

Proposed decision to be made by the Portfolio Holder for Transport on or after 16 June 2017

Proposed Puffin Crossing – Tachbrook Road near St George's Road, Leamington Spa

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport approves the installation of a Puffin crossing on Tachbrook Road near St George's Road, Leamington Spa, in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 23.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 A request has been received from Councillor Chilvers, and local residents for the installation of a safe crossing point on Tachbrook Road near St George's Road, Leamington Spa.
- 1.2 The primary purpose of the proposed Puffin crossing is to cater for the various pedestrian demands to cross Tachbrook Road in order to access St Patrick's Catholic School situated in Cashmore Avenue, Kingsway County Primary School in Baker Avenue, and Shrubland Street County School in Shrubland Street. 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 Tachbrook Road near St George's Road, Leamington Spa. Tachbrook Road is one of the main arterial routes into Leamington Spa, and is heavily trafficked at peak times. 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 vicinity. It is subject to a 30mph speed limit by virtue of street lighting and frontage development.
- 2.2 The proposed site for the Puffin crossing will be just north of the junction with St George's Road, as indicated on the plan in **Appendix A**. The area is predominantly residential. There is one convenience store located near the proposed Puffin crossing on Tachbrook Road and a number of smaller shops and a public house on Tachbrook Road near Charles Gardener Road.
- 2.3 The need for a Puffin crossing in the vicinity of Tachbrook Road is to accommodate the various demands for pedestrian movements across the road, including:
 - east-west links to access schools within the area, including links to access St Patrick's Catholic School situated in Cashmore Avenue, Kingsway

County Primary School in Baker Avenue, and Shrubland Street County School in Shrubland Street.

- access to nearby shops, and a public house in Tachbrook Road and surrounding area.

- 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 0.98×10^8 which fully meets these criteria.

3.0 Consultation on the Proposal

- 3.1 A formal consultation for the proposed Puffin crossing was carried out between 10 February 2017 and 3 March 2017. Advertisements were placed in the Leamington Courier, on street notices were erected, and information was published on Warwickshire County Council's website. This is the normal procedure for any proposed Puffin crossing, and goes beyond the legal obligation for this type of facility.

During this period, four objections have been received relating to the proposed crossing.

3.2 Objections

Objection (1) Petition

Five residents signed a petition objecting to the installation of a Puffin crossing on Tachbrook Road for some or all of the following reasons:

- 1) Increased traffic noise to immediate residents
- 2) Increased fumes from stationary traffic to the young children of affected residents. (Leamington has some of the worst air pollution in the country (Source: WHO 2017) and Tachbrook Road already suffers high traffic Fumes).
- 3) Increased light pollution to immediate residents.
- 4) Beeping and added noise pollution in an already noise-polluted area.
- 5) The complete removal of parking and unloading rights for residents on the west side of the proposed site.
- 6) The knock-on-impact of parking in surrounding streets (St George's Road and Claremont Road) with the proposed parking/unloading restrictions due to zig-zags.

Response:

- 1) Traffic noise to residents will increase where vehicles are decelerating, queuing and accelerating to the approach to the Puffin crossing, compared with the situation of free flowing traffic. There will be a slight increase of traffic noise to residents.
- 2) It is inevitable the kerbside levels of pollutants such as carbon monoxide will increase where vehicles are decelerating, queuing and accelerating to the approach to the Puffin crossing, compared with the situation of free flowing traffic. However, it is unlikely that any detectable increase will be experienced by residents along Tachbrook Road. This can be attributed to the fact that this area is relatively open and any pollutants in the atmosphere will quickly disperse.
- 3) It is proposed to provide extended cowls to the signal heads to limit the spread of light pollution. The LED Bulbs used in the signal heads give a single light source without any diffusion of light.
- 4) The audible bleeper signal on the crossing will be switched off during the hours of 21.30 – 07.30. The setting of the audible bleeper will be set as not to be intrusive to surrounding local residents.
- 5) & 6)
There will be some loss of on-street parking due to the installation of the Puffin Crossing. This will effect three properties on the east side (No`s 133,135 &137 Tachbrook Road). On the west side of Tachbrook Road only property No 138 will be affected by the loss of on-street parking. The presence of an existing pedestrian refuge limits the on-street parking that is currently available in the vicinity of these properties. There is ample alternative parking in nearby side streets or further along Tachbrook Road

