

Decision Record – Proposed Zebra Crossing, A452 Priory Road near The Blundells, Kenilworth

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| Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision | Cllr Peter Butlin Transport and Planning |
| Date of Decision (not before: 20 th Sept 2013) | 11/10/2013 |

Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning:

- 1) Considers the objections to the proposed Zebra crossing on Priory Road; and
- 2) Approves the provision of the proposed Zebra crossing on Priory Road funded by the Area Delegated Budget.

Reasons for Decisions

Cllr Whitehouse – Fully supports this scheme having studied all comments and objections raised and reviewed all alternatives, and has made the following comment:-

“The proposed scheme will provide a safe place for all vulnerable road users to cross the road throughout the day and will provide long-term certainty of a safe way for school children to cross the road.”

Warwickshire Police – Has been consulted and support the scheme.

Kenilworth Town Council – Is in favour of a crossing. However, it has raised the following concerns:

- i) The position of the crossing results in the loss of two parking spaces which may have a detrimental effect on local businesses.

Response – The removal of two on-street parking spaces is necessary for safety reasons. This is to ensure pedestrians are able to see and be seen by drivers. There is no evidence that the loss of the two on-street parking spaces will have a detrimental effect on the local businesses since there is significant on-street parking available within the surrounding area.

- ii) Would like the location of the crossing, parking provision and associated restrictions to be re-examined, with two alternative parking spaces being identified and provided if the current parking spaces were lost.

Response – Alternative crossing locations to the south side of The Blundells have been considered. However, these locations were unsuitable due to private driveways or removal of at least one mature tree. The proposed crossing location is located where the majority of people are crossing the road throughout the day.

There is a length of unrestricted parking on the east side of Priory Road less than 70 metres away from the businesses which is unaffected by the scheme.

General Public – Public notices were erected on site and published in the local newspaper formally advertising the crossing. Letters were also sent to residents and businesses directly affected by the proposal. We have received a significant amount of communications in support of and against the proposal which is attached to the proposed decision report.

In summary, we received eight communications supporting the scheme as proposed and 13 communications objecting to the location of the crossing.

E-Petition – An e-petition on the County Council's website was signed by 42 people. The text of the petition stated "Reconsider its plan to remove two car parking spaces from outside Kenilworth Cobblers, Priory Road, Kenilworth, and instead relocate the proposed pedestrian crossing further down Priory Road."

Response – The removal of two on-street parking spaces is necessary for safety reasons. This is to ensure pedestrians are able to see and be seen by drivers. The crossing is being provided where the majority of pedestrians are crossing.

The proposed Zebra crossing will not only benefit parents and pupils who cross to and from school, it will benefit the whole community throughout the day.

The provision of a Zebra crossing on Priory Road will make it easier for pupils and parents to cross the road when going to and from school, thereby encouraging them to walk to school rather than travel by car.

The main concerns raised by Kenilworth Town Council, e-petition and a number of communications listed in Appendix B are the loss of two on-street parking spaces. It is regrettable that two on-street parking spaces will be lost due to the provision of the Zebra crossing for safety reasons.

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves the provision of the proposed Zebra crossing funded by the Area Delegated Budget.

Background Information

Cllr Whitehouse and officers have received requests from residents for a crossing at this location. They raised concern over the difficulty in crossing Priory Road to gain access to St Nicholas Primary School and local services. This was investigated in December 2012.

The investigation concluded that it is feasible to install a Zebra crossing near to the location where the School Crossing Patrol person operates. However, providing a Zebra crossing at this location requires the loss of two on-street parking spaces due to safety reasons.

To avoid the loss of on-street parking, alternative locations to the south side of The Blundells have been considered. However, these locations were unsuitable due to private driveways or removal of at least one mature tree. The proposed crossing location is sited where the majority of people cross the road throughout the day.

It is estimated that the scheme will cost £20,000 to implement. It will be funded from the Transport Seminar Delegated Budget which addresses local priorities rather than strategic ones.

The previous School Crossing Patrol (SCP) person has resigned and the location still meets the criteria for a SCP person. Until a decision is reached on the provision of a Zebra crossing at this location a temporary relief patrol is being provided when available. If the Zebra crossing is not approved at this location the SCP post will be advertised and we will seek to recruit. It should be noted that it has been difficult in the past to recruit a SCP in Kenilworth, so there is a risk that the site may remain vacant for an unknown period of time. When the location was assessed against the SCP criteria it was noted that there was a reasonable demand by a number of pedestrians to cross the road other than primary school children. This included pre-school children, adults, high school students and the elderly.

Financial Implications

None listed.

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| Report Author | Gafoor Din |
| Head of Service | Graeme Fitton |
| Strategic Director | Monica Fogarty |
| Portfolio Holder | Councillor Peter Butlin |

Checklist

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| Urgent matter? | No |
| Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information) | N/a |
| Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework? | No |

List of Reports considered - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:
<http://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cmis5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/2846/Committee/548/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None.

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Ian Marriott, Serena Cammish, Peter Oliver, John Gregory, Peter Endall
 Finance – Liz Firmstone
 Equality – Minakshee Patel
 Democratic Services – Georgina Atkinson

Communities OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Richard Cahttaway, John Holland, Chris Williams and John Whitehouse