

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

UPPER HEYFORD - CAMP ROAD: PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING

Report by Interim Director of Community Operations

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed introduction of the zebra crossing on Camp Road Upper Heyford as advertised.

Executive summary

2. The provision of pedestrian crossings 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 pedestrian crossings.

Introduction

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to provide a zebra crossing on Camp Road, Upper Heyford.

Background

4. The above proposal as shown at Annex 1 has been proposed because of development of land adjacent to Camp Road at Upper Heyford for residential purposes.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 31 July and 28 August 2020. A notice was placed in the Bicester Advertiser newspaper and emails sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, the Cherwell District Council, Upper Heyford Parish Council and local County Councillor. Notices were also placed on site and letters sent to approx. 50 properties in the immediate vicinity adjacent to the proposals.
6. 26 responses were received. 2 (8%) objecting, 22 (85%) supporting and 2 neither supporting nor objecting. 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.
8. County Councillor Ian Corkin, the local member, expressed strong support for the proposals.
9. Objections were received from two members of the public. One expressed the view that an additional zebra crossing was not needed given the existing crossing approximately 100m metres to the west and cited concerns that the additional crossing would lead to queuing and frustration to the detriment of safety. The other response - while in support of the proposed zebra crossing itself - expressed an objection to an additional road hump given the number of existing calming features on Camp Road, some of which were judged to be too severe.
10. Noting the above, the current uncontrolled crossing point at the site of the proposed zebra crossing is very heavily used, in particular by students at the adjacent school, and the existing zebra crossing to the west would not be on the desire line for many of the pedestrians currently crossing Camp Road by the school. The spacing between the two zebra crossings would be consistent with national guidelines on their provision. The proposed crossing requires the existing junction table to be extended, rather than a new road hump installed, and so there will be no addition to the number of traffic calming features on the road.
11. A response expressing a concern was received from a local business about the current calming measures and the damage and noise caused, particularly by large goods vehicles (including car transporters) using the road. While these issues are noted they are beyond the scope of this specific proposal. This response also queried a point of technical detail on the design of the crossing and it is confirmed that the tactile paving provided at the new crossing will comply with standard practice.
12. Expressions of support were received from twenty-one members of the public, noting the number of pedestrians and, in particular, school students crossing here.

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 developers of land adjacent to Camp Road.

