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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting  
**Date:** 3 November 2016  
**Subject:** Norton Road, Stotfold – Consider Objections to Proposed Raised Table  
**Report of:** Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways  
**Summary:** This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Community Services for the installation of a raised table in Norton Road, Stotfold.

**RECOMMENDATION:-**

**that the proposal to install a Raised Table, incorporating a courtesy crossing, in Norton Road, Stotfold be implemented as published.**

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Contact Officer: Steve Lakin  
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Public/Exempt: Public  
Wards Affected: Stotfold  
Function of: Council

**CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

**Council Priorities:**

The proposal will improve road safety, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.

**Financial:**

The works are being funded by the Local Transport Plan as part of the Integrated Programme of works.

**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:**

None from this report

**Sustainability:**

None from this report

<b>Budget and Delivery:</b>	
Estimated cost: £63,250 for the complete package of works of which the provision of a raised table courtesy crossing is one part.)	Budget: LTP Integrated Programme
Expected delivery: March 2017	

**Background and Information**

1. This scheme is designed to improve the safety of cyclists and pedestrians using Sustrans National Cycle Route 12 to travel between the towns of Stotfold and Letchworth.

The aims of the National Cycle Network are to:

- (i) Provide a nationwide network of safe, attractive, high quality routes for cyclists which also extend the provision for walkers and for the users of mobility aids including adapted cycles, wheelchairs and mobility scooters
- (ii) Promote cycling as a form of transport. The Network will be aimed at providing a standard that is appropriate to the needs of inexperienced or novice cyclists, for example a competent 12 year old travelling unaccompanied or a family travelling with younger children.
- (iii) Stimulate wider measures benefitting cyclists and pedestrians, and help to promote local and regional route networks.

National Cycle Network Route 12 is an integral part of Central Bedfordshire Council's Strategic Cycle Network. Measures to deliver and enhance the safety of users of this network are a core component of the authority's Local Area Transport Plans (LATPs) and accord with wider Local Transport Plan objectives to improve the accessibility of schools, services and employment areas via sustainable modes of transport.

The LATP programme for Arlesey and Stotfold makes specific reference within the delivery schedule of a scheme to improve cycle route provision in the south of Stotfold. This scheme was selected as Norton Road is a major point of severance within the network.

The provision of a raised table, incorporating a courtesy crossing, will reduce speeds on the northern section of Norton Road Traffic data taken from a point outside No 24 Norton Road shows average and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 27 and 31 mph respectively, with more than 9 of 10 vehicles exceeding the 20mph speed limit.

3. The proposal was formally advertised by public notice in August 2016. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Stotfold Town Council and the Ward Members. Residents located in the area of the proposed raised table were individually consulted by letter.

### **Representations and Officer Responses**

4. A total of 4 representations were received in response to the proposals, 2 of which object. The other 2 offered support for the proposals.

The main issues raised by the objectors were as follows:-

- a) The raised table will cause pain and discomfort to those with back pain and other medical conditions.
- b) The feature is within the 20mph speed limit, so is not required.
- c) The raised table will make it difficult to reverse off of a resident's driveway safely and will damage the car's suspension.
- d) There is already too many signs and general street clutter.

5. Officer response:-

- a) The raised table will be constructed in accordance with Government Regulations and guidance. Raised features at a height of 75mm should not create undue discomfort if drivers pass over at an appropriate speed. At this location there is a 20mph speed limit, which itself should moderate speeds.
- b) This feature is intended to provide a courtesy crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists and the raised platform will encourage lower speeds, thereby improving safety for all road users.
- c) The placing and height of the raised table should not create the problems envisaged. It should help lower speeds on Norton Road, which would make it safer to access/egress adjacent driveways.
- d) The Council is keen to reduce street clutter, but this has to be balanced with the need to improve road safety for vulnerable road users.

6. It is felt that the proposed raised table will provide a valuable crossing facility for pedestrians and cyclists and will lower traffic speeds. As a result, it is recommended that the scheme be implemented as published.

