossing for the children going to school. With a double roundabout there it's (in my personal view) even more dangerous for children to cross.
(55) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – No comments
(56) Local Resident, (Grove, Wantage)	<b>Support</b> – I think this is essential for the safety of children going to school and all who live in that area.
(57) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – I have concerns that it is a zebra crossing and not a crossing controlled by lights. This is based on the high number of near misses that happen at the crossing by Millbrook Shops currently. I think a crossing controlled by lights is more effective.
(58) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – I feel that this crossing is a must have for the primary school as the road is too fast for the older children who walk to and from school by themselves. An accident is waiting to happen.
(59) Local Resident, (Grove)	<b>Support</b> – I am a parent of a child who attends (North Drive) Grove Cof E Primary School and the busyness of this road at school drop/pick up times is of great concern to me. Cars hurry by at great speed and with the mini-roundabouts it is hard for children to cross safely without adult help. We only live a few mins walk from the school but I cannot give my daughter the independence (she requests) to walk to school for fear of her safety crossing this road.

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	<p>A zebra crossing would be warmly received by all parents at the school to aid our children in crossing this busy road. It would also assist the adults crossing this road as the sheer number of vehicles using this road has significantly increased in the past 2 years.</p>
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