Central Bedfordshire Council

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEETING

26 MARCH 2019

West Street, Dunstable

Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director, Highways

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Responsible Officer(s): Charlotte Dunham, Senior Highways Officer, Highways

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Purpose of this report

To report on the recent statutory consultation to install a raised feature in West St Dunstable, at the junction with Princes Street and Icknield Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Traffic Management Meeting is asked to:

1. Approve that the proposal is implemented as published to address a site that has a documented history.

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. This is not due to feature at overview and scrutiny.

Issues

Background Information

- 2. As part of the Annual Plan for Integrated Transport it was identified that there was a history of collisions at the crossroads in West Street, Dunstable where both Icknield Street and Princes Street meet and that an intervention was required.
- 3. This location was highlighted as part of the cluster analysis, the annual review of accident data which is currently available (2012 2017). Over this period there has been four serious and four slight accidents at this location for which the Police have attended and documented the collisions.
- Road Engineers reviewed the site and accident data and put forward solutions to improve safety at this junction. One being the reversal of the one-way system in Burr Street.
- 5. An informal consultation was carried to gauge opinion on the reversal of the one-way system in Burr Street and taken to traffic management in September 2018. The proposals were dropped, with a new solution to be proposed.

Speed Data

6. ATC data was collected at the site to establish vehicle speeds, this showed mean speeds to be below 22pmh in both directions and the 85%ile to be 26.6 and 26.2mph. A copy of the speed data is provided in Appendix B.

Scheme Proposals

7. Upon Engineers re-reviewing the site, speed and accident data, the new scheme put forward is to install a raised table at the junction of West Street/Princes Street and Icknield Street along with a central island and a review of the keep clear markings. A copy of the drawing is provided in Appendix D.

Statutory Consultation

8. Statutory consultation took place in November 2018 with the Police and other emergency services, Public Notices were also displayed on site and residents directly affected were also informed. The Public Notice is provided in Appendix

Representations

- 9. Bedfordshire Police did not object to the proposals.
- 10. Two representations were received in regard to the element subject to Statutory Consultation (75mm raised junction).

Options for consideration

11. Concerns raised as a result to the proposals were the following:

- I. Features of this sort cause noise and vibrations to neighboring properties.
- II. The feature will cause harsh braking and acceleration and some drivers may not slow at all.
- III. The traffic is free flowing, why prevent this.

Reason/s for decision

- 12. Officers response to the comments are as follows:
- I. Raised traffic calming features inevitably create some noise and disruption to adjacent residents, but this is likely to be negligible. Here traffic speeds are low and so there will be a reduction in overall noise levels. The type of feature has been selected to minimise the potential for any significant noise disturbance. The proposed feature is designed to guidance issued by the DfT, contained in Local Transport Note 1/07, with the proposed height being within the guidelines.
- II. ATC data taken from close to the proposed location of the feature demonstrates there is good speed compliance with the existing 30mph limit. And so, it is expected the negotiation of the feature will be smooth.
- III. The scheme is proposed to address a collision history at the junction and is proposed in conjunction with other alterations to improve safety.

Reason for urgency

13. The scheme is to address a documented collision history at the site in question and a solution put forward to reduce risk and collisions occurring.

Council Priorities

14. The proposals meet LTP Objective J; reduce the number of people being killed or seriously injured.

Corporate Implications

15.None

Legal Implications

16. None.

Financial and Risk Implications

17. The costs will be funded from the Capital Works budget and a target cost is to be agreed however expected costs are to be £30,000.

Equalities Implications

18. Those living in the vicinity of the proposals were consulted and as per statutory consultation Notices were displayed on site and in local press, where all are welcome to submit comments.

Conclusion and next Steps

- 19. The proposed raised table at the junction of West St/Princes St and Icknield St are to be constructed to address a collision site.
- 20. Should the proposal be approved; a Target Cost is to be established before construction on site in 2019/20.

Appendices

Appendix A: Accident Data
Appendix B: Speed Counts
Appendix C: Public Notice
Appendix D: Scheme Drawing
Appendix E: Police Response
Appendix F: Representations

Report Author:

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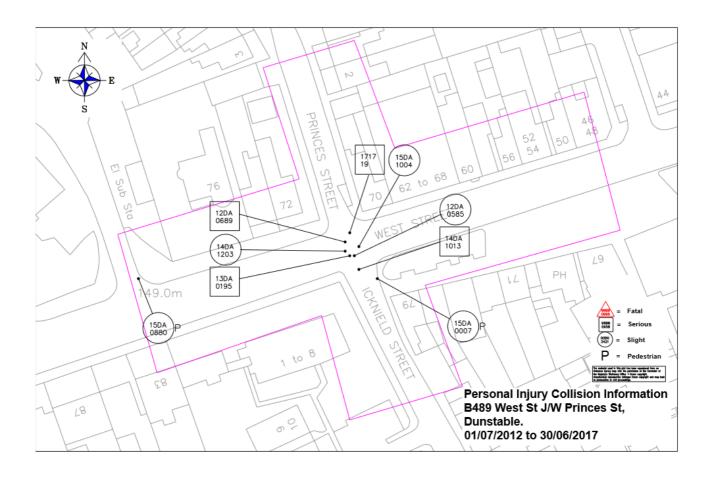
Appendix A

B489 West St J/W Princes St, Dunstable - 01/07/2012 to $30/06/2017\,$

Accident Date BETWEEN '01-Jul-2012' AND '30-Jun-2017'

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Appendix B:

Report ID	Site	Direction	Start Date	End Date	Posted Speed Limit (PSL)	Total Vehicles	Mean Speed	85%ile Speed	(24 Hour) 5 Day Ave	(12 Hour) 7 Day Ave		%age HGVs
Site	West Street (Outside Dragon City all you can eat Chineese. East of lokneidl St)	Eastbound	Tue 17 Apr 2018	Mon 23 Apr 2018	30mph	43111	20.5	26.6	6357	4584	6159	0.27%
Site	West Street (Outside Dragon City all you can eat Chineese. East of lokneidl St)	Westbound	Tue 17 Apr 2018	Mon 23 Apr 2018	30mph	49742	21.2	26.2	7411	5488	7108	0.21%

Schedule
Tue 17 Apr 2018
Wed 18 Apr 2018
Thu 19 Apr 2018
Fri 20 Apr 2018
Sat 21 Apr 2018
Sun 22 Apr 2018
Mon 23 Apr 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INSTALL TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN WEST STREET, PRINCES STREET AND, ICKNIELD STREET, DUNSTABLE.