7. If approved and implemented, the raised table will be implemented in March 2017.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Public notice of proposals

Appendix B – Drawing of proposals

Appendix C – Objections and other representations

# PUBLIC NOTICE



## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INSTALL A RAISED TABLE IN NORTON ROAD, STOTFOLD

Notice is hereby given that Central Bedfordshire Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 90 A-1 of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, proposes to construct a raised table incorporating a courtesy road crossing for pedestrians and cyclists. The table will reduce traffic speeds on this section of Norton Road and to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists using National Cycle Network Route 12 to cross the road.

**A Raised Table at a nominal height of 75mm and approximately 8 metres long, including ramps, extending across the full width of the road is proposed to be sited at the following location:-**

Norton Road, Stotfold, at a point approximately 10 metres south of its junction with Groveland Way and Murrell Lane.

Further Details may be examined during normal office hours at the address shown below, viewed online at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices) or tel. 0300 300 5003.

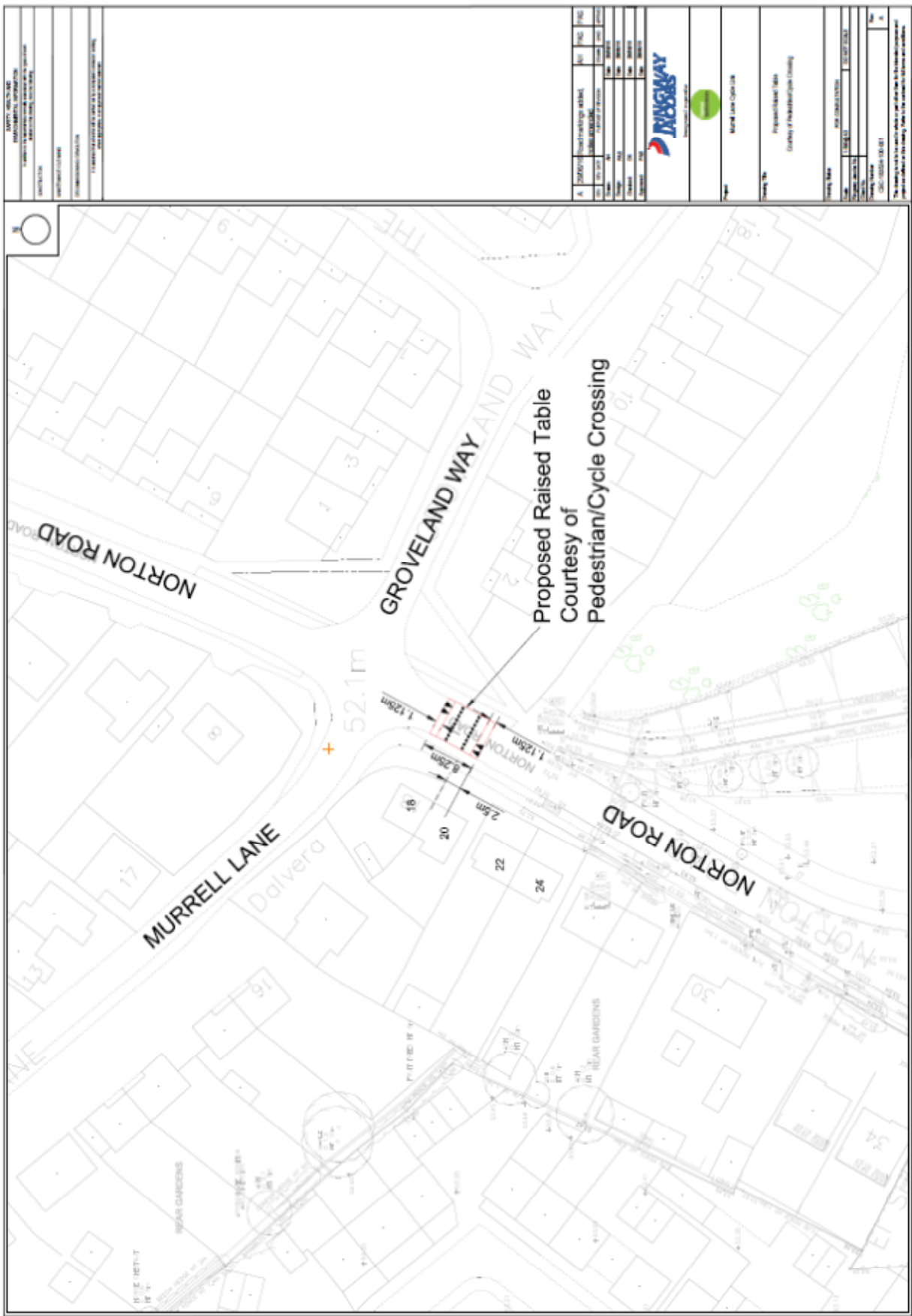
Comments should be sent in writing to the Traffic Management team at the address below or e-mail [traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) by 16 September 2016.

