
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders

Date: 13 October

Subject: Leighton Road, Toddington – Consider Objections to Proposed Raised Crossing and Table

Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways

Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Community Services for the installation of a raised crossing and table in Leighton Road, Toddington.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
nick.chapman@amey.co.uk

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Toddington

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal will improve pedestrian facilities, lower vehicle speeds and improve road safety.

Financial:

These works are being funded via the Rural Match Funding scheme which helps Town and Parish Council to deliver highway works of their choice.

Legal:

None from this report.

Risk Management:

None from this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report

Community Safety:

The raised tables should improve road safety.

Sustainability:

None from this report.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That the proposals to convert the existing zebra crossing to a raised zebra crossing in Leighton Road, Toddington located to the east of Mander Close be implemented as published.**
- 2. That the proposals to install a raised table in Leighton Road, Toddington located to the west of Manor Road be implemented as published.**

Background and Information

1. All Town and Parish Council in Central Bedfordshire have been given the opportunity to request match funding for projects of their choice in their areas. In most cases Central Bedfordshire Council has made a contribution to enable the schemes to proceed.
2. Some of the chosen projects, including waiting restrictions, traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossings require the publication of statutory notices and local consultation to take place. The projects chosen by Toddington Parish Council fall within this requirement.
3. There is currently an at-grade zebra crossing outside nos.4 and 6 Leighton Road, which is regularly used by pupils and their carers when travelling to and from the nearby Lower and Middle Schools. It is proposed to place the crossing on a raised table to lower traffic speeds, thereby creating a safer crossing facility for pedestrians.

To the west of Manor Road there is an informal crossing point, which is also well used by school-bound pedestrians. The proposal is to install a raised table at this point, which would improve safety for pedestrians.

The two raised features will result in an overall reduction in traffic speeds on this stretch of Leighton Road, which is clearly desirable in a built-up area in fairly close proximity to the two schools. They will also improve compliance with the 20mph speed limit covering various roads in Toddington which was published at the same time. No objections were received, so there is no requirement to seek approval from the Executive Member. Consequently, the 20mph limit will be implemented as published.

4. The proposed raised features were advertised by public notice in July 2014. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Toddington Parish Councils and Elected Members. Residents and businesses were individually informed and notices were displayed on street.

Objections and Responses

5. Three representations have been received. One is an objection to the raised crossing and one is an objection to the raised table. The other expresses concerns about the raised crossing proposal. Copies of the correspondence is included in Appendix D. The main points raised are summarised below:-
 - a) Creating a raised crossing will generate additional traffic noise, particularly when heavy vehicles pass over it. This would be worse during the evenings and weekends and is exacerbated by the close proximity of the adjacent properties.
 - b) The raised table near the Manor Road junction will create access difficulties for adjacent residents. They are also concerned about noise associated with the feature, raise concerns about road safety and feel that a location further west would be better.
6. The Highways Team response to the points raised in 5. above are as follows:-
 - a) It is acknowledged that the raised crossing will create additional noise for nearby residents. However, the raised features have been designed in accordance with all relevant legislation and technical guidance so any noise generation should be kept to reasonable levels. The proposals will lead to a general reduction in vehicles speeds, which itself should lower traffic noise.
 - b) The raised table will not obstruct access to adjacent properties in any way, as no items of street furniture, such as kerb built-outs, bollards or signs will be installed. The location has been chosen as it is on the natural desire line for people crossing Leighton Road and people are already crossing there. The raised table would lower traffic speeds, thereby making it safer for pedestrians.
7. Bedfordshire Police have been formally consulted as part of the process and have made the following comments:-

“This Authority has no problems with the raised tables and are clearly a good step forward, the scheme, from the lack of other calming features is to dependant on enforcement, there is nothing to stop the motorist exceeding the proposed 20 mph limits on long straight stretches of Leighton Road, Park Road and Manor Way.

At this current time we have live 30mph complaints of speeding along Manor Road and Leighton Road Toddington.

The similar scheme introduced in Dunstable has generated numerous complaints from the public; all the complaints are concerned with long stretches of un traffic calmed roads. The policy of the Police is that 20 mph limits will not be routinely enforced unless previously agreed as such 20 mph limits should be constructed in such a way that they are self-enforcing and thus not a burden on this Authority.”