Notice is hereby given that Central Bedfordshire Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 90 A-I of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, propose to construct a Raised Junction, in West Street, Princes street and, Icknield Street, Dunstable. These proposals are part of a scheme to reduce traffic speeds and create a safer environment for all road users.

A Raised Junction at a nominal height of 75mm, approximately 15 metres long and extending approximately 5 into Princes Street and 7 metres into Icknield Street, including ramps, extending across the full width of the road is proposed to be sited at the following location in Dunstable:-

1. West Street, at its junction with Princes Street and Icknield Street.

Further Details may be viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices.

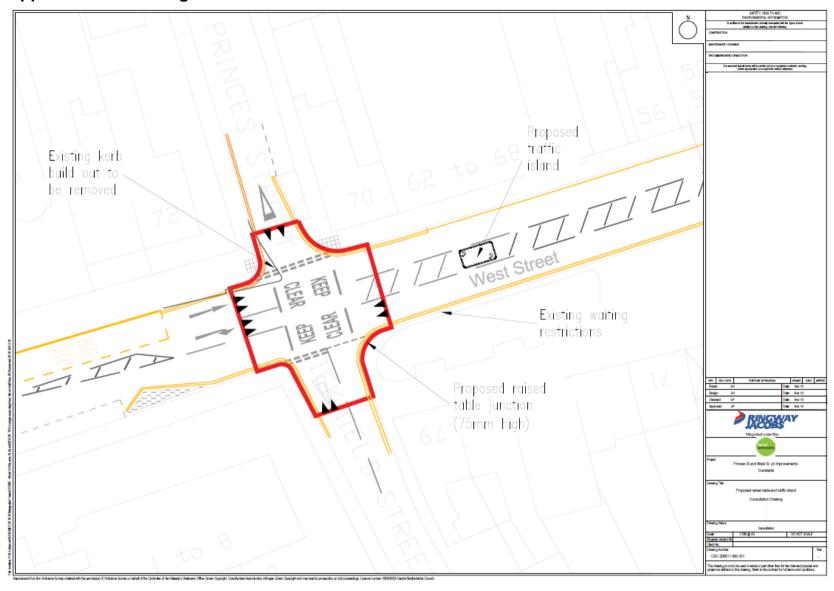
<u>Comments</u> should be sent in writing to the Traffic Management team at the address below or e-mail <u>traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.qov.uk</u> by 13th December 2018.

Central Bedfordshire Council Priory House Chicksands Shefford SG17 5TQ

22nd November 2018

Marcel Coiffait Director of Community Services

Appendix D: Drawing



Appendix E Police Response





Proposed Traffic Calming, West Street, Dunstable

This Authority has considered the proposals as outlined in your e-mail and offer the following comments for further consideration.

Comments

This Authority has considered the proposals as outlined in your e-mail and attachments dated the 19th November 2018 together with the reason given. The proposed traffic calming feature is accepted by this <u>authority</u>, therefore no objection will be offered.



Name: - ...Stephen Welham.

Address Traffic Management Office.

Traffic Management Unit,

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire Road Policing Unit,

Joint Protective Services,

Halsey Road,

Kempston, Beds.

MK42 8AX.

Signed: _S. P. Welham 20th November 2018

Appendix F:- Representations

Dear Sir/Madam,
I'm writing to you regarding the:
Proposed traffic calming – West Street, Dunstable
I live on the West street and my flat, including the the bedroom, faces the front of West Street. According to the letter we received dated for 22 November 2018, you are proposing to place a raised junction on Icknield street which is just right outside our building. The plan also includes a raised junction on Princes street.
Our building has 6 flats which majority of them will be affected by huge noise being caused by the cars passing over the raised junction. I sincerely understand that the plan is due to the traffic and safety and I wouldn't like by any means to disgrace your decision. However that would affect mainly our sleep during the night, but also the day time spend at home. Huge noise will significantly affect our quality of life.
hope you can consider changing the plan to not placing raised junctions on West street.
Should you need any more details please do not hesitate to contact me.
Thank you in advance.
Yours sincerely,

Dear Sirs

I understand that the Council is proposing to construct a 75mm raised junction at this intersection.

I have looked at your statutory notice on your website but unfortunately it does not provide any rationale or justification for such a raised junction.

My concern is that for some drivers it will cause an excessive amount of braking and accelerating, and for some others they will simply not slow down.

In either case, it is likely to create additional noise, either due to braking and accelerating, or crash and bumping of cars "hitting" the raised section at normal road speeds. All of this will occur outside a number of dwellings, at all times of day and night, undoubtedly causing disturbance to Council residents.

My own personal experience of this stretch of road is that traffic can often be tailed back at this point, in which case the raised junction will have no effect or impact, and thus be pointless.

If the traffic is flowing freely then why hinder it?

Further, there is a traffic light pedestrian crossing less than 100m to the west, and another circa 100m to the east.

Is it really necessary to further impact on noise and pollution levels by disrupting an already congested roadway?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards