

Divisions affected: *Benson & Cholsey*

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT  
8 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**CROWMARSH: THE STREET – PROPOSED RAISED ZEBRA  
CROSSING,**

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the proposed raised zebra crossing at The Street, Crowmarsh.

**Executive summary**

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on proposals to introduce a raised zebra crossing on The Street, Crowmarsh as shown in **Annex 1**.

**Financial Implications**

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals and its implementation if approved has / will be provided by Crowmarsh Parish Council.

**Equality and Inclusion Implications**

4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

**Sustainability Implications**

5. The proposals will help parents and children to cross The Street when walking to / from Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School.

**Consultation**

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 30 June and 29 July 2022. An email was sent to statutory consultees & key stakeholders, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, countywide transport, access & disabled peoples user groups, South Oxfordshire District Council, Crowmarsh Parish Council, and the local County Councillor. Notices were placed on site and letters sent to approximately 50 properties in the immediate vicinity.

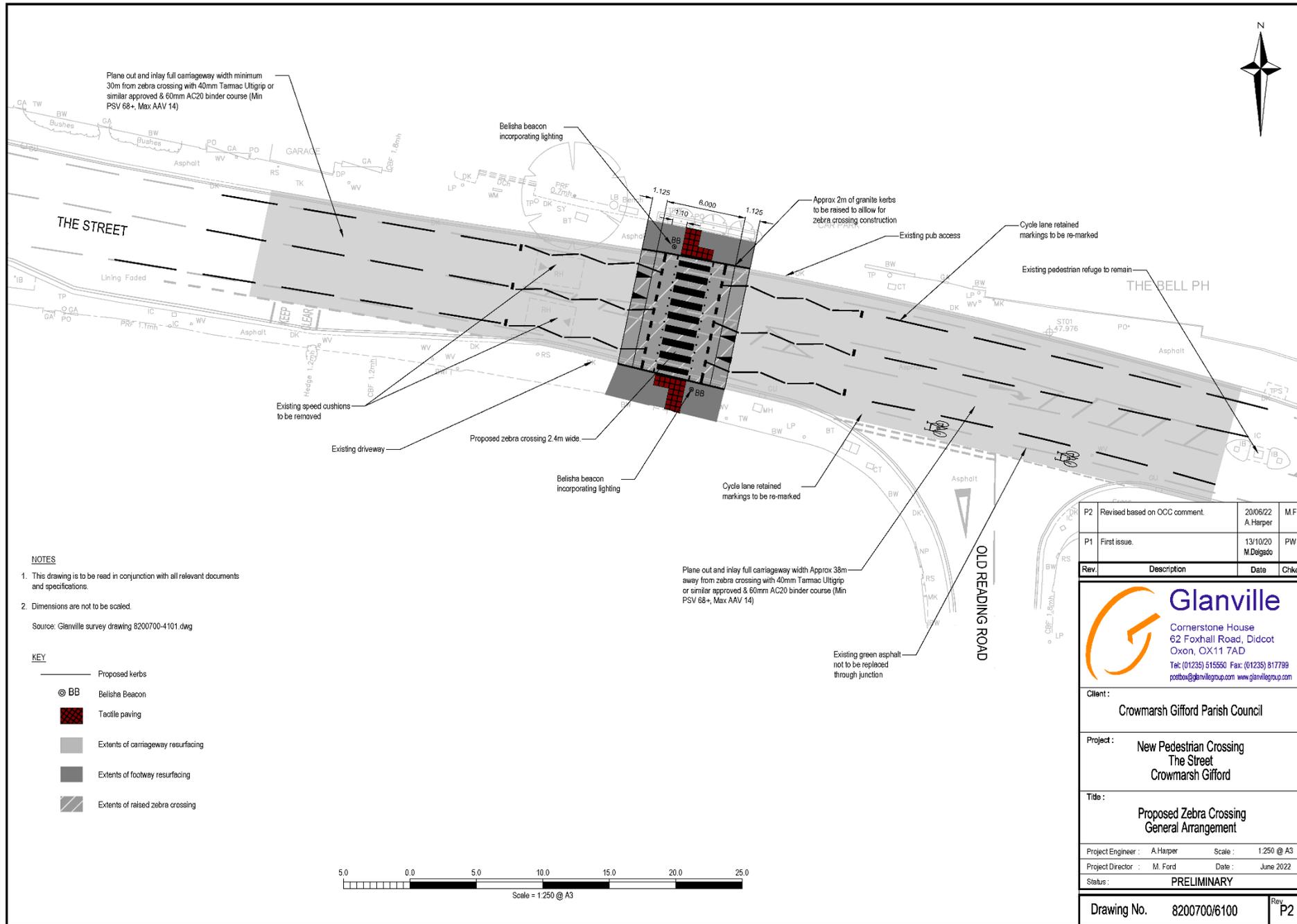
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7. Six responses were received during the formal consultation, comprising of two objections, two concerns, one in support, and one non-objection
8. The full responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.