8. The Highways Team response to the points raised in 7. above are as follows:-

Bedfordshire Police support the installation of the raised tables, but they are concerned about anticipated non-compliance with the 20mph speed limit and the expectation of enforcement action. These comments are intended to represent constructive comments, rather than an objection.

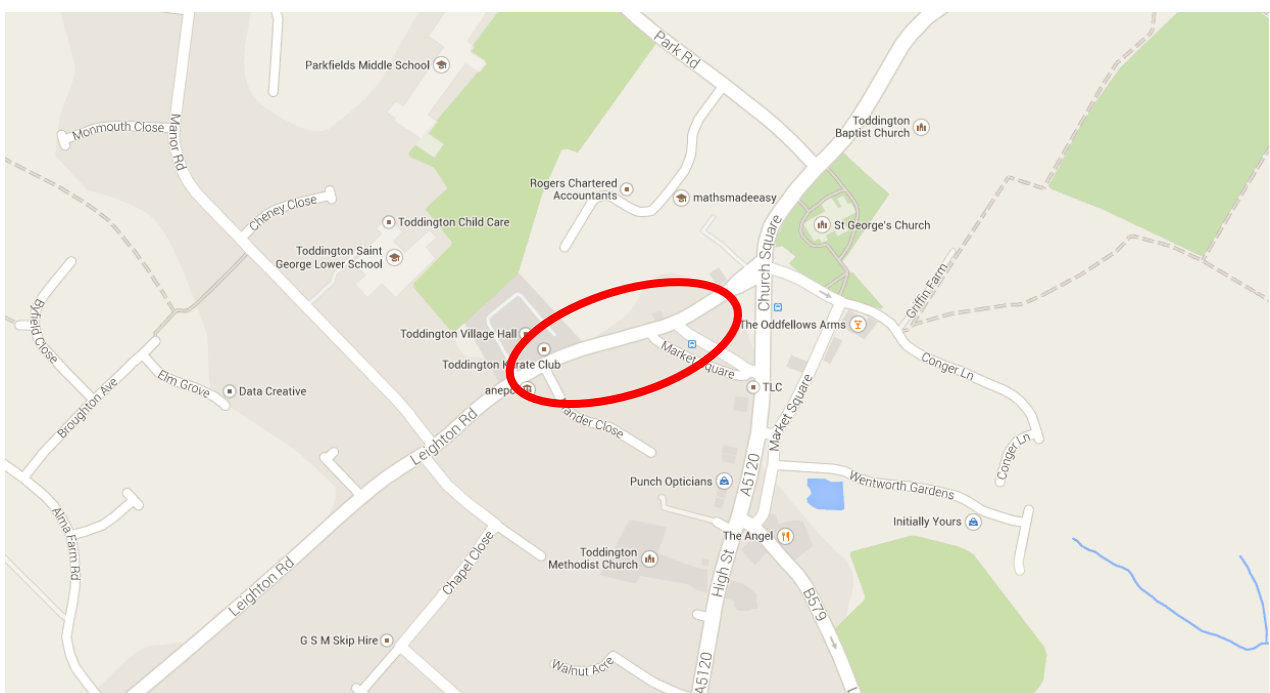
Conclusion

8. It is recommended that the proposals be implemented as published. If the scheme is approved the works are expected to take place during the current financial year.

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Location plan
- Appendix B – Public Notice
- Appendix C – Drawing
- Appendix D – Representations

Appendix A



PUBLIC NOTICE



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 23

ALTERATION TO EXISTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – LEIGHTON ROAD, TODDINGTON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL, in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and all other enabling powers, proposes to alter a pedestrian crossing in Leighton Road, Toddington.

The existing Zebra Crossing is proposed to be altered by placing it on a raised table at the following location in Toddington:-

Leighton Road, at the boundary of property nos.4 and 6 Leighton Road.

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 90A-I

PROPOSED RAISED ZEBRA CROSSING AND RAISED TABLE – LEIGHTON ROAD, TODDINGTON

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, proposes to raise the existing zebra crossing and construct a new raised table in Leighton Road, Toddington. These works are part of a wider scheme to improve pedestrian facilities, reduce vehicle speeds and create a safer environment for all road users.

