

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Stratford on Avon East Joint Committee
Date of Committee	9 December 2008
Report Title	Coventry Street, Southam - Proposed Puffin Crossing
Summary	It is proposed to install a puffin crossing on Coventry Street, Southam to assist parents and children walking to school. Objections have been received from three local residents but it is recommended that approval be given to the proposed scheme.
For further information please contact	Lynn Harding Team Leader, Traffic Projects Tel. 01926 412592 lynnharding@warwickshire.gov.uk
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	Yes/No
Background Papers	Location plan Objection letters

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Member(s) (With brief comments, if appropriate)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councillor J Appleton - Supports the scheme.
Other Elected Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cabinet Member (Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chief Executive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I Marriott – agreed.
Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| District Councils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stratford on Avon District Council – No objections. |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Police | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Warwickshire Police – Support the scheme. |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Southam Town Council
Headteacher, Southam Primary School
Headteacher, Southam St James Primary School
Headteacher, Southam College |

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** (If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Further Consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Stratford on Avon East Joint Committee – 9 December 2008

Coventry Street, Southam - Proposed Puffin Crossing

Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

Recommendation

It is recommended that approval be given to the proposed scheme.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Safer Routes to Schools initiative aims to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school rather than travel by car by making their route to school safe and convenient.
- 1.2 It is proposed to provide a Puffin Crossing on Coventry Street, Southam to assist parents and children walking to local schools.
- 1.3 This report seeks the approval of Committee to implement the crossing as shown in **Appendix A** at an estimated cost of £65,000.

2. Background

- 2.1 Pupils from three local schools need to cross Coventry Street when walking to and from school. A school crossing patrol used to operate north of the junction with Welsh Road West, but the post has been vacant for a considerable time and it has proved impossible to recruit anyone to fill the vacancy.
- 2.2 A number of requests have been received from parents and the Headteacher of Southam St James Primary School for a pedestrian crossing here.
- 2.3 It is proposed to install a Puffin crossing on Coventry Street as shown in **Appendix A**. As well as assisting parents and pupils walking to the local schools the crossing will have a calming effect on traffic speeds.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 **Councillor J Appleton** – Supports this scheme in his Division.
- 3.2 **Stratford on Avon District Council** – Has been consulted and has raised no objections to the proposal.

- 3.3 **Southam Town Council and Warwickshire Police** – Have been consulted and support the scheme.
- 3.4 **The Headteachers of Southam Primary School and Southam St James Primary School** – Support the scheme.
- 3.5 **Local Residents** – Have been consulted and a public notice has been erected on site and published in the press formally advertising the crossing. Thirteen residents responded positively but three objections have been received, raising the following points :-

Objection 1 – The crossing is in the wrong location and should be closer to the junction with Welsh Road West.

Response – A number of criteria have to be met when choosing where to site a pedestrian crossing, including the proximity of junctions, the presence of private drives and the need for adequate visibility for approaching traffic. The crossing also has to be on the natural pedestrian “desire line” to encourage its use, particularly by unaccompanied children. The proposed Puffin crossing is located as close to the former school crossing patrol site as possible without compromising the safety of vehicles turning at private drives and accesses on Coventry Street.

Objection 2 – There will be a loss of on-street parking for delivery lorries and visitors.

Response – Inevitably there will be a loss of on-street parking in the immediate vicinity of the crossing for safety reasons. However, parking is available a short distance away on Coventry Street itself or in nearby side roads. Moreover, it is considered that the benefits to pedestrians who wish to cross the road at the proposed location outweigh the disbenefits of the loss of parking.

Objection 3 – There will be an increase of noise from the audible signal and from traffic starting and stopping.

Response - The audible signal is provided as a facility to assist visually impaired people and will be active from 7am to 9pm only. The volume will be set with consideration for surrounding properties. It is inevitable that there will be a slight increase in the noise level from vehicles stopping and waiting at the crossing compared to free flowing traffic. However, this will only occur when pedestrians use the crossing. The Puffin crossing includes a special detector which ensures that the crossing changes back to green for vehicles as soon as the pedestrians have crossed the road, meaning that the waiting time for vehicles is minimised.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The proposed Puffin crossing is being installed in response to requests from concerned parents and the Headteacher of Southam St James Primary School.