Equalities Implications

15. No equality implications have been identified in respect of the proposals.

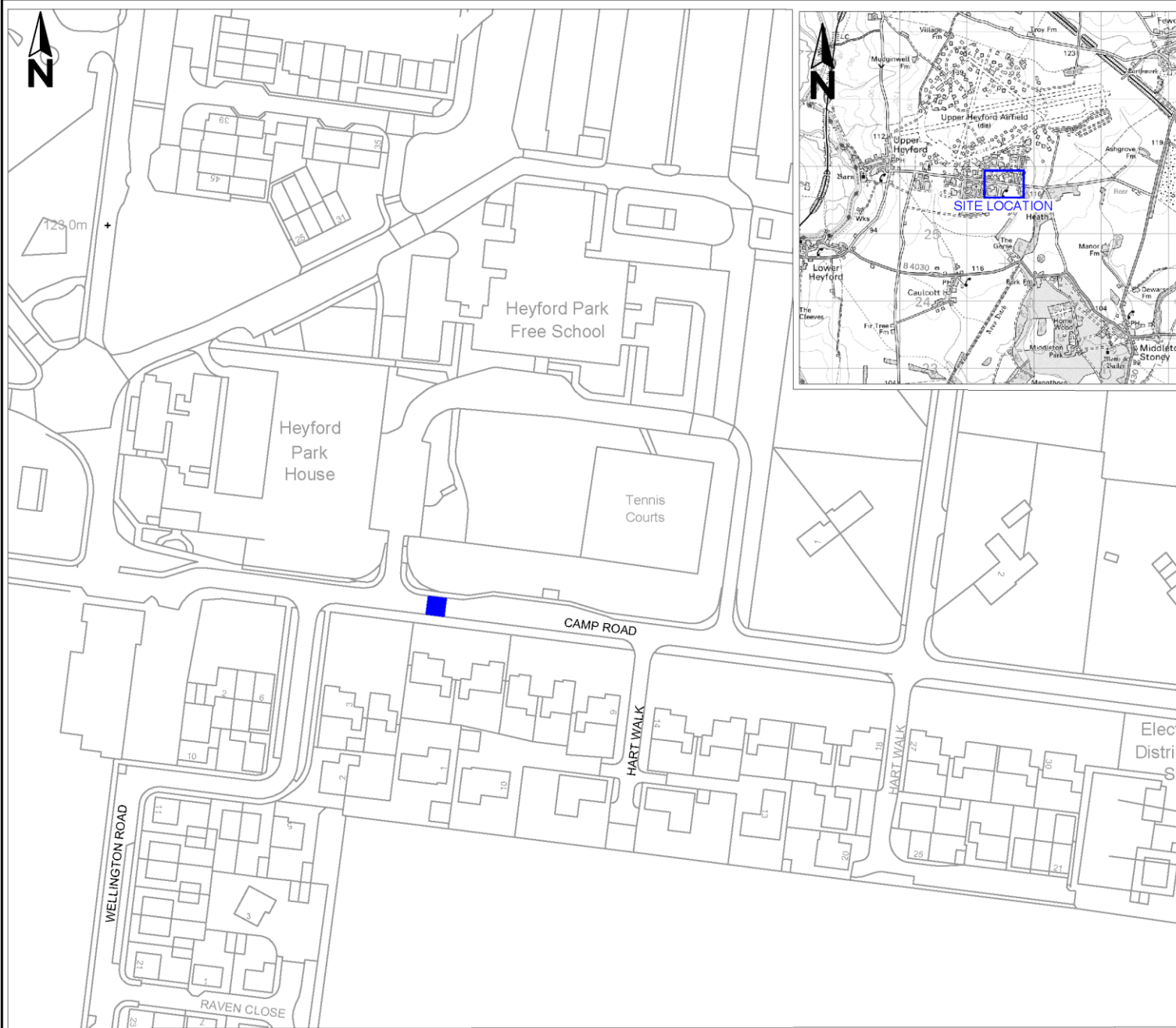
JASON RUSSELL
Interim Director of Community Operations

Background papers: Plan of proposed zebra crossing
 Consultation responses

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 Julian Richardson 07825 052736

