

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 25 JULY 2013**

### **PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING – READING ROAD WALLINGFORD**

**Report by Deputy Director of Environment & Economy  
(Commercial)**

#### **Introduction**

1. This report considers the results of a public consultation on a proposal to install a zebra crossing on the Reading Road, Wallingford approximately 12 metres north of its junction with St Lucian's Lane. The report recommends that approval be granted to proceed to detailed design and implementation. A reduced scale plan showing the proposed location and layout of the crossing is attached at Annex 1.

#### **Background**

2. Recent development at Wantage Road, Wallingford has presented an opportunity for this issue to be considered. Developer funds have been collected for general transport infrastructure improvements in Wallingford and the proposal for a zebra crossing in this vicinity came from the local member following requests from several residents.

#### **Consultation**

3. Public consultation on the proposed zebra crossing was undertaken between 07 May and 03 June 2013.
4. Consultation was carried out with emergency services, local County Councillors, South Oxfordshire District Council, Wallingford Town Council and road user groups. Residents within the length of the crossing area were also consulted as was the Local Mobility Issues Group. Copies of the public notice were posted on street furniture in the vicinity of the proposed crossing.
5. Twelve (12) letters of representation have been received during the consultation process with nine (9) in favour, two (2) suggesting alterations and one (1) objection.
6. The two responses requesting alterations were both from Wallingford Town Council who supported the proposed zebra crossing. The first suggested that the belisha beacons should be 'hooded' to minimise any impact on nearby frontagers whilst the second suggested that consideration should be given to moving it some 10 metres north so as not to be directly outside any properties.

7. The objection received was based on;
  - i) the grounds of light pollution and the potential negative environmental impact from the new street lighting and belisha beacons, and
  - ii) a query as to the proposed location of the crossing suggesting it may be better placed some 10 metres further to the north.
8. Thames Valley Police do not object to the zebra crossing. However, they have suggested a list of items for consideration during detailed design stage.
9. Of the responses received in favour, one was from the Mobility Issues Group, Wallingford and this included sub-responses from 13 individual members of the Group, who were also in support of a zebra crossing.

### **Officers Comment on Consultation Responses**

10. Controlled pedestrian crossings require illumination to a set level as specified within BS 5489 to ensure the crossing can be readily seen during the hours of darkness. The lanterns used will be of the 'cut off' variety that will direct the light source downwards resulting in no direct upright, thus minimising light pollution. In addition, it is suggested that Zebrite or equivalent belisha beacons are used which adjust to ambient light levels and are dimmable, thus reducing output at night to maintain a contrast. This cuts unwanted light pollution which is a major nuisance to residents.
11. The proposed crossing location has been assessed as meeting the potential desire lines of pedestrians and best suits the existing highway facilities such as adjacent bus stops and footways of sufficient width. If the crossing was to be positioned to the north of the proposed site, one if not both of the existing bus stops would need to be relocated and footway gradients at the crossing point would exceed the maximum permissible, resulting in non-compliance with mobility guidelines.
12. A summary of responses received along with officer comments is included at Annex 2. Copies of the consultation responses are available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.

### **How the Project Supports LTP3 Objectives**

13. The project meets Local Transport Plan 3 objectives, especially:
  - a. Improving accessibility to work, education and services
  - b. Securing infrastructure and services to support development
  - c. Developing and increasing cycling and walking for local journeys, recreation and health.

## **Equality and Inclusion**

14. The scheme proposals are not considered to have the potential to affect people differently according to their gender, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation, age or disability.
15. However, subject to approval at this meeting, liaison with local inclusive mobility and access groups will continue during the detailed design process to inform the final design, in order to offer the most advantageous crossing for all users.

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

16. Staff resources from the Highways and Transport Service will be required to deliver the project.
17. Contributions for the delivery of the zebra crossing have been secured through negotiations with nearby developments with further funding from the Integrated Transport Block Fund.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

18. **The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to:**
  - (a) **approve the zebra crossing as shown in Annex 1 to this report for design and delivery in 2013 / 14, and**
  - (b) **delegate authority to the Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to deal with any specific matters relating to detailed design.**

