

Proposed Decision to be made by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety on or after 16 December 2016

Proposed Puffin Crossing – Gipsy Lane, near Caroline Close, Bulkington and Relocation of existing set of Speed Cushions.

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety approves the installation of a Puffin crossing on Gipsy Lane, near Caroline Close, Bulkington, in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 23; and, the relocation of a set of speed cushions in accordance with the Highways Act 1980, Section 90A

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 A request has been received from Councillor John Beaumont, and local residents for the installation of a safe crossing point on Gipsy Lane, near Caroline Close, Bulkington.
- 1.2 The primary purpose of the proposed Puffin crossing is to cater for the various pedestrian demands to cross Gipsy Lane in order to access Chetwynd Junior School situated in Caroline Close. This crossing is to be delivered from the School Safety Zones and Routes programme.

2.0 Proposed Scheme

- 2.1 The site of the proposed Puffin crossing is located on Gipsy Lane, near Caroline Close, Bulkington. Gipsy Lane is a link road, used by local traffic between the east side of Nuneaton and Bulkington and the A444 Griff Roundabout to the south-west. It is also used by local residential traffic and at school times is busy with parents delivering and collecting their children, to the various schools in the near vicinity. It is subject to a 30mph speed limit by virtue of street lighting and frontage development, and has traffic calming in the form of round top road humps and speed cushions at regular intervals.
- 2.2 The proposed site for the Puffin crossing will be near to the junction of Caroline Close, as indicated on the plan in **Appendix A**. The area is predominantly residential. The existing speed cushions are proposed to be relocated to a position outside no 61 Gipsy Lane.
- 2.3 The need for a Puffin crossing in the vicinity of Gipsy Lane is to accommodate the various demands for pedestrian movements across the road, including:
 - School journeys to Chetwynd Junior School and Whitestone Infant School

- Other local amenities, including Whitestone Clinic and Whitestone Surgery

2.4 When considering the justification for a controlled crossing, standard criteria based on the numbers of vehicles and pedestrians using a location are calculated. This calculation is known as the PV^2 value. To reach the required criteria for a crossing, and comply with the current WCC policy for a puffin crossing the PV^2 value should exceed 0.9×10^8 . In this location the PV^2 value is 1.62×10^8 , which fully meets these criteria.

3.0 Consultation on the Proposal

3.1 A formal consultation for the proposed Puffin crossing and relocation of speed cushions was carried out between 30th September 2016 and 21st October 2016. Advertisements were placed in the Nuneaton News, on street notices were erected, and information was published on Warwickshire County Council's website. During this period one objection has been received relating to the proposed crossing.

Objection

- The provision of a crossing will not assist or encourage children to walk to or from school
- Parents will still choose to drive their children to school and deterring this behaviour by the introduction monitored parking restrictions in the form of double yellow lines would be more encouragement for parents to walk their children to school
- The proposal is dangerous, due to the footpath/hard base sited directly adjacent to a busy main road, would pose an increased safety hazard to pedestrians, as the natural barrier which is clearly visible to motorists, would be removed.
- The removing of a grass verge and replacing it with an extended footpath/hard base, sets a precedent for the future, for removal of grass verges and trees provide a natural barrier between residential housing and a busy main road, prevents undertaking and overtaking of traffic, and also provides an aesthetically pleasing look to Gypsy Lane.

Response

- The proposed crossing will assist parents and children already walking to school. As detailed above, a pedestrian and traffic count has been carried out to assess the need for a crossing in this location. The number of children and parents currently crossing the road in this location meets the requirements for a crossing. It is hoped that the crossing will encourage more parents to walk with their children to school, when they have the benefit of a safe crossing.
- The introduction of double yellow lines near schools has not been successful in preventing parking. Enforcement in the form of active monitoring is not sustainable. There are insufficient parking wardens available to actively monitor schools in this way. In addition, the introduction of double yellow lines

allows for a short period to set down or pick up passengers. At school locations, drivers often take advantage of this short period, and therefore does not resolve the issue of parking in and around the school entrance and nearby residential streets.

- A short section of verge is proposed to be removed to facilitate the construction of a widened footway at the crossing point to allow pedestrians to wait in safety. No other removal of grassed verge is proposed. All crossings of this type have an area of hardstanding, no adverse safety risks are likely if the crossing is used correctly.
- Only a short section of verge is required to be removed. No trees are to be removed. There are no other plans relating to this proposed crossing that require any loss of aesthetics in the form of verge or trees.

Support

- 3.7 Local County Councillor John Beaumont fully supports the installation of a Puffin crossing at this location.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Capital funding for School Safety Zones and Routes was agreed at the Budget setting meeting in February 2015. This scheme will be fully funded from this budget at a cost of £65,000.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The proposed Puffin crossing will not only benefit parents and pupils who cross to and from school, it will benefit the whole community throughout the day. Puffin crossings contribute to an integrated pedestrian network and help reduce conflict between traffic and pedestrians, encouraging feelings of pedestrian safety. These factors are important in the encouragement of walking within a community and the maintenance of a healthy weight environment.
- 5.2 It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety approves the installation of a Puffin crossing and relocation of one set of speed cushions, funded by the School Safety Zones and Routes capital allocation.