Objection (2)

- 1) One resident who appears in the petition has also commented:

That the proposed Puffin crossing will cause problems due to the lorries parking, as they park where the crossing is going when there is no room outside the shop. The large lorries block off St George's road so the other deliveries have nowhere else to go except where the crossing will be.

Reponse:

- 1) The owner of the local supermarket has not raised any concerns about delivery vehicles to his property when the new Puffin crossing is installed.

Objection (3)

- 2) One resident objected on similar grounds to the petitioner`s above but added:
 - 1) It will increase the traffic noise directly outside the houses near the proposed site, rather than ameliorate it.
 - 2) The sound of the beeping and traffic will affect residents.
 - 3) It will not “calm” the traffic in any sustainable way (and sustainability is surely an issue).
 - 4) There will nowhere for residents on this side of the road to unload shopping and deliveries.
 - 5) It will force people to park elsewhere and have a knock-on effect on St George’s Road (which is already “rammed”).

Response:

- 1) Traffic noise to residents will increase where vehicles are decelerating, queuing and accelerating to the approach to the Puffin crossing, compared with the situation of free flowing traffic. There will be a slight increase of traffic noise to residents.
- 2) The audible bleeper signal on the crossing will be switched off during the hours of 21.30 – 07.30. The setting of the audible bleeper will be set as not to be intrusive to surrounding local residents.
- 3) The proposed Puffin Crossing will have some effect on reducing the speed of traffic on this section of Tachbrook Road, as vehicles will have to stop when the lights are showing Red to traffic.
- 4) & 5)

There will be some loss of on-street parking due to the installation of the Puffin Crossing. This will effect three properties on the east side (No`s 133,135 &137 Tachbrook Road). On the west side of Tachbrook Road only property No 138 will be affected by the loss of on-street parking. The presence of an existing pedestrian refuge limits the on-street parking that is currently available in the vicinity of these properties. There is ample alternative parking in nearby side streets or further along Tachbrook Road.

Objection (4)

I have objections to this proposal on several counts and although I agree that traffic calming measures are needed on Tachbrook Road I believe there are ways of achieving this without the distress this proposed crossing will cause to the people who live on this part of the

street. I'd like to outline my personal objections and I aim to get further support from the wider neighborhood/community.

Because there are a number of student houses in this area it may seem, during this consultation, that the objections are not as vociferous as they would be if all the residents on this strip were less transient. Students, of course, do not have the same investment in the place they live – lovely as they are. And so this must be taken into account when reviewing objections. Owner/occupiers and long-term residents, though few and far between, should be listened to.

In summary I accept the laudable aims of the proposed crossing, but it is unworkable and personally distressing on these counts:

- 1) It will increase the traffic noise directly outside the houses near the proposed site, rather than ameliorate it.
- 2) The sound of the beeping and traffic will affect residents and personally will affect my sleep, my work and my general health.
- 3) It will not “calm” the traffic in any sustainable way (and sustainability is surely an issue).
- 4) There will nowhere for residents on this side of the road to unload shopping and deliveries
- 5) It will force people to park elsewhere and have a knock-on effect on St George's Road (which is already rammed).

Response:

The properties fronting Tachbrook Road on the east side are owner occupied or landlord owned. A number of properties are occupied by Students who may not have different views to a permanent resident in the area. All residents had the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

1) & 2)

It is appreciated that a property directly next to the proposed Puffin crossing will be the property most affected. Mitigation measures such as the audible bleeper signal on the crossing will be switched off during the hours of 21.30 – 07.30. The setting of the audible bleeper will be set as not to be intrusive to surrounding local residents.

