

TRANSPORT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE – 20 JULY 2006

OXFORD, COWLEY PLACE ZEBRA CROSSING

Report by Head of Transport

Introduction

1. This report considers responses received to a public consultation on the proposed installation of a zebra crossing on Cowley Place, Oxford. Approval to proceed to implementation is recommended.

Background

2. The proposal for a Zebra crossing arose following an approach from Magdalen College School. The Head Master expressed the school's concern that pupils had to frequently cross Cowley Place to use the school facilities which were located on both sides of the road. The school offered to fund the facility in full.
3. Cowley Place is a cul de sac but is much used by commuters for on and off-street parking and for access to the school and college premises served from the road. Currently the pupils have to be escorted across the road. Providing a pedestrian crossing at this location will enhance safety for pedestrians and result in minimal delay for vehicular traffic. Pedestrians using the crossing will be assisted with a kerb build-out to reduce the width of the road they have to cross.

Proposal

4. The Zebra crossing proposed (Annex 1) is located at the optimum position as agreed with the school for the safe crossing of pupils.

Consultation

5. Consultation was carried out between 25 April and 24 May 2006 with local County Councillors, Oxford City Council, emergency services, other relevant bodies and local residents/businesses. 31 letters were sent and seven written replies received. Four of the replies indicated support for the scheme, one objected and the remaining two reported some concerns. Copies of the replies are available in the Members' Resource Centre. A further verbal reply was received supporting the proposal.
6. The main concerns raised were the location of the crossing in relation to the roundabout. One respondent wanted it nearer to the roundabout whilst another felt that it was too close and would cause backing up onto the roundabout. Concern was also expressed about the congestion outside the school during 'drop off' time in the mornings. The area of the crossing will be covered by the zigzag markings which makes stopping in this area a traffic offence. The Head Master has been asked to take a positive action with parents to ensure that pupils are not dropped off in this area. A more radical conversion of Cowley Place to a pedestrian priority area was suggested, as too was a school crossing patrol attendant. Comments on lining and illumination were made.
7. A full summary of the concerns received in response to the consultation on the proposal along with officer comment is set out at Annex 2.

Officer Comment

8. The Zebra crossing has generally been supported and once constructed would enhance pedestrian safety at a location where a significant level of activity by school children currently exists.
9. It is considered that the crossing in relation to the proximity of the roundabout is at its optimum position.
10. The road markings will be reviewed as part of the detailed design with a view to extending them as appropriate. Standard lighting will be incorporated in the design.

How the project supports LTP2 objectives

11. The provision of a Zebra crossing will improve safety for pupils and other pedestrians wishing to cross Cowley Place.

Financial Implications (including Revenue)

12. The detailed design and construction costs of the proposed Zebra crossing are estimated at around £26,000 which will be fully funded by Magdalen College School.

