

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 12 JANUARY 2017**  
**PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSING – A361 SOUTHAM ROAD**  
**BANBURY**

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

**Introduction**

1. This report presents responses received in the course of a statutory consultation on a proposal to provide a toucan crossing on the A361 Southam Road at Banbury.

**Background**

2. Development of land on the west side of the A361 Southam Road to construct a new retail store will result in increased demand for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road in the vicinity of the store, and a toucan crossing (a signalled crossing for the use of both pedestrians and pedal cyclists) is proposed as shown in Annexes 1 & 2 to provide a safe and convenient crossing point.

**Consultation**

3. The formal consultation on the above proposal was carried out between 28 October and 27 November 2016. A public notice was placed in the Oxford Times, and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Banbury Town Council and the local County Councillors. Additionally, street notices were placed in the vicinity of the proposed crossing and letters sent to adjacent premises.
4. Three responses were received. Thames Valley Police expressed no objection, but commented from a road safety perspective on the site characteristics and traffic conditions in the vicinity of the proposed location. Two further objections were received on the grounds of increased traffic delays and additional difficulties for traffic – in particular HGV's - turning onto the A361 Southam Road from an adjacent side road serving commercial/retail premises. These responses are summarised at Annex 3. Copies of all the responses received are available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.

## **Review of responses**

5. The response from Thames Valley Police expressed no objection, but had a reservation on safety grounds due to the high traffic flows and close proximity of the crossing to several busy retail access roads. While this concern is noted, the siting of the crossing fully complies with Department for Transport guidelines on location of crossings in respect of nearby side roads, and although the Southam Road is a busy road, experience of toucan crossings on roads with similar traffic flows and close to comparably busy side roads does not indicate any safety problems as a result.
6. The objection on the grounds that safety would be compromised for large vehicles turning right onto the Southam Road from the access south of the proposed crossing due to traffic queuing across the junction is also noted. Such difficulties do not appear to be recorded at other sites with a similar layout to that being proposed and with similar traffic flows (albeit it is acknowledged that the proportion of HGV's using this specific access is likely to be higher than average). It would be possible to place a 'Keep Clear' marking at the junction with Marley Way (to indicate to southbound drivers the need to keep the junction clear) should this be shown to be necessary.
7. It is accepted in respect of the objection relating to the proposed crossing adding to traffic delays that traffic will be held up when the crossing is in use, but such delays are considered proportionate given the need to safely provide for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the road, and will not be excessive on the basis of crossings provided on roads with similar traffic volumes and where crossing demand is appreciably higher than is anticipated to be the case here. The suggestion that a zebra crossing is provided rather than a toucan crossing is noted, but as well as a toucan crossing providing for both pedestrians and cyclists it is also considered a more appropriate type of facility for this location.

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

8. The proposals would help facilitate safe movement of traffic.

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

9. Funding for the crossing has been provided by the developer of the adjacent land.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

10. **The Cabinet Member for the Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve implementation of the crossing as advertised and described in the report.**

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CHRIS McCARTHY  
(Interim) Deputy Director of Environment & Economy (Commercial)





Background papers:        Plan of proposed restrictions  
   Consultation responses

Contact Officers:            David Tole 07920 084148

January 2017

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT



-  Approximate centre of proposed Toucan crossing (60m SW from Marley Way)
-  Approximate location of development site
-  Current 40mph speed limit (not changing)
-  Current 30mph speed limit (not changing)

