

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 28 MARCH 2019

ABINGDON – DUNMORE ROAD PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSING

Report by Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed introduction of a toucan crossing (a signalised crossing for pedestrians and pedal cyclists) on Dunmore Road, Abingdon east of its junction with Parsons Mead as advertised.

Executive summary

2. The provision of pedestrian and cycle 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 the provision of pedestrian crossings and the Oxfordshire County Council Walking Design and Cycling Design Standards.

Introduction

3. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation to introduce a toucan crossing (a signalled crossing for pedestrians and pedal cyclists) on Dunmore Road at Abingdon east of its junction with Parsons Mead.

Background

4. The above proposal as shown at Annex 1 and Annex 2 has been put forward because of the development of land adjacent to Dunmore Road at Abingdon.

Consultation

5. Formal consultation on the proposal was carried out between 23 January and 22 February 2019. Notices were placed in the Oxfordshire Herald series newspaper and in the vicinity of the proposed crossing and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, the Vale of the White Horse District Council, Abingdon Town Council and local County Councillors.

6. Six responses were received. Three objections, one in support and responses from Thames Valley Police and the Vale of the White Horse District Council expressing no objection subject to the design of the crossing meeting appropriate standards. The responses are set out at Annex 3 with copies of the full responses available for inspection by County Councillors.

Response to objections and other comments

7. Thames Valley Police expressed no objection to the proposals subject to the design of the crossing meeting current national standards and also taking account of the traffic speeds. I can confirm that is the case on both counts.
8. The Vale of the White Horse District Council response noted that the proposal should benefit the residents of the approved residential development north of Dunmore Road.
9. Three objections were received from members of the public on the grounds that the proposed crossing would result in an excessive number of pedestrian crossings on the Dunmore Road, thereby increasing congestion and delays for motorists and although not, in principle, against a crossing in the general vicinity of the proposal, the respondents judged this to be only acceptable if the existing toucan crossing east of the B4017 Wootton Road/Dunmore Road /Copenhagen Drive roundabout was to be removed. The parties objecting also raised concerns about wider issues not directly connected to the proposals including delays at the above roundabout, speeding traffic on Dunmore Road, use of Parsons Mead as a rat-run and wider concerns over the adequacy of the local road network taking account of development plans and proposals for the A34/A4183 Lodge Hill interchange.
10. While the above objections are noted it is not considered that the proposals will increase traffic congestion. Also the spacing of crossings on Dunmore Road, should the proposal be approved, will not be untypical of other comparable roads and, by facilitating the safe crossing of pedestrians and cyclists, should help encourage walking and cycling trips thereby in turn helping reduce demand for car travel and the associated delays and congestion arising from additional traffic.
11. In respect of the wider concerns raised over traffic pressures in the area, including the future impact of approved development, and the suggestions for measures to address these, while noted, they are not considered to be material to the case for approving the crossing as proposed.
12. The expression of support from the member of the public is noted.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

13. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

14. 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 toucan crossing
 Consultation responses

Contact Officers: Hugh Potter 07766 998704

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RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection - In principle I have no objection providing the crossing meets current design requirements and that speed monitoring has taken place.
(2) Vale of White Horse	No objection – Land on the north side of this part of Dunsmore Road is allocated for housing development in the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1, and it benefits from outline planning permission for up to 200 dwellings (application no. P17/V1336/O). A pedestrian crossing on Dunmore Road could benefit future residents this development and existing residents.
(3) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	Object – there are already 2 crossings either side of the proposed! Will one of these be removed? Or the plan is to have 3 crossings in a short space!?
(4) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	Object –I do not object in totality to a crossing nor to the rough location as it warrants good choice for links through to Northcourt road, primary schools, secondary schools and the college. However, there is the existing crossing located right next to the Wootton Road roundabout and then a further one next to Tilsley park. This seems an excessive number in a relatively short distance. It would seem sensible to locate the new crossing marginally closer to the Wootton Road roundabout and to remove the existing one positioned right next to it, which can lead to congestion. Additionally, if I am reading the plans correctly there is to be a vehicular crossing almost directly opposite the entrance to Parson's Mead which could lead to more congestion in peak times. Has it perhaps been considered to implement a mini roundabout linking Parsons Mead, Dunmore Road and this new Unclassified road? Or make it a closer/4-way intersection so that on the rare occasion traffic at peak times does stop 2 cars can benefit? Furthermore, I am aware that the full junction at Lodge Hill has been discussed lately but is this also part of this development or will this sneak in prior to that completing, causing yet more congestion at peak times. Has there been consideration in creating (Farm Road?) better access between Dunmore Road side by Tilsley Park and Oxford Road/ Northcourt Road whilst trying to ease congestion on Dunmore Road?
(5) Local Resident, (Abingdon)	Object – As a resident of Parsons mead, I have spoken to other residents here and we are all of the same opinion that- 1. The traffic is already very bad in rush hour and that having more houses and in turn more cars on Dunmore road will worsen this.

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	<p>2. Parsons Mead is still being used as a rat run with cars speeding down and cutting through to Beverly close. I am only in favour of this crossing if you can tell us if-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.The Dunmore roundabout WILL be reinstated as a true 2 lane roundabout to handle the increase in traffic?2.The current pedestrian crossing very close to the Dunmore roundabout will NOT also be there?3.There will be NO access other than for emergency vehicles to the new housing estate on Dunmore rd opposite to Parsons mead as it is already very hard and dangerous for us to get out of Parsons mead onto Dunmore rd?4.Dunmore road will become a 30mph zone OR a speed camera will be put in as many cars speed down this rd? <p>Why don't you move the speed camera on Wootton Rd and put it on Dunmore rd where it will actually be of use?</p>
<p>(6) Local Resident, (Abingdon)</p>	<p>Support – Less likely to end up plastered on the road.</p>