
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 24th July 2018
Subject: Proposed Zebra Crossing on High Street North, Dunstable
Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways
Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Community Services for the implementation of a zebra crossing to be sited outside numbers 210 - 212 High Street North, Dunstable.

RECOMMENDATION(S): -

That the proposed scheme be implemented as published.

Contact Officer: David Huston
David.Huston@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Dunstable Northfields
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal supports the following Local Transport Plan objectives:

- (C)** Increase the number of children travelling to school by sustainable modes of transport.
- (F)** Enable access to a range of leisure, cultural and tourism facilities for residents and visitors alike by a range of modes of transport.
- (J)** Reduce the risk of people being killed or seriously injured.

Financial:

Funded by a combination of developer (Section 106) and Highways England contributions.

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:

This proposal replaces an existing uncontrolled crossing, improving the safety of cyclists and pedestrians crossing this section of High Street North in Dunstable to access the Busway and National Cycle Network route number 606.

Sustainability:

None from this report.

Budget and Delivery:	
Estimated cost: £115,000 (subject to target costing)	Budget: Developer (Section 106) contributions, Highways England contributions post A5-detrunking
Expected delivery: Q1 2019-2020	

Background and Information

1. This proposal has been brought forward in response to a planning obligation by deed of agreement between Central Bedfordshire Council and JS Bloor (Northampton) Ltd. I under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This condition mandates *“the provision of a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the Site.”*

2. The proposed scheme takes the opportunity to upgrade an existing courtesy (uncontrolled) crossing, sited opposite property numbers 210 and 212 High Street North Dunstable.
3. The crossing forms part of a walking and cycle route linking new areas of housing on sites to the north of Brewers Hill Road with National Cycle Network Route 606. This route serves Dunstable town centre, Leisure Centre, Central Bedfordshire College, White Lion Retail Park, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton Railway Station Interchange and London Luton Airport.
4. The footways that connect to the crossing have been subject to recent investment to allow for their safe shared use. Once the crossing is in place, the route will become a part of National Cycle Network Route 6, removing the section that currently uses residential roads between Creasey Park Drive and Regents Street.
5. There were 4 recorded injurious collisions on this road section between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2017 of which 1 was classed as 'serious' and 3 was classed as 'slight'. Use of the existing crossing by pedestrians and cyclists is considered problematic as the central island is of insufficient width to accommodate cyclists. In addition, the western carriageway is frequently obstructed by northbound traffic queuing on the approach to the nearby junction.
6. There is a reasonable prospect of this scheme being designated as a demonstration project by Sustrans as part of a review of the National Cycle Network. This may trigger the offer of a funding contribution towards the scheme cost.

The Scheme Proposal

1. This scheme proposal comprises:

- Zebra crossing of High Street North, Dunstable, including a separate cyclist crossing lane.
- Footway works to accommodate a Belisha Beacon modupost with LED collar and cowl.
- Provision of a red blister tactile paving to aid visually impaired pedestrians.

Automated Traffic Count (ATC) Data

1. The authority commissioned an independent and automated count of traffic volumes and speeds at the crossing location.

Weekday Average Speed (15th and 21st December 2017)

Mean Average Speed (mph)
21.80 mph
85 th Percentile Speed
26.60 mph

Traffic Volume

7 Day period
65,652 vehicles

Statutory Consultation

1. The proposal was formally advertised by Public Notice in May 2018. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, and Dunstable Northfields ward members. Residents and businesses in the vicinity of the proposed crossing received a letter.

Representations

1. A single representation was received in response to scheme proposals asking whether the crossing would replace the existing Pelican crossing to the south and seeking assurance that the two facilities would be linked so as not to adversely impair the flow of traffic on this section of the High Street.

Officer Response

1. CBC Highways Officers' relayed the following response to the correspondent:
"Thank you for your enquiry regarding the proposed Zebra Crossing for High Street North, Dunstable. We have no plans to remove the current Pelican Crossing outside Watling House as we are proposing a stand-alone Zebra Crossing outside The Bird in Hand Pub. The use of a Zebra Crossing is triggered by pedestrians and cyclist walking onto the crossing, and to use the Pelican Crossing the pedestrian/cyclist must press a button and wait for the pedestrian green light, therefore they cannot be linked together. The proposed Zebra Crossing is about 190m away from the current Pelican Crossing, due to the distances we anticipate minimum delay for traffic for either directions."

Other considerations and conclusions

1. This provision satisfies a condition of the planning permission for and adjacent development and serves to complete a route that provides residents with a high-quality walking and cycling route linking to destinations within and beyond the Dunstable town centre.
2. The location of the crossing serves an existing desire line and has been reviewed by the highway design team. There are various constraints at this site that required consideration including accesses, side roads, level differences between the carriageway and footway and position of utility services within the footway and carriageway.
3. The selection of a Zebra crossing in preference to a light-controlled Toucan crossing was determined on the grounds of safety, cost and convenience. Research evidence shows no discernible difference in safety performance between the different types of crossing. Zebra crossings are typically less expensive to install and maintain. They are also the preference of most pedestrians.
4. Data on average and 85th percentile speeds are below the threshold where measures are needed to reduce the speed of approaching vehicles. The option to place the crossing on a raised table was considered but discounted on technical and cost grounds. Constructing a table would require additional works to kerbs, drainage and services.
5. The authority has installed many similar crossings and Officers believe the facility will be widely welcomed and appreciated.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Public Notice of proposal

Appendix B – Scheme consultation drawing

Appendix C – Representations

PUBLIC NOTICE



**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INSTALL
A ZEBRA CROSSING IN HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE**

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 establish a Zebra crossing in High Street North, Dunstable. The reason is to improve pedestrian access to schools and local amenities, also safer crossing for vulnerable road users. These works are being promoted as part of a highway improvement scheme associated with an adjacent residential development.

A Zebra Crossing is proposed to be sited at the following location in Dunstable:

Outside Numbers 212 & 210 High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1AU, at a point approximately 55 meters south of its junction with Brewers Hill Rd and Houghton Rd.

Further Details may be examined during normal office hours at the address shown below, viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices .

Comments should be sent in writing to the Traffic Management team at the address below or e-mail traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 8th June 2018.

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

17th May 2018

Appendix B: Scheme Drawing

Drawing



Appendix C: Representation

From [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 May 2018 17:45

To: Traffic Consultation <Traffic.Consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: High Street North ped.Xing

Is this to replace the one already outside Watling House? It doesn't say so. However, to have two crossings so near to each other will interrupt the flow of traffic unless they are properly linked, unlike the current situation along High Street North now. Please respond.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]