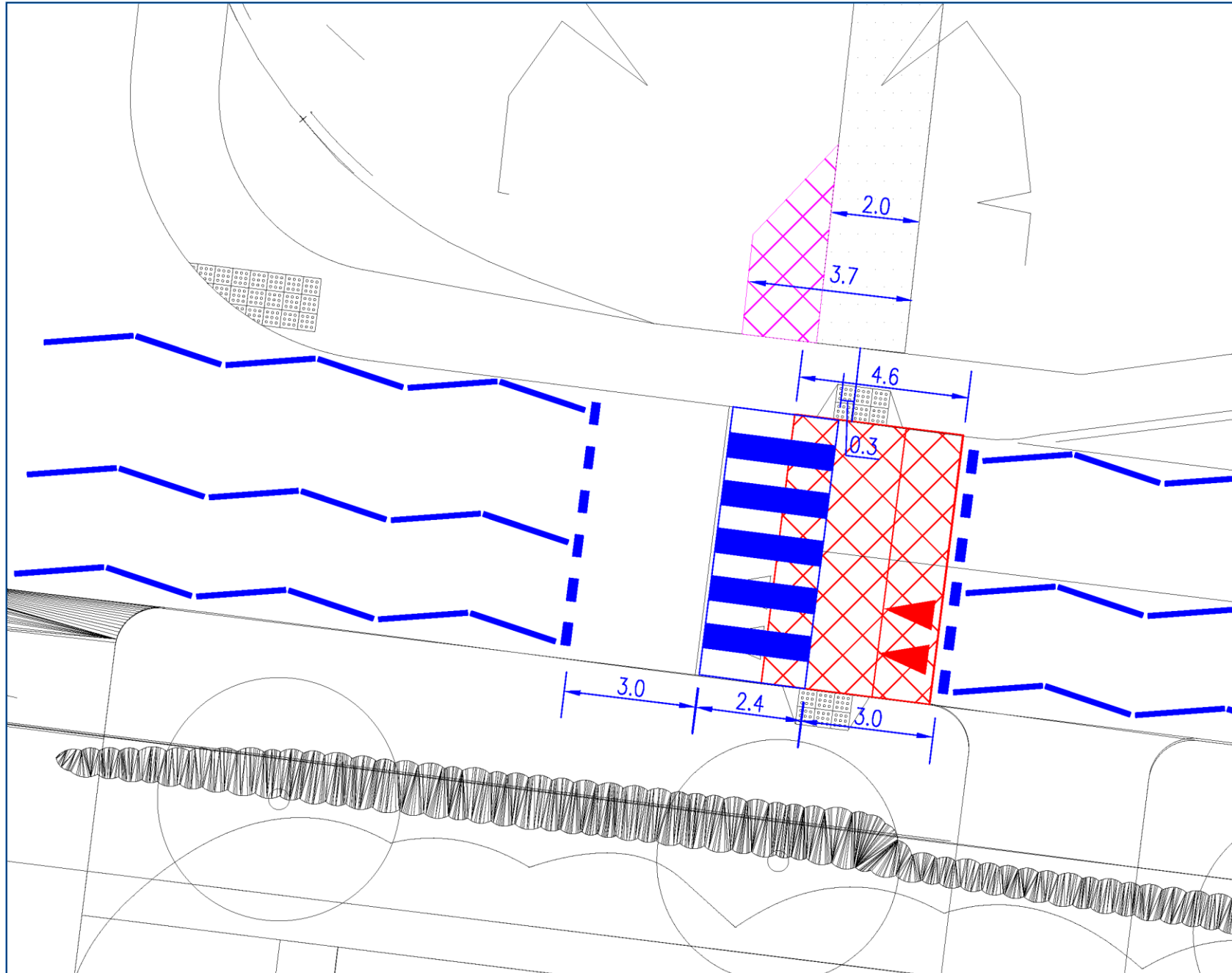
September 2020

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Drawing No.		Revision	
		0	
Key			
		Proposed Zebra Crossing	
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Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn Checked Approved
Jason Russell Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities Oxfordshire County Council County Hall Oxford OX1 1ND Tel: 0345 310 11 11 Fax: (01865) 241577			
Project title			
PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING			
Drawing title			
UPPER HEYFORD CAMP ROAD			
Drawing Status			
Scale @ A3	Drawn by	JaC	Checked by
N.T.S.	Date drawn	07/20	Date checked
Oxfordshire Project No. & File Ref			
Drawing No.		Revision	
		0	

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Notes:

Key:



Extent of new ramp construction

REV:	DESCRIPTION:	BY:	DATE:
A	Stop line moved to bottom of new ramp		13/07

STATUS: INFORMATION ONLY			
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CLIENT: Dorchester Living
Hayford Park
Oxford
OX25 5HD

ARCHITECT: Dorchester Living
Hayford Park
Oxford
OX25 5HD

SITE: Camp Road
Hayford Park

TITLE: Zebra Crossing Option

SCALE AT A3:	DATE:	DRAWN:	CHECKED:
NTS	10/07/2020	RS	BD
PROJECT NO:	DRAWING NO:	REVISION:	
-	001	A	

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection – This is consistent with the informal detail where this road is effectively calmed with this as an addition. Speeds are compliant in anew urban environment appropriately.
(2) Local County Cllr (Ploughley Division)	Support – I have campaigned for this crossing for some time and I absolutely support its implementation. It is a much needed safety addition to Camp Road.
(3) Local Resident, (Upper Heyford)	<p>Object - There are too many raised speed bumps that damage cars. They are so steep they damage the under-side even when going sub 10 mph. I do not want any more raised anything on camp road as damage to my car and other cars has been very expensive.</p> <p>There is a zebra crossing near Sainsburys where people can safely cross less than 100m from the school and we have no need for two so close. It will cause a traffic nightmare and a hazard from frustrated drivers and likely in my view to cause more accidents than not having one.</p>
(4) Local Resident, (Upper Heyford)	<p>Object - A Zebra crossing on Camp Road near the school, making it safer for the children and parents is a must.</p> <p>On a second note about this is the raised curb table. Note there is one there already that is too high for vehicles, Suspension creaks and unhappy passes by. I'm unsure if this was a Dorchester homes action or Road works.</p> <p>To put it bluntly I am all for the Zebra crossing but not a raised table.</p>
(5) Local Business, (Heyford Park)	<p>Neither/Concerns - I have concerns as a Chartered Civil Engineer, who has lived in Heyford Park for 25 years and for much of that time have run my consultancy practice from here.</p> <p>The Dorchester Group master plan includes a link road for HGV's to relieve Camp Road from commercial traffic,</p>

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	<p>especially car transporters. These vehicles cannot continue to use Camp Road as is clear from the repeated repairs, and the resurfacing currently in progress. The passage of car transporters over the raised junction platforms is very noisy and erodes the traffic calming measures rapidly. Not only that but the noise and pollution nuisance is inconsistent with the residential neighbourhood that has now been built. On many days the progress of these large vehicles down Camp Road is advertised by the noise of car alarms on the back of the transporters, presumably activated by traversing the humps.</p> <p>Whilst I agree that the crossing is required outside the school it would be hoped that the Council will insist on the construction of the relief road at the earliest opportunity. This will improve safety and remove much commercial traffic from the school approaches.</p> <p>On another matter I don't understand why the tactile crossing is offset from the crossing markings; surely visually challenged pedestrians should ideally be guided to the centre of the crossing itself?</p>
(6) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)	<p>Support - Safety of children at the school. I have witnessed several very near misses at the existing crossing near the shops as drivers appear to not notice it is even there</p>
(7) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)	<p>Support - I support the idea of a pedestrian crossing, Camp Road is a busy road and for the safety of our children, there must be a safe crossing to the school.</p>
(8) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)	<p>Support - School crossing is currently dangerous without the crossing - with the speed and volume of traffic on Camp Road. This crossing will significantly improve the safety for parents & children crossing the road</p>
(9) Local Resident, (Heyford park)	<p>Support - I support the plans as this will improve the ability for children to cross & make other road users aware of pedestrians</p>
(10) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)	<p>Support - I am supporting the proposal because we find cars, vans and lorries are heavy users of this road and majority speed. This is vital to keep the children safe on their way to and from school. Crossing is a huge problem as we find no one wants to stop to allow anyone to cross. This is frustrating and unnecessary. As the children from both primary and secondary are now starting and finishing at similar times this is now more than ever incredibly essential to protect them.</p>

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<p>(11) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)</p>	<p>Support - Camp Road is the main thoroughfare of the village and is very busy. There is a near constant stream of HGVs throughout the day. At school drop off times the road becomes even busier. A zebra crossing would provide a safe crossing for children who live in the village to get to school and serve as traffic calming method as well.</p>
<p>(12) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)</p>	<p>Support - I believe it is important for the safety of all pedestrians in the village but especially for the children who attend Heyford Park Free School.</p>
<p>(13) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)</p>	<p>Support - This proposal is very important as it will enable young children and their parents to cross the road safely. From the educational point of view parents can explain why the children must use the crossing, teachers can talk about the 'GREEN CROSS CODE.'</p> <p>At the moment, Camp Road can be extremely dangerous at around the time children need to cross the road. I am very concerned at the speed of the traffic entering the village. I consider 20mph Flashing lights should be in operation during 'school hours'.</p> <p>The volume of traffic is obviously going to increase as more houses are built and the shops start opening up. Two speed cameras, one at each end of the village should be installed to remind people that speed kills.</p>
<p>(14) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)</p>	<p>Support - Camp Road is very busy road in front of an expanding school. The addition of a Zebra crossing at this location would enable parents and children to cross to and from the school in a safe manner, it might also provide a further element of traffic calming.</p>
<p>(15) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)</p>	<p>Support - Children need to cross the very busy Camp Road in the middle of the village to get to school. They also need to cross the road unaccompanied when walking between the main school building and the sports facilities at the west end of the estate. It is only a matter of time before an accident happens if there is no safe crossing point.</p>
<p>(16) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)</p>	<p>Support - I have witnessed over 600 vehicles per hour driving on Camp Road near Wellington during the start of the school day. Even when HGV's are rerouted to Chilgrove Drive in the future, there will still be a heavy amount of traffic for students and parents to contend with from the south residential areas of Harts Walk, Wellington Road and its branches.</p>