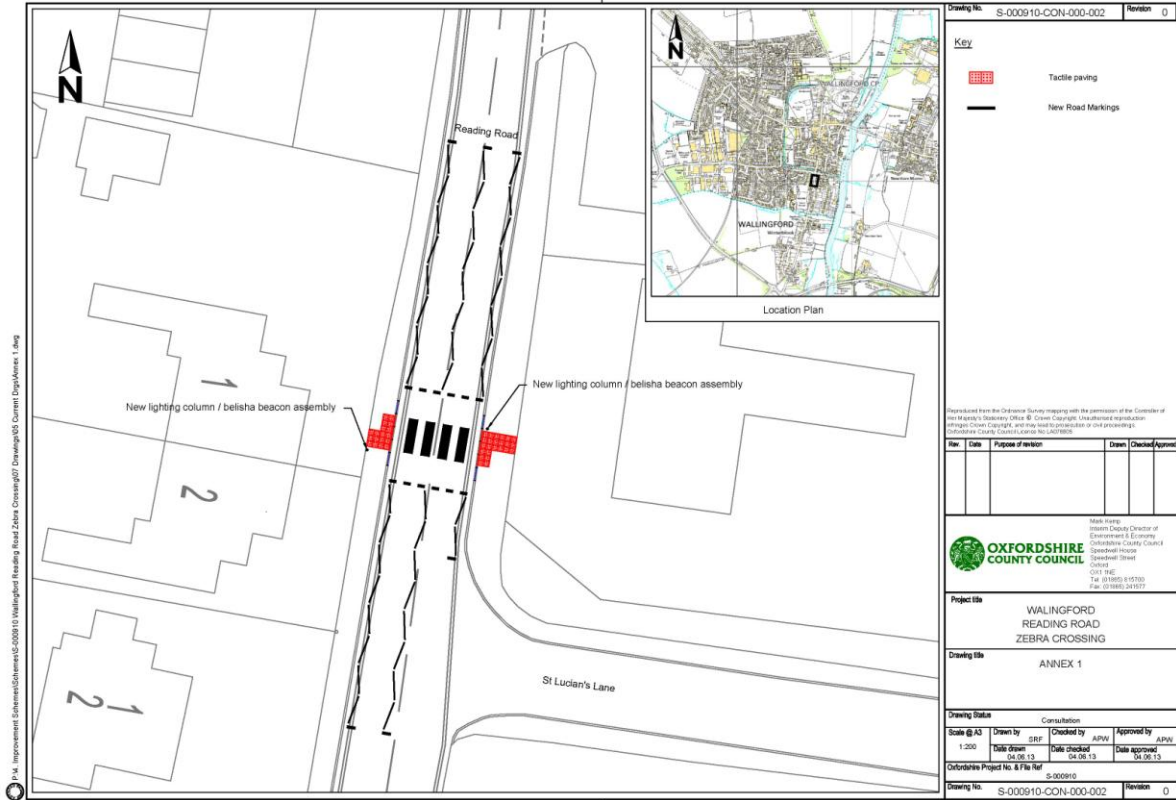
MARK KEMP  
Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Background papers: Consultation Documentation

Contact Officer: Jim Daughton

June 2013

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P:\4 - Improvement Schemes\Scheme\000910 Wallingford Reading Road Zebra Crossing\07 Drawings\05 Current\Drawings - 1.dwg

Drawing No.	S-000910-CON-000-002	Revision	0
<b>Key</b> Tactile paving New Road Markings			
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn / Checked / Approved
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<b>Project title</b> WALLINGFORD READING ROAD ZEBRA CROSSING			
<b>Drawing title</b> ANNEX 1			
<b>Drawing Status</b> Consultation			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
1:200	SRF	APW	APW
	Date drawn	Date checked	Date approved
	04.06.13	04.06.13	04.06.13
<b>Oxfordshire Project No. &amp; File Ref</b> S-000910			
Drawing No.	S-000910-CON-000-002	Revision	0

## Summary of comments received during Consultation

Respondent	Support proposal	Comments	Officer Comments
Thames Valley Police	Y	No objection to the crossing provision but raised a number of items for consideration during detailed design.	The items raised, such as anti – skid surfacing, tactile paving, street lighting and additional signage will be considered at detailed design stage.
Residents of Reading Road (and neighbouring) (7)	Y	Very much in favour of the proposed crossing that would improve access to town centre, medical centre and bus stops etc.	Noted
Resident of Reading Road (1)	N	Appreciates that a crossing is required in the vicinity but objects on the grounds of light pollution from proposed street lighting and belisha beacons.  Suggests that the crossing location could be moved some 10 metres north away from direct frontagers.	'Cut off' lanterns are to be used to ensure that light source is directed downwards only. Zebrite, or equivalent, belisha beacons can be used to minimise unwanted light pollution which is a major nuisance to residents.  The crossing location chosen has been assessed as best meeting existing desire lines of pedestrians. Footway widths are very narrow at the suggested revised location and existing bus stops would also require re – siting.
Wallingford Town Council (2)	Y	Supports the zebra crossing proposal but would like to see 'hoods' employed to the belisha beacons to minimise impact on adjacent frontagers.  Consider a revised	Comments as above.

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Respondent	Support proposal	Comments	Officer Comments
		location some 10 metres north.	
Wallingford – Mobility Issues Group (13 members)	Y	Unanimously supports the proposed crossing that would improve access to town centre, medical centre and bus stops etc.	Noted