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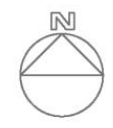
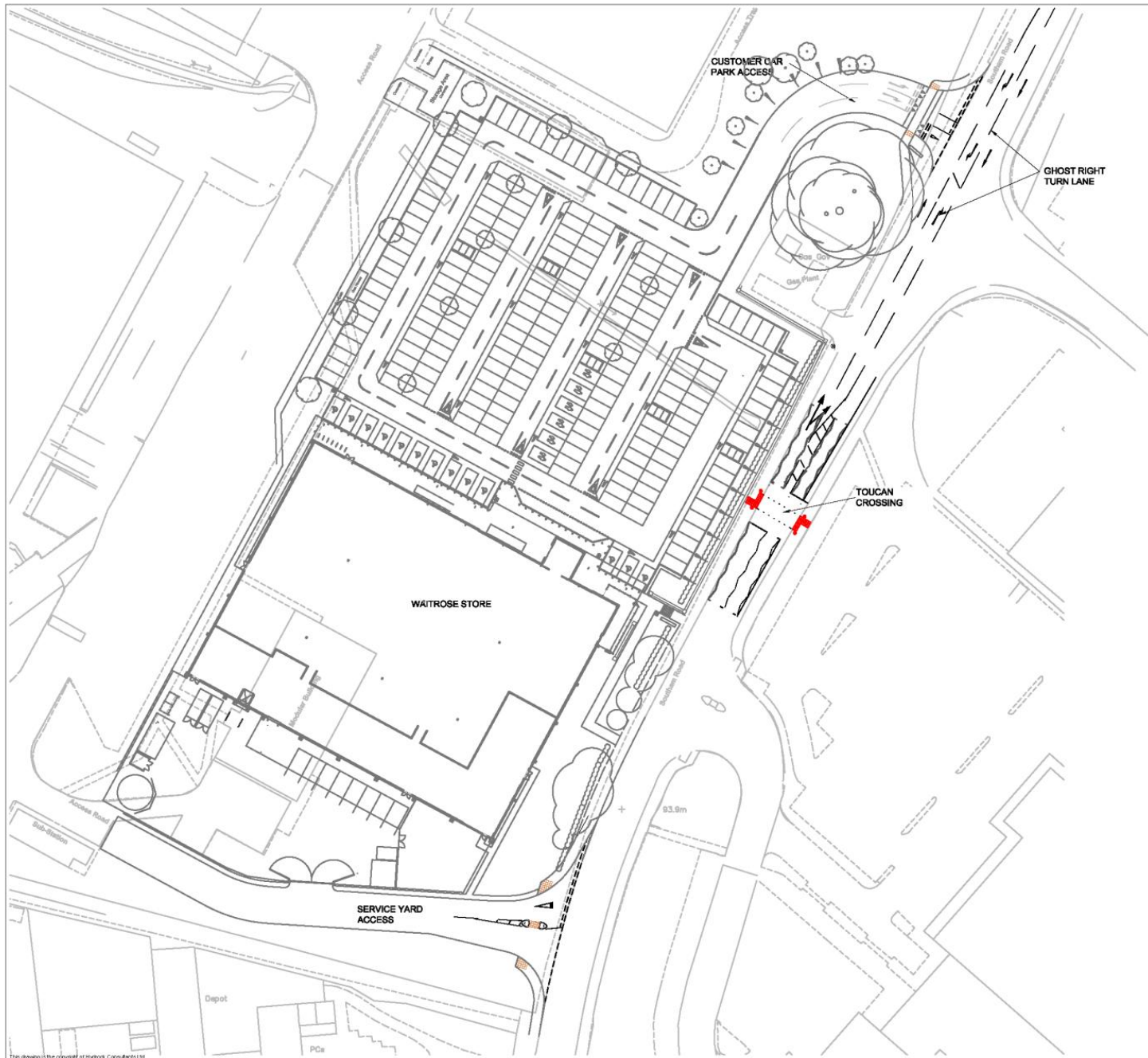


Date drawn: 24/10/2016  
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Map centre:  
 easting. 445423, northing. 241467

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Clid
T1	07.10.16	TENDER ISSUE	GW	JH

Architect:  
**CORSTORPHINE + WRIGHT**

**Hydrock** Hydrock Consultants Ltd  
 Hydro Valley Innovation Centre  
 Central Boulevard  
 Luton L11 1AB  
 T +44 (0)1525 528800  
 www.hydrock.com

Client:  
**db symmetry**

Project Title:  
**WAITROSE BANBURY**

Drawing Title:  
**SECTION 278  
 SIGNALISED CROSSING PLAN**

Drawing Status:  
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<b>RESPONDENT</b>	<b>SUMMARISED COMMENTS</b>
(1) Thames Valley Police	<p>No objection – with the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Thames Valley Police have no objection to the proposal, but do have some reservation on safety grounds due to the high traffic congestion potential and close proximity to several busy retail access roads all diverging onto Southam Road.</li></ul>
(2) Local Business, (Southam Road)	<p>Objects – with the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The proposed crossing will compromise HGV drivers ability to turn right out of the junction with Homebase onto the A361. The introduction of a Toucan crossing will result in traffic queuing across the junction which will severely impact HGV drivers' ability to manoeuvre safely.</li></ul>
(3) unknown, (online response)	<p>Objects – with the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ This part of the Southam Road is subject to enough delays as it is. I think this will just exacerbate the issue further,</li><li>▪ If you <b>MUST</b> put a crossing here, please make it a zebra crossing to avoid too much disruption to the flow of traffic.</li></ul>