- 3) The proposed Puffin Crossing will have some effect on reducing the speed of traffic on this section of Tachbrook Road, as vehicles will have to stop when the lights are showing Red to traffic.

- 4) There will be some loss of on-street parking due to the installation of the Puffin Crossing. This will effect three properties on the east side (No`s 133,135 &137 Tachbrook Road).
- 5) The presence of an existing pedestrian refuge limits the available on- street parking that is currently available in the vicinity of these properties. There is ample alternative parking in nearby side streets or further along Tachbrook Road.

3.3 SUPPORT

- 3.31 A petition organised by the local supermarket owner had 19 signatures from local residents who, Agree "For" A Puffin crossing on Tachbrook Road, Leamington Spa as on Plan Why wait before another accident"
- 3.32 Local County Councillor Cllr Jonathan Chilvers fully supports the installation of a Puffin crossing at this location. He has asked us to shorten the zig-zags on the exit side of the crossing to limit the impact of the reduced parking for householders, at no's 135/137 and 139.This can be included as part of the scheme.
- 3.33 The Head Teachers of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Cashmore Avenue and Kingsway and Shrubland Street School are in full support of the proposed Puffin crossing.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Capital funding for School Safety Zones and Routes was agreed at full council 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.
- 5.2 Pedestrian surveys have shown that over 400 people cross this road during the day, of which around 80 are children attending nearby schools. 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.
- 5.3 The introduction of the proposed crossing will result in the loss of on-street parking for a small number of properties. The displacement of parking to nearby streets can be accommodated given the small number of properties affected.

- 5.4 The introduction of the crossing will have some impact on residents directly outside the crossing in terms of noise and light pollution. To limit this it is proposed to include cowls on the signal heads so that light is only directed towards approaching traffic and the audible signal will be turned off during the night.
- 5.5 Visually disabled users will still be able to `feel` for the indicator, as each side of the crossing will be fitted with a rotating knob, to alert pedestrians of the green phase.
- 5.6 The overall benefits in terms of pedestrian safety for the community, especially school children outweigh the negative impacts of a small loss of on-street parking and minor noise and light disturbance.
- 5.7 This proposed puffin crossing will be constructed in accordance with LTN1/95 Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings and the design complies with Design Note 2/95 Design of Pedestrian Crossings, published by the Department for Transport.
- 5.8 It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning approves the installation of a Puffin crossing, funded by the School Safety Zones and Routes capital allocation.

Background papers

None

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This report was circulated to the following elected members prior to publication

Councillor Chilvers, Cockburn

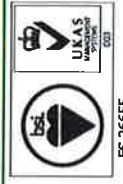
NOTES

The location of traffic signal equipment and road markings shown may be subject to change during the construction stage due to unknown site constraints.

REV	DRN	AMENDMENT	DATE



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FS 26655

24.2-210-104-.pdf

PROJECT

Tachbrook Road near St Georges Road
Leamington, Proposed Puffin Crossing

TITLE

School Safety Zones and Routes Programme

Purpose of Drawing: Consultation

Drn	LM	CK'd	EB	App'd	GD
Date	26-01-17	Date	06-02-17	Date	06-02-17

Status
Approved (Level 3)

Scale
1:500

DRG. NO.
24.2-210-104

Rev.

Sheet size
A3

Rev.

Proposed new parking bay

Proposed Puffin Crossing

Existing refuge island to be removed

Proposed New Cycleway Sign

Key

- Zig-Zag markings
- Traffic signal equipment mounted on pole
- Red Tactile Paving
- Traffic Signal Controller Approximate dimensions: 73cm width x 43cm depth x 116cm height
- Traffic Signal Controller Feeder Pillar Approximate dimensions: 36cm width x 25cm depth x 60cm height
- Bollard
- New Cycleway Sign
- Proposed build out
- New footway construction
- Segregated Shared Cycle/Footway Paving