Central Bedfordshire Council  
Priory House  
Chicksands  
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait  
Director of Community Services

19 August 2016

# Appendix B



## Appendix C

I am writing to you in reply to your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> August.

I would like to record my opposition to the installation. My daughter, who live at home, suffers with chronic back pain and these types of installations cause her pain each and every time our car goes over one. I cannot believe that she is the only person living in Stotfold who is in this situation as there must be others living with hidden disabilities.

This table would be within the 20 mph speed zone that already exists within Stotfold so I fail to see what this type of installation would add. If you do not think that individuals are observing this speed limit then I suggest that you install a speed camera.

I look forward to your reply.

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Re proposal to install a raised table outside my home.

This plan would make it near impossible to reverse out of my drive safely, not to mention the damage it would cause to my suspension everyday!

The road is beginning to look like lego land! with so many needless and distracting information signs, so distracting to drivers! why not just put up clear twenty mile an hour signs and speed bumps as you leave the roundabouts. on either end of the road.

This would then allow the cyclists and pedestrians to continue to use their own judgement as to when it is safe to cross the road.

I really do feel very strongly about this proposal.

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Good evening, Re the proposal to install a raised table in Norton Road, Stotfold can I thank you for doing something about this . Having lived in Groveland Way at its junction with Norton Road since 1991 and seeing the by pass being built this has resulted in Norton Road becoming a race track for users of cars and motorbikes. It has become an nightmare at all hours. I fully agree with your proposal to site the table in the position you have suggested. That will hopefully slow traffic down that comes off the by pass to come into Stotfold.

There is also a problem when traffic turns right at the roundabout from Baldock Road/High Street into Norton Road to travel towards the bypass. Cars and motor bikes accelerate at speed ignoring the 20 mph signs that have been erected. Again this is at all hours of the day. Can I suggest that another raised table is installed between the roundabout in Baldock Road/High Street and the junctions with Groveland Way and Murrell Lane. This would slow the traffic down that is travelling towards the by pass. I have spoken to some of the residents in Norton Road and my neighbours in Groveland Way and they fully agree with my suggestion.

Without a doubt these traffic calming measures will improve our living in this road as when we moved here in 1991 it was nothing like it is now. I have previously contacted Bedfordshire Police to ask them to do something about the speeding cars and was basically fobbed off until I told them I was retired Hertfordshire Police Officer and I was not going to be fobbed of with rubbish excuses. I even spoke to some PCSO's at 'clinic' at the Co-Op and they said they cannot do anything. Could not believe it. The Police eventually did a survey and there was something about the percentage of cars that were travelling over the speed limit did not warrant any action in the way of a speed camera or speed trap. I told them to come and sit in our lounge for 12 hours and listen to the cars speeding up an down Norton Road.

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I'm emailing in relation to your Public Notice regarding the above proposals.

I'm particularly interested in the proposal, both as a resident of Groveland Way and a practicing Road Safety Auditor, but also as someone who crosses the road each day when taking my daughter to/from school.

I believe the speed table will certainly be of benefit and will hopefully encourage more drivers to adhere to the 20mph speed limit.