

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

BODICOTE, WHITE POST ROAD: PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING & TOUCAN CROSSING IN PLACE OF PELICAN CROSSING

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery, Communities

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the proposed introduction of a zebra crossing (with a parallel cycle crossing) on White Post Road and conversion of an existing pelican crossing to a toucan crossing (a signalled crossing for the use of pedestrians and pedal cyclists) together with the conversion of parts of existing footways to shared use footway/cycle track to link the crossings for cyclists.

Executive summary

2. Provision for pedestrians and pedal cyclists is reviewed when there are changes to the road layout resulting from development, when requested by local councils as a result of road safety concerns or 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 and Cycling Design Standards.

Introduction

3. This report considers responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce a zebra crossing (with a parallel cycle crossing) on White Post Road at its junction with Sycamore Drive and conversion of the existing pelican crossing on White Post Road 150 metres south of its junction with Sycamore Drive to a toucan crossing. The proposals also include the conversion of some existing footways to shared use footway/cycle track to link these crossings for pedal cyclists.

Background

4. The above proposals as shown at Annex 1 have been put forward as a result of an adjacent residential development.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 6 June and 5 July 2019. A notice was placed in the Banbury Guardian newspaper and in the vicinity of the proposed crossing. An email was sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service,

Ambulance service, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote Parish Council and the local County Councillor. Letters were sent to approximately 55 properties in the immediate vicinity, adjacent to the proposals.

6. Five responses were received. 2 objections and 3 neither objecting nor supporting. The responses are recorded at Annex 2. Copies of the full responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

7. Thames Valley Police have not objected to the proposals but noted that at the White Post Road junction, in particular, major changes to the layout are proposed and that a full Road Safety Audit process is required, with the police attending the Stage 3 (post completion) audit. They also noted the significant parking pressures here at school journey times, which on the one hand helps limit speeds but can also result in obstructions to visibility, which may be a concern on the approaches to the crossings.
8. In response to the above I can confirm that all the required road safety audit stages have (and will be) completed as the project progresses.
9. Bodicote Parish Council expressed some concerns over the proposals, noting that they had objected to the residential development funding the works. Specific concerns included the proposed use of a zebra crossing, with a preference being expressed for a signalled crossing and the proximity of the zebra crossing to the junction. The parish council also queried whether parking restrictions were also being proposed given the pressures here especially at school journey times.
10. As with the police comments, it is confirmed that the proposals are subject – as with all highway improvement schemes - to the road safety audit process, noting also that the design of the crossings - including their siting in respect of junctions – complies with national guidance. While there are currently no plans to introduce waiting restrictions, the ‘zig-zag’ markings at the crossing prevent parking/waiting on the approach/exits to the crossing thereby helping ensure adequate visibility.
11. The Governing Body of Bishop Loveday Primary School, the adjacent primary school, have not objected to the proposals.
12. Two objections were received from members of the public. One cited concerns that the proposals were premature given the anticipated timescale for the development progressing and also that the proposed off-road parking provision for the school was located where pedestrians would be unlikely to divert to use the proposed crossings and suggesting an alternative location for this parking area would address that. The other objection focussed on the potential conflict between cyclists and pedestrians on the parts of the footways proposed to be converted to shared use footway/cycle track and also the dangers and obstruction caused by parking by the existing signalled crossing.

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13. The above concerns are noted but the request for consideration of an alternative site for an off-road school parking area is outside the scope of this consultation as is the concern that the timing of the consultation is inappropriate in relation to progress with the development.
14. In respect of the concerns over the safety of the proposed shared-use footway cycle track, experience of comparable provision elsewhere has been good.
15. It is accepted that parking pressures in the vicinity at school journey times are quite severe although the proposed new parking area should help alleviate this.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

16. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians, pedal cyclists and general traffic.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