### **Officer response to objections / concerns**

9. Thames Valley Police raised no objection to the proposal.
10. An objection was received from a member of the public on the grounds that the proposed location was unlikely to be used by parents and children from the new French Gardens development east of Benson Lane / north of The Street. They state that these pedestrians currently use the uncontrolled crossings at the Benson Lane / The Street mini-roundabout junction, and that zebra crossings should be provided there.
11. In response, the Parish Council have advised that prior to the closure of The Bell PH at the start of the Covid pandemic, some parents parked their cars in the pub car park and walked their children the short distance across The Street (on the line of the proposed zebra crossing) to the primary school on Old Reading Road. They add that a crossing at this location has been an ongoing request from the primary school for many years.
12. The Parish Council have also advised that extensive refurbishment of The Bell PH has recently started and that when it is eventually finished the planning consent includes a new pedestrian footpath from the French Gardens development through to the pub car park and to the site of the proposed zebra crossing, which will mean that the need for the crossing at this location is greatly increased.
13. Another objection was received from a member of the public on the grounds that The Street already has numerous and effective traffic control and pedestrian safety measures in place and they remain baffled as to why this zebra crossing is being proposed, the proposed crossing addresses a non-existent problem and is a waste of Council money, the crossing will be right next to the Bell PH car park entrance / exit, noise pollution will increase due to cars stopping and starting outside their house, construction of the crossing will be disruptive and noisy, there will be a potential increase in light pollution, and tradespeople use the kerb at the site of the proposed crossing to park when visiting adjacent properties.
14. In response, The Street is traffic calmed with speed cushions and there are uncontrolled crossing points approximately 48m & 75m either side of the proposed zebra crossing. However, parents and children are faced with a busy road to cross, particularly in the mornings when many vehicles travel down The Street on their way to work and the existing uncontrolled crossings do not afford priority to pedestrians and are not on the pedestrian desire line as described in 11 & 12 above.



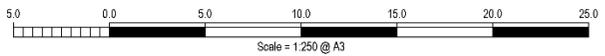


**NOTES**

- This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant documents and specifications.
  - Dimensions are not to be scaled.
- Source: Glanville survey drawing 8200700-4101.dwg

**KEY**

- Proposed kerbs
- Belisha Beacon
- Tactile paving
- Extents of carriageway resurfacing
- Extents of footway resurfacing
- Extents of raised zebra crossing



P2	Revised based on OCC comment.	20/06/22 A Harper	M.F
P1	First issue.	13/10/20 M Dalgado	P.W
Rev	Description	Date	Chkd

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**Client :**  
 Crowmarsh Gifford Parish Council

**Project :**  
 New Pedestrian Crossing  
 The Street  
 Crowmarsh Gifford

**Title :**  
 Proposed Zebra Crossing  
 General Arrangement

Project Engineer : A Harper      Scale : 1:250 @ A3  
 Project Director : M Ford      Date : June 2022  
 Status : **PRELIMINARY**