The existing Zebra Crossing is proposed to be placed on a raised table at a nominal height of 75mm at the following location in Toddington:-

Leighton Road, at the boundary of property nos.4 and 6 Leighton Road.

A Raised Table providing an uncontrolled crossing points at a nominal height of 75mm is proposed to be sited at the following location in Toddington:-

Leighton Road, at a point approximately 15 metres south-west of its junction with Chapel Close.

Further Details a drawing may be examined during normal office at the address shown below; viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices or tel. 0845 3656116.

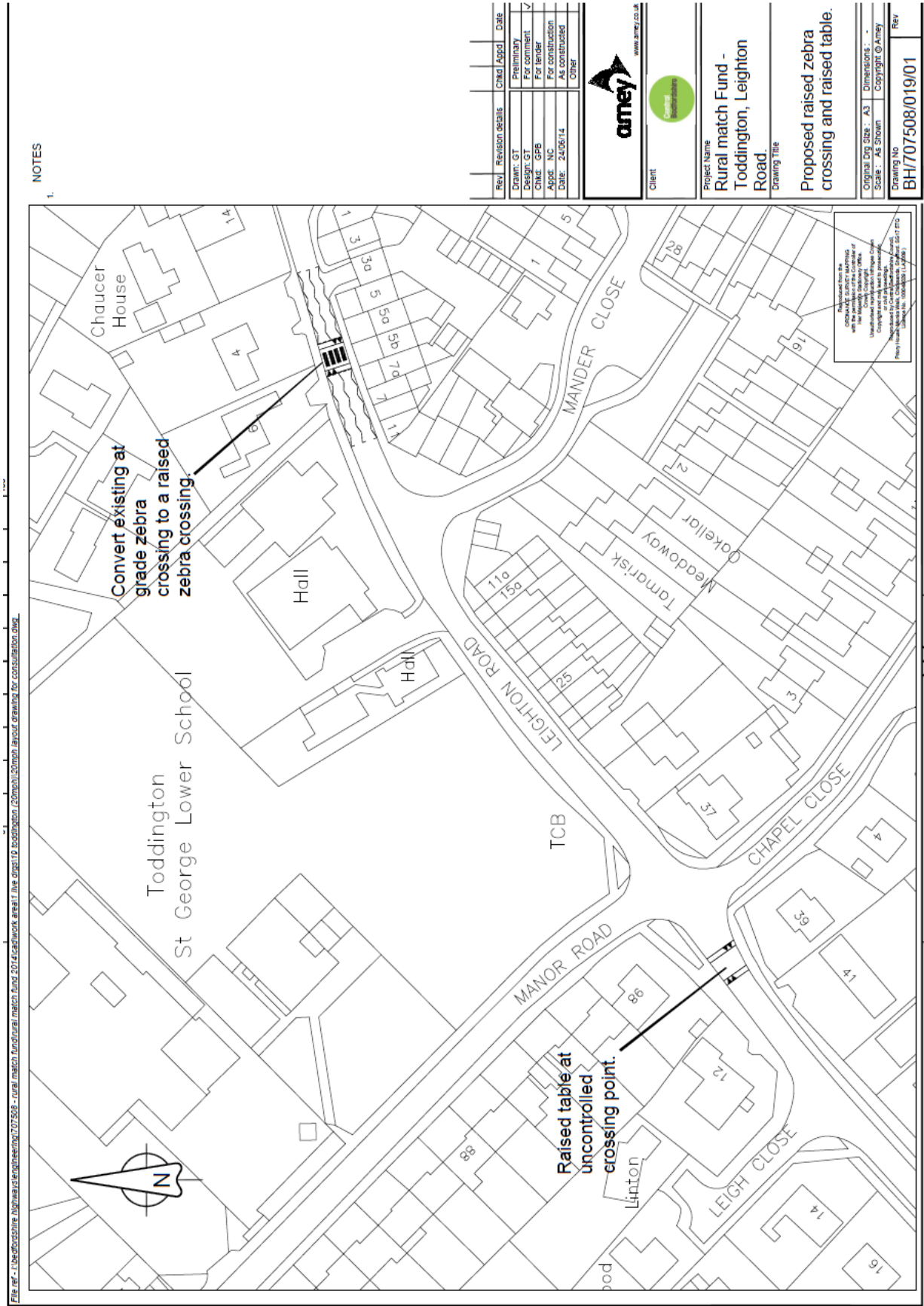
Comments should be sent in writing to the Transportation Manager, Central Bedfordshire Highways, Woodlands Annex, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7NU or e-mail centralbedsconsultation@amey.co.uk by 29 July 2014.

Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands
Shefford SG1917 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

3 July 2014

Appendix C



NOTES

1.

Rev.	Revision details	Chkd	Appd	Date
	Drawn: GT			
	Design: GT			
	Chkd: GRB			
	Appd: NC			
	Date: 24/06/14			
	Other			



Client
Project Name
Rural match Fund -
Toddington, Leighton
Road.
Drawing Title

Proposed raised zebra
crossing and raised table.

Original Dwg Size - A3 | Dimensions -
Scale - As Shown | Copyright © Amey
Drawing No
BH/707508/019/01
Rev

Published for the
CORPORATE DESIGN SERVICES
by the Planning Department
Unauthorised copying is prohibited
Copyright © 2014
Planning Department
Plymouth City Council, Plymouth, PL4 8AA
Drawing No: 707508/019/01

Appendix D

I live at xx Leighton Road and I have the following comments to make in regard to your proposal to raise the existing zebra crossing on Leighton Road

- My property and the others immediately in the vicinity of the zebra crossing have no boundary wall or hedge which would act as a sound barrier.
- Currently the traffic on the road, and especially the lorries that go past in the evening and overnight, make a considerable amount of noise. If the zebra crossing is raised, this would result in an unacceptable amount of further noise which would have a severely negative effect on my quality of life.

Please therefore consider this very carefully as I believe that other methods of controlling the speed and amount of traffic in the village would be effective and less intrusive. For example a 20 mile per hour speed limit on Leighton Road, a weight restriction or a re-categorization of the A5120 coming from the M1.

(follow-up e-mail below)

Thank you for your e-mail. Yes I would like you to treat my comments as a formal objection on the basis of increased noise levels in the evening and overnight, and specifically in regard to the number of lorries which use Leighton Road making the noise levels unacceptable.

Re Proposed Raised Table and Raised Zebra Crossing In Leighton Road, Toddington.

As you will see from our address, we live almost directly opposite the existing zebra crossing and, as such, we have some concerns which we would like to make a subject of record.

The raising of the crossing will inevitably lead to an increase in the amount of accelerating and braking immediately outside our property which will, as a result, raise noise levels. The road also carries an increasing amount of heavy commercial traffic, which will definitely increase both noise and vibration in the immediate vicinity. Have any studies been made, reference this increase in disturbance to the residents, balanced against the safety aspect, or is this just someone's bright idea?

The residents who live opposite us have properties that are only just set back slightly from the road and, as such, I imagine, will be affected far more than us.

Finally, if the work is carried out, we trust that the design of the ramp will be such that the ramping will be very gradual, which will help to minimise vibration and noise.

I would be very pleased to receive any comments you have.

We live at xx Manor Road, a corner plot, and our back garden lies on Leighton Road, with a double gate for access to a driveway and a lowered kerb.

Whilst we are keen to support the speed reduction measures, we have a couple of concerns about the proposed raised crossing.

We are worried that the new crossing might reduce our access to our rear driveway and garden, particularly considering the position of nearby existing drain covers and manhole covers. We are also concerned that bollards might be installed (as with the crossing at the Manor Rd/ Cheney Close), further hindering our access to our property.

Please can you clarify whether our access will be affected by the proposed raised platform, or by any further obstruction?

(follow-up e-mail below)

As we have received no reply to this message requesting clarification, or to our phone calls, we wish to object to the positioning of the proposed raised crossing, on the grounds that it will substantially affect our right of access to our property. We would be affected by the increased noise caused by regular lorries and farm traffic passing over the raised crossing. Additionally the crossing would be very close to the crossroads, making it dangerous for children to cross. A better position further up Leighton Road (towards Meadow Road/Alma Farm Road) would be preferable on all accounts.