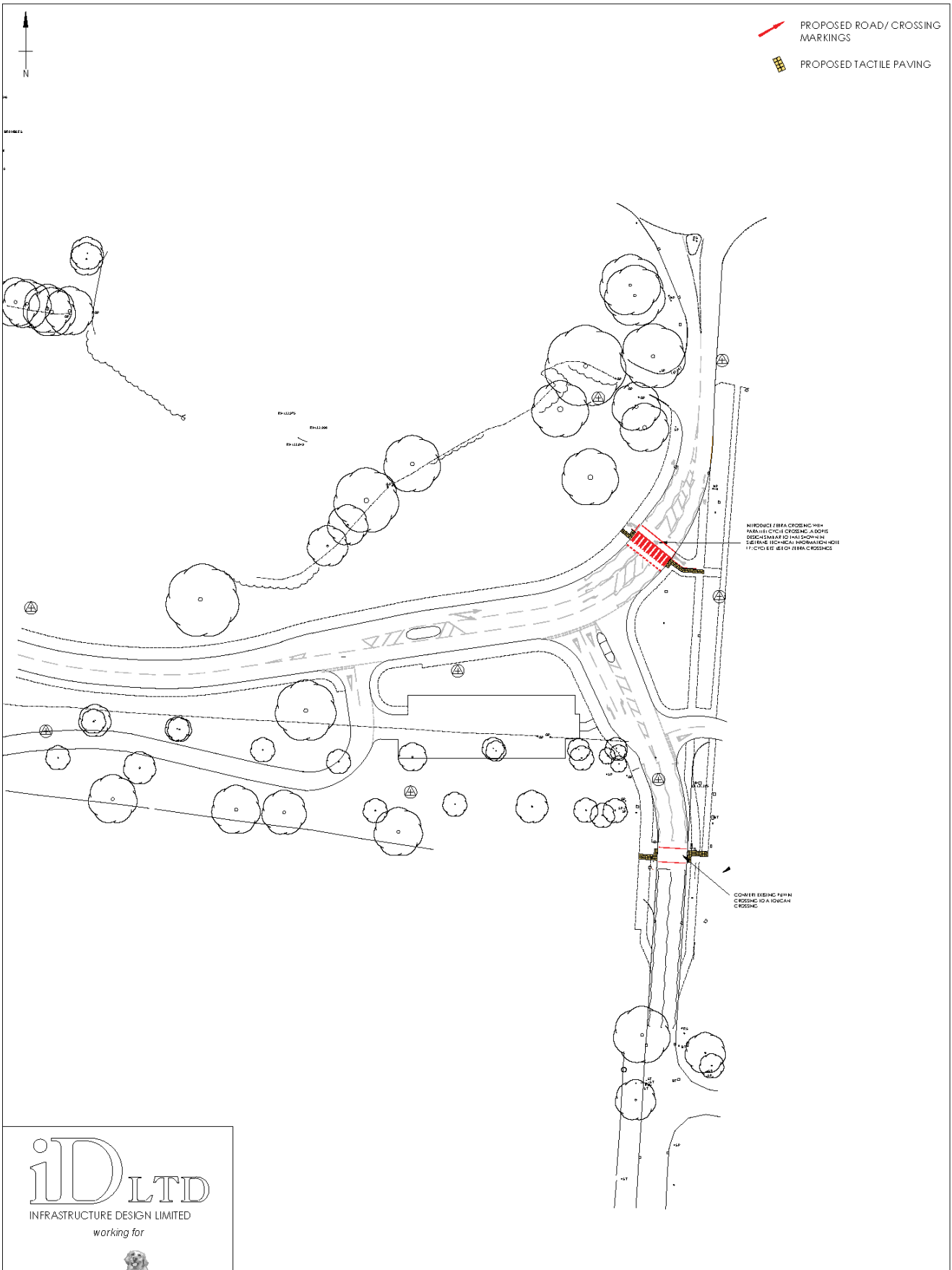
17. Funding for the proposed measures has been provided by the developers of land adjacent to the proposal.

OWEN JENKINS
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed zebra crossing
 Consultation responses

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PROJECT: White Post Road, Bodicote		TITLE: Crossing types & Locations
SCALE: 1:1250	DATE: March 2019	
DRG. No: 957-278-07	DRAWN: LB	
Ref. No: 957-278-ALL	CHECKED: PT	

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<p>No objection – The new and amended features are part/near a changed road configuration where site lines and lighting may be key safety factors. I assume the new layout will be safety audited something in the circumstances is difficult to comment on due to the total changes at the northern end of White Post road!</p> <p>Parking at material school times is also an issue that has been raised to Police for attention where congestion occurs although we accept that road safety may benefit from reduced speeds when this occurs. It is important that sight lines to the Toucan and new zebra crossings are maintained for the safety of users. Until the new layout is completed a full safety opinion IN CONSULTATION is difficult to offer. I would like to be present when the Stage 3 (post completion) Road Safety audit is carried out.</p>
(2) Bodicote Parish Council	<p>Concerns – Bodicote Parish Council objected to the planning application, however with this planning application now approved we acknowledge changes to White Post Road are unavoidable.</p> <p>With the inevitable increase of traffic, from Banbury17 and future infrastructure plans via LTP4, using the spine road, it is imperative that the safety of those using this crossing isn't surpassed by those looking for lower cost, quick fix solutions and we would like to see a 'signalised' crossing on this road.</p> <p>Will driver and pedestrian safety be compromised due to the proximity of the Zebra crossing to the junction at White Post Road? And will this be further exacerbated by existing or additional bus stops?</p> <p>Can we expect to see any parking restrictions put in place, on either the spine road or White Post Road, to improve road safety and traffic management.</p>
(3) Bishop Loveday Primary School	<p>No objection – Having reviewed the application as above Bishop Loveday Primary School Governing Body has no objection to this application.</p>

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<p>(4) Local Resident, (Banbury)</p>	<p>Object – Why is this consultation being put in hand now? So far as can be ascertained no construction work is likely to take place at the moment, and in any event - with the best will in the world - there will be no need for the new Toucan for many months, given the desultory progress with other housing sites in the area. I guess no monies for the work will be forthcoming via Sec 106 until a developer is on site (at the earliest) so there is no need to waste time and effort on something which may, indeed, never happen.</p> <p>The arrangement of this new junction has been the subject of much debate. However, the current proposal for the proposed and existing crossings shows that the current intent is far from satisfactory and in some respects is the most undesirable arrangement as it is likely to actually aggravate the road safety situation.</p> <p>Parents using the new parking area will be very tempted to cross direct to the school entrance rather than walking down White Post Rd. (WPR) to the existing crossing location and then back up the other side of WPR.</p> <p>A solution would be to locate the parking area on the north side of the new Link Road (i.e. on the inside of the bend - currently a grassed area) with the vehicle entrance opposite the entrance to the Cricket Club. This would encourage all parents and children from the Sycamore Drive direction to use the new Toucan Crossing and allow the relocation of the existing crossing further south to opposite, or close to, the Parish Council building used by the early years Playgroup and also the children's playground.</p>
<p>(5) Local Resident, (Bodicote)</p>	<p>Object – Are you proposing to allow cyclists to use the same pavements as pedestrians who use push chairs, hold hands with small children, hold dogs and elderly people who just walk, some with aids? Unless the existing pavements are widened then it will be dangerous. The safety of the existing crossing is severely compromised by the illegal and dangerous parking of vehicles. Unless these drivers are prosecuted or educated, then any improvement of crossings will be limited.</p>