RECOMMENDATION

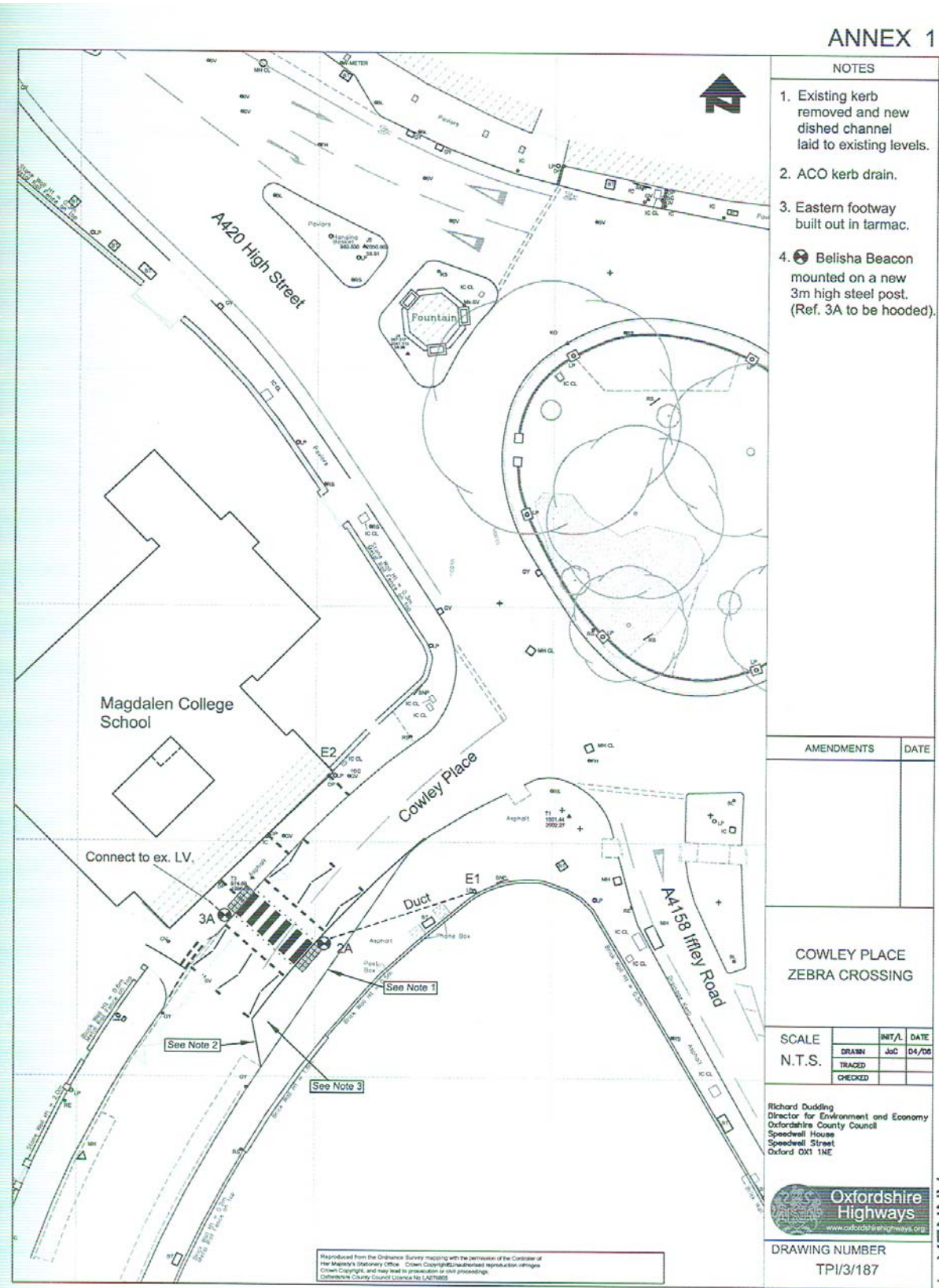
13. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve installation of a zebra crossing as shown in Annex 1 to this report to be fully funded by Magdalen College School, subject to authorising the Head of Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport to resolve any concerns or comments which might result from a Stage 2 safety audit and the detailed design process.**

STEVE HOWELL
Head of Transport

Background papers: Consultation documentation and letters of comment

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July 2006



ANNEX 2

Oxford, Cowley Place Zebra Crossing
Summary of responses received to the consultation

No.	Respondent	Support	Comment	Officer comment
1.	Magdalen College School	Y	Supports crossing and agrees funding	Noted.
2.	Thames Valley Police	Y	Supports crossing and asks that (i) School 'Keep Clear' markings are retained. (ii) zig zag lines are extended. (iii) crossing is illuminated to British Standard.	(i) Markings will be retained (ii) Zig zag lines will be extended (iii) Lighting will be to BS level.
3.	Oxford Pedestrians Association	N	Two alternatives put forward. (i) To locate crossing nearer to roundabout (ii) to designate Cowley Place as a pedestrian priority area.	(i) A crossing located nearer to the roundabout would cause backup of queuing entry vehicles onto roundabout. (ii) A pedestrian priority area would require significant resources and is not a Council priority.
4.	Oxford Licensed Taxicab Association	??	(i) Concerned about the backup of vehicles onto roundabout. (ii) Suggested that the employment of a school patrol attendant would be more appropriate.	(i) Initial objection withdrawn. (ii) A school crossing patrol assistant would have to be full-time and at the school's expense. In the long term that would cost more than provision of a Zebra crossing.
5.	Stagecoach Bus Company	Y	Will have no effect on its services.	Noted.
6.	St Hilda's College	??	Welcomes proposal but is concerned that (i) The crossing would affect the already chaotic drop-off arrangements outside the school and asked that the road is not narrowed by the build out. (ii) Also that beacons should be hooded.	(i) The narrowing of the road is considered to be necessary in order to reduce the length of the crossing and at the same time help to reduce speeds. (ii) The beacons will be hooded as part of the scheme.
7.	Cyclists Touring Club	Y	Proposal looked fine. No issues to raise.	Noted.
8.	Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	Y	Verbal reply supporting the proposal.	Noted.