Background papers

Letter of objection to the proposal

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APPENDIX A

NOTES

All traffic signal equipment and road markings shown are indicative and may be subject to change during detail design or during installation due to site constraints.

REV	DRN	AMENDMENT	DATE



Design Services

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PROJECT

Gipsy Lane near Caroline Close
Nuneaton, Proposed Puffin Crossing

TITLE

Gipsy Lane near Caroline Close

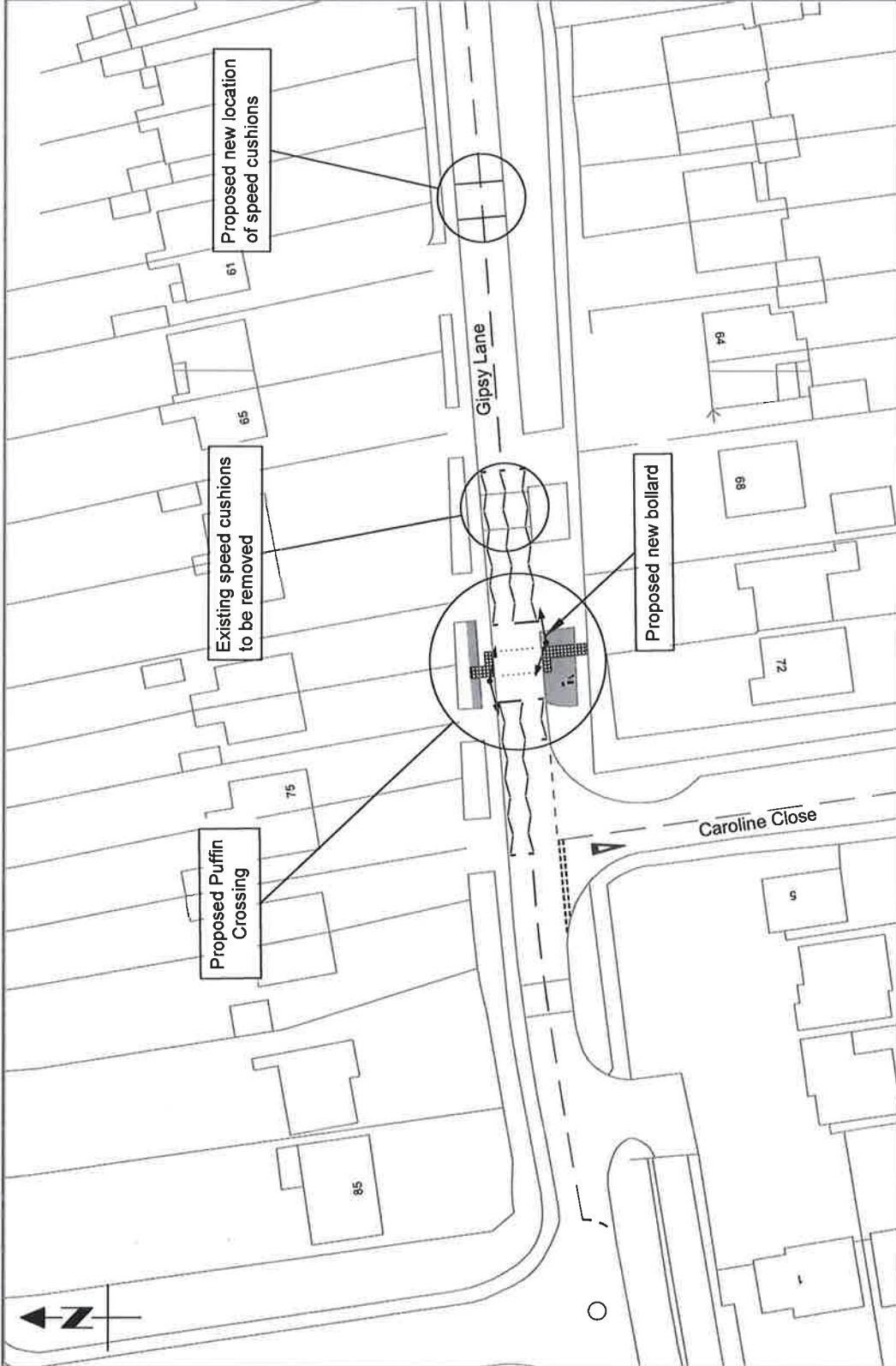
Purpose of Drawing: Consultation

Drn	LM	Cl'd	S.JL	App'd	DAM
Date	19-09-16	Date	23-09-16	Date	23-09-16

Status **Approved (Level 3)**

Scale **1:500** Sheet size **A3**

DRG. NO. **24.2--204-001** Rev. **-**



General Key

	Zig-Zag Markings
	Traffic Signal Equipment Mounted on a Pole
	Red Tactile Paving
	Traffic Signal Controller and Feeder Pillar
	Grass verge to be replaced with footway