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	<p>It will be the only pedestrian controlled Zebra crossing on Camp Road. Our village has grown to over 880 occupied homes. This crossing would be only the third pedestrian crossing on the 1.5 miles long Camp Road. For our population and geography this proposal is very appropriate.</p>
<p>(17) Local Resident, (Heyford Park)</p>	<p>Support - A crossing here is much needed. I have seen children nearly hit by cars on numerous occasions. I don't actually like zebra crossings as I think pelican crossings are much safer but anything is better than nothing.</p>
<p>(18) Local Business, (Upper Heyford)</p>	<p>Support - I support the zebra crossing because I'm a Parent to one of the children at the school and I'm also a childminder and find it very difficult to cross the road in the mornings and after school with small children that go to the school. I totally agree with the crossing, I think it would make Heyford Park a safer place</p>
<p>(19) Local Resident, (Upper Heyford)</p>	<p>Support - I feel a Zebra crossing is a vital provision for the community being directly opposite the school. Camp road is extremely busy during the week in the morning and evening 'rush'. The proposed position is in the exact natural place that the children attempt to cross the road to the wider footpath on the south side of camp road and will make crossing much safer for children and parents.</p>
<p>(20) Local Resident, (Upper Heyford)</p>	<p>Support - This crossing has been needed since the school opened. Primary and secondary school children cross the road several times daily and with heavy goods and large traffic volume this section of a Camp Road is an accident waiting to happen.</p>
<p>(21) Local Resident, (Upper Heyford)</p>	<p>Support - Safety for the children/ adults crossing the road to get to school</p>
<p>(22) Local Resident, (Upper Heyford)</p>	<p>Support - There have been a number of "near misses" on this road. Students travel between 2 sites on different sides of the road and it is therefore imperative that there is a safe place for crossing. At present the crossing is often ignored by traffic, I myself have nearly been mown down on several occasions due to non-stopping vehicles.</p>

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<p>(23) Local Resident, (Upper Heyford)</p>	<p>Support - We support the introduction of a zebra crossing as we've previously communicated the dangers for children crossing Camp Road directly to the Council back in 08/07/2017.</p> <p>Regarding the proposed plan detail however, there is no mention of any amber (Belisha) beacons? These should have shrouding to prevent continuous flashing light pollution to the residential properties near the crossing, specifically numbers 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Hart Walk.</p> <p>The zig-zag lines should be extended further west to cover the school vehicular complete entrance and the drive access to numbers 3 and 4 Hart Walk. The plan appears to indicate the lines stop halfway across the entrance and driveway. This is necessary (in addition to being aesthetically more appealing) since during the school run, inconsiderate parents often stop at these areas, blocking drivers' and pedestrians' line of sight.</p>
<p>(24) Local Resident, (Upper Heyford)</p>	<p>Support - The crossing will be immediately in front of our house. We support the crossing to improve the safety of the road, particularly for school children.</p> <p>Since living in our house, we regularly witness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) dangerous overtaking of car transporters by impatient drivers2) student drop-offs causing obstructions to the pavement and road3) children walking directly into the road when leaving school4) a near-miss when a child crossed the road between queuing cars whereby a car from the other direction nearly hit the child <p>We believe that a zebra crossing and associated zig-zag markings will greatly reduce hazards in the area.</p> <p>We request that the following points are taken into consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) the new flashing beacons are directional / shaded to avoid affecting our front-facing bedrooms2) the posts are placed sufficiently far from our driveway to avoid creating a hazard when entering or leaving our drive3) the new ramp gradient is sufficiently shallow to avoid cars scaping the front, or car transporters scaping the rear, (I noticed some suggestions of 1:30, but others of 1:12 or 1:15; the latter seems similar to the current gradient which is causes impacts with the road surface for many vehicles).

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<p>(25) Resident, (Ardley)</p>	<p>Support - A zebra crossing yes I support this, but do not think that road needs another traffic calming bump unless the current block paved ones are taken out and solid ones are put in.</p>
<p>(26) Resident, (Ardley)</p>	<p>Support - Safety for all is an absolute must, especially outside this busy school. Traffic travels too fast on camp road, and the amount of lorries using this road is astronomical. Without a safe pedestrian crossing it's an accident waiting to happen.</p>