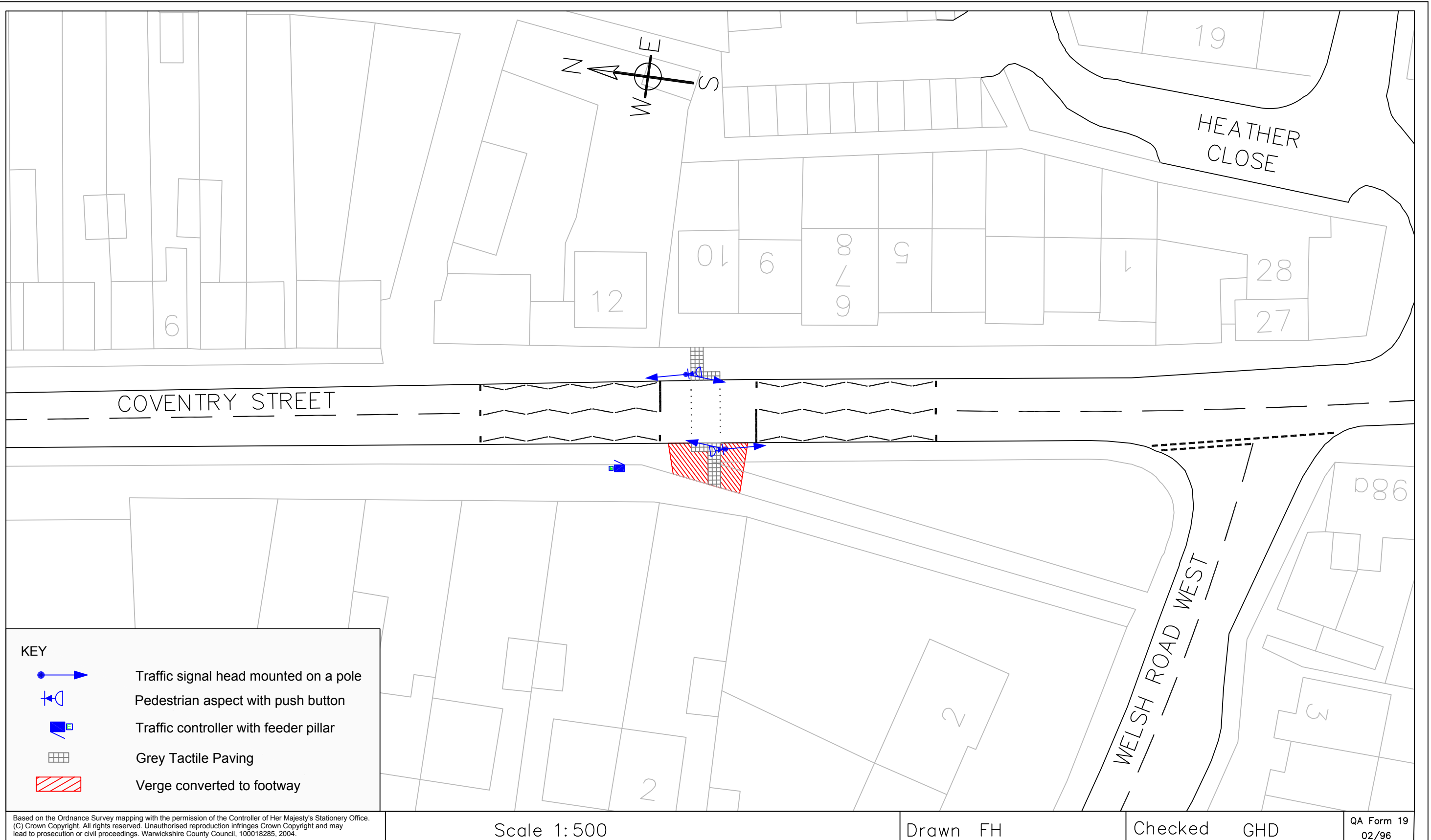
- 4.2 The Puffin crossing will not only benefit the parents and pupils who cross to and from school ; it will also be available throughout the day for the whole community.

5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The provision of a Puffin crossing on Coventry Street will make it easier and safer for pupils and parents to cross to the local schools, thereby encouraging pupils to walk to school rather than travel by car.

PAUL GALLAND
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

20 November 2008



Stratford on Avon East Joint Committee – 9 December 2008

Plan A

Coventry Street near Welsh Road East, Southam

PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING

Warwickshire
County Council
Paul Galland
Strategic Director
ENVIRONMENT AND
ECONOMY DIRECTORATE
Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SX