

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	10 MARCH 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	6
TITLE:	PETITION FOR A ZEBRA CROSSING ON GOSBROOK ROAD - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	CAVERSHAM
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Sub-Committee an initial response to a petition asking the Council to install a new zebra crossing on Gosbrook Road.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That surveys are carried out, a pedestrian/vehicle count (PV²) is conducted, and any concept designs are safety audited before a final scheme is brought back to the sub-committee for approval.
- 2.3 That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

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 Following a petition received by the Sub-committee in January 2016 this report considers an initial assessment of the request to introduce

a zebra crossing facility across Gosbrook Road 30 yards east of Patrick Road.

- 4.2 With the opening of the pedestrian/cycle bridge in Christchurch Meadows across the River Thames, pedestrian movements have changed within this area of Caversham. An increased pedestrian movement has been created through Christchurch Meadows to the new bridge, where such a movement of people did not exist before. The paths through the Westfield Road green area lead to Gosbrook Road and to a point broadly opposite the path through Christchurch Meadow that leads to the new bridge. These routes are becoming increasingly popular with both pedestrians and cyclists resulting in an increased desire line across this point of Gosbrook Road.
- 4.3 The existing traffic signal controlled crossing in Gosbrook Road was initially installed as a part of the signalised junctions of Westfield Road and Elliotts Way with Gosbrook Road. When the junction traffic signals were removed the pedestrian crossing was retained on its original line. It could be argued that this signalised crossing is now in the wrong location and that its relocation to the new desire line would be of greater benefit.
- 4.4 The new pedestrian desire line, however, is at a point in the road where there is a parking layby. Consequently, some parking will be lost should any form of pedestrian crossing be installed at this point. There is also a gated access to Christchurch Meadow at this location which may still be in use. Additionally, the driveway that serves Elizabeth House is within the same area and needs careful consideration so not to compromise pedestrian safety by turning traffic. The crossing point may need to be moved away from the desire line.
- 4.5 The pedestrian/cycle bridge and new connecting paths are subject to an on-going safety audit, which will be conducted periodically over the next 3 years. The safety of the connecting paths will continue to be reviewed within the safety audit process.
- 4.6 Whilst this request for a zebra crossing is in response to where people are crossing the road, it is quite a complex location. Careful consideration of all the issues is needed to ensure the appropriate facility is provided in the appropriate location. It is recommended that surveys are carried out, a pedestrian/vehicle count (PV²) is conducted, and any concept designs are safety audited before a final scheme is brought back to the sub-committee for approval.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 This proposal supports the aims and objectives of the Local Transport Plan and contributes to the Council's strategic aims, as set out below:

- Keeping the town clean, green and active.
- Providing infrastructure to support the economy.
- Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities.

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 submitting the update report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The cost of surveys will be funded from existing transport budgets.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Traffic Management Sub-committee minutes - January 2016.