

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	12 MARCH 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	SOUTHCOTE LANE - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	SOUTHCOTE
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the Sub-Committee on the review of the request for a pedestrian crossing on Southcote Lane near Circuit Lane roundabout following a petition received from local residents.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the recently announced financial contribution from Southcote Primary School be utilised to progress a proposal for a zebra crossing on Southcote Lane.
- 2.3 That in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultation and advertise the proposed Zebra Crossing in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 2.4 That Officers liaise with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors on the details of the crossing and the proposed location.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of pedestrian crossing facilities and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 A petition containing approximately 600 signatures was received from some residents of Southcote requesting a zebra crossing on Southcote Lane to the west of Circuit Lane roundabout opposite Maker Close footpath.
- 4.2 The requirements for pedestrian facilities are laid down by central government where we are required to measure the demand by a pedestrian/vehicle count (PV²). This count determines the type of facility to cater for the demand.
- 4.3 A PV² count was undertaken from Monday 9th June and Friday 13th June, between the hours of 0700-1000 and 1400-1800. Unfortunately, in accordance with the Department for Transport PV² criteria, the results of the survey demonstrate that the pedestrian crossing demand does not justify a formal zebra or puffin crossing.
- 4.4 Special factors can be applied to permit a zebra crossing to be installed if it does not meet the PV² criteria. However, due to limited available funding officers recommended improving the existing traffic island by enhancing the crossing point and upgrading the facility to a pedestrian refuge island.
- 4.5 Members requested that should funding from nearby developments become available it should go towards installing a formal pedestrian crossing such as a zebra crossing.
- 4.6 As reported to PAC in November 2014 a planning application was submitted for Southcote Lane Primary School expansion. This secured a financial contribution of £92,593.20 which is to be used towards any local safety and/or traffic management matters in the first instance.
- 4.6 With the secured funding, subject to detailed design and safety audit, a zebra crossing can now be installed on Southcote Lane in the vicinity of the access path from Maker Close.
- 4.7 Members of the Sub-Committee are therefore asked to acknowledge the change in circumstances with the recently announce financial contribution from Southcote Primary School, and approve progression of a zebra crossing on Southcote Lane rather than improve the existing traffic

islands. Officers will liaise with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors on the details of the crossing and the proposed location.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 The lead petitioner will be informed of the findings of the Sub-Committee.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising from this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 The Council will carry out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise prior to implementation of a zebra crossing.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising from this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 TM Sub Committee 16th January 2014 petition submission.
TM Sub Committee 13th March 2014 petition update.
TM Sub Committee 11th September 2014 update report