Drawing No. 8200700/6100      Rev P2

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ANNEX 2

RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	<b>No objection</b> – In principle I have no objection providing the necessary speed data has been collected and it supports such a crossing, and that current design standards have been fully met.
(2) Member of public, (Crowmarsh, The Street)	<b>Object</b> – The proposed position is unlikely to be used by new (150 houses) child/parent residents in Benson Lane when taking children to Crowmarsh Primary School. They currently use the crossings ON THE ROUNDABOUT. A similar experiment was carried out in London - and failed - hence prior experience of direct child/parent footfall to a primary school. Better to have 2 Nr zebra crossings either side of the roundabout. If it could be done in London in the 1990s it can be done in Oxfordshire in 2022. As a commuter rat run it also provided traffic calming to both sides of the roundabout. Do your consultants need details?
(3) Member of public, (Crowmarsh, The Street)	<p><b>Object</b> – we would like to register our strong opposition to the proposal.</p> <p>The fundamental reason behind our opposition is that this proposal will have a detrimental impact on ourselves and our neighbours for virtually zero gain. I understand the need for pedestrian safety but the Street already has numerous and effective traffic control and pedestrian safety measures in place. There are two existing pedestrian crossing islands within mere seconds walk of the proposed zebra crossing site and I've seen no indication they do not already do the job that the crossing would do – it is not as if The Street is a particularly wide road.</p> <p>The Street has extensive speed bumps in place and a traffic speed measurement sign. Furthermore, the roundabout that leads into Benson Lane – which is again just seconds from the proposed zebra crossing – serves as another highly effective traffic speed control point.</p> <p>One more aspect that doesn't seem to have been factored in is that this zebra crossing would be right next to the entrance/exit of the car park of the Bell pub, which is in the process of reopening after several years closure. I'm not aware that it's normal practise to have a zebra crossing right next to a car park entrance in that way.</p> <p>At a very basic level, this zebra crossing is addressing a non-existent problem and is a waste of council money that could surely be better utilised.</p>

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	<p>For ourselves as residents, the zebra crossing would negatively impact us in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased noise pollution from cars stopping and starting more frequently right outside our house.</li><li>• Potential increased light pollution from a light source that is much closer to the ground than normal streetlights and will therefore shine directly through our windows.</li><li>• Tradespeople often use the kerb to park at the site of the proposed zebra crossing when they are doing any work for numbers 82, 84 or 86 – this allows them access to these properties without blocking our respective driveways or holding up traffic in the road.</li><li>• The work required to build the zebra crossing will disrupt traffic on The Street and will affect access to our property for the duration of construction. Noise pollution will be increased during this time as well.</li></ul> <p>We are not opposed to traffic control and pedestrian safety measures when they are required and would fully support less invasive options like a speed camera if genuinely required. However, I have to say I remain baffled as to why this zebra crossing is being proposed in the first place – The Street feels like a very safe road and in the time we've lived here so far, I'm not aware of any incident where traffic has caused any harm to pedestrians. I'd like to understand why the idea is being considered and I am happy to listen, but at present I must reiterate that we strongly oppose this proposal.</p>
<p>(4) Member of public, (Crowmarsh, The Street)</p>	<p><b>Concerns</b> – As the proposed zebra crossing will have an immediate impact on my household - my house is approx 30 metres from the site - I appreciate having the opportunity to be involved in decisions around it. Broadly I am in favour of making the crossing - in the proposed location - safer for schoolchildren and their families but I question whether a zebra crossing is the best way to deliver this.</p> <p>It is not a busy crossing except at the start and end of the school day, and for normal users through the day the traffic islands at the junction of The Street with Benson Lane just 50 metres to the West make for a safe crossing. I propose that, instead of a zebra crossing, a timed system of flashing lights is installed (as outside Goring Primary School) so that the need for a safe crossing is met but more economically, at a lower ongoing cost, and more purposefully in that safety is enhanced and yet residents are not inconvenienced all day and night by flashing Belisha beacons, the stopping and starting of cars (with the attendant extra pollution) and ramps lifting car headlights at night with the potential to disturb sleep.</p> <p>On balance I believe that a school crossing with lights is the better solution but if the zebra crossing is chosen please could the Belisha beacons be shielded and turned off at night.</p>

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(5) Member of public, (Crowmarsh, The Street)	<p><b>Concerns</b> – We live at on The Street. The proposed crossing is within just a few feet of our driveway, making it very dangerous to exit without reversing onto the crossing and the crossing pedestrians. In addition, the constant flashing Belisha beacons outside the houses are a huge concern too. I can't help thinking a better site should be considered.</p>
(6) Member of public, (Crowmarsh)	<p><b>Support</b> – I was delighted to hear about the proposed Zebra crossing to be sited at the Junction with Old Reading Road.</p> <p>However, there is also a pressing need for something opposite the only shop as The Street has a majority of 80+ inhabitants and younger children some local and some who are walking to and from Wallingford each day who also shop for drinks ,sweets and ice cream there.</p> <p>The three way connection from the Street to Benson Lane is a tricky one as it is on the Bus Route and is getting busier by the day as Wallingford Reach Estate inhabitants are walking to School. Please tell me that this has been included in your thinking.</p>