

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Warwick Area Committee

Date of Committee 24th January 2006

Report Title Warwick Road, Leek Wootton - Proposed Pedestrian Crossing

Summary It is proposed to install a pedestrian crossing on Warwick Road, Leek Wootton to assist parents and children walking to school. Two sites have been investigated and letters of support and objection have been received for each location. It is recommended that the crossing is installed at the site near Church Lane.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? ~~Yes~~/No

Background Papers Location Plans
Letters of support and objection

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees

Local Member(s) Councillor Mrs Compton - supports the recommended scheme
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members

Cabinet Member
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive

Legal I Marriott - agreed

- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils Warwick District Council – no objections
- Health Authority
- Police Warwickshire Police – supports either site
- Other Bodies/Individuals Leek Wootton Parish Council,
Headteacher - All Saints Primary School,
Local Residents

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

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

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Warwick Road, Leek Wootton - Proposed Pedestrian Crossing

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy

Recommendation

It is recommended that approval be given to the proposed puffin crossing near Church Lane, Leek Wootton (Scheme A).

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 Funding has been made available this year from the Capital Programme to provide a pedestrian crossing on Warwick Road, Leek Wootton as part of the Safer Routes to Schools initiative.
- 1.3 This report compares two possible locations for the crossing and seeks the approval of Committee to implement the scheme shown in **Appendix A** at an estimated cost of £50,000.

2. Background

- 2.1 Since the construction of All Saints Primary School on the new site in 1997 a school crossing patrol operated on Warwick Road near Stone House Mews in order to assist parents and children walking to the school. However, the post has been vacant for eighteen months and it has proved impossible to recruit a replacement in spite of a concentrated campaign within the village.
- 2.2 A request was received from the Parish Council for a pedestrian crossing and a scheme was drawn up for a puffin crossing at the location of the school crossing patrol (see **Appendix A**).
- 2.3 This proposal was supported by the Parish Council, Warwickshire Police, the Headteacher of All Saints Primary School and six local residents. Eight objections were received, mainly from residents who would be directly affected by the scheme.

- 2.4 The most frequent comment made was that the crossing would be better located further north of the proposed site in order to serve the community as a whole rather than just pupils wishing to walk to the primary school. A detailed review was carried out of all the possible alternative locations, but only one was technically feasible (see **Appendix B**). This is located north of Woodcote Lane, where there is an existing pedestrian refuge.
- 2.5 Accordingly a scheme was drawn up for a pelican crossing at this alternative location (a pelican is more appropriate than a puffin crossing here, due to the limited footway width available). This proposal was supported by Warwickshire Police, the Headteacher of All Saints Primary School and five local residents. Four objections were received from residents and the Parish Council have also objected to this location.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 **Councillor Mrs Compton** – supports the proposed puffin crossing at site A.
- 3.2 **Warwick District Council** – has been consulted and has no comments to make.
- 3.3 **Leek Wootton Parish Council** – supports the proposed puffin crossing at site A.
- 3.4 **The Headteacher of All Saints Primary School** – supports both proposals.
- 3.5 **Local Residents** – have been consulted about both sites and public notices have been erected on site and published in the press formally advertising the crossing. The response of local residents is included in the table below and a list of the comments made is included in **Appendix D**.

	Site A (puffin crossing)	Site B (pelican crossing)
Warwickshire Police	support scheme	support scheme
Parish Council	prefer scheme A	oppose scheme
School	support scheme	support scheme
Residents in favour	6	5
Residents opposed	8 (6 of whom said crossing should be at site B)	4 (3 of whom said crossing should be at site A)

- 3.6 In addition, three residents supported a pedestrian crossing wherever it was installed and one opposed the installation of a crossing anywhere on Warwick Road. A map showing the relative location of the two sites is included in **Appendix C**.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 An analysis of the comments made by all parties has been carried out and it is recommended that the puffin crossing be installed at the original location (site A) for the following reasons:-

- (i) The objective of the Safer Routes to Schools initiative is to encourage children to walk to school. The most appropriate site for children to cross the road is as near to the school as possible as was identified when the school was built and is where the school crossing patrol used to operate.
- (ii) Site B is not on the “desire line” for pupils living in Waller Close, Quarry Close or Quarry Fields and research has shown that pedestrians will not divert from their direct route even if it leads to a safer road crossing. Although some pedestrians do walk through the recreation ground, there is no surfaced path and this route is only suitable when the ground is dry.
- (iii) As there is no footway on the northern side of Woodcote Lane, pedestrians from Quarry Fields would need to cross Woodcote Lane twice to reach a crossing at site B.
- (iv) The footway at site A is wide enough to accommodate waiting parents and children, whereas the footway at site B is of limited width.
- (v) The construction of the puffin crossing at site A would result in two possible locations for pedestrians to cross Warwick Road as the existing pedestrian refuge would remain in place. This would also assist in reducing traffic speeds at each end of the village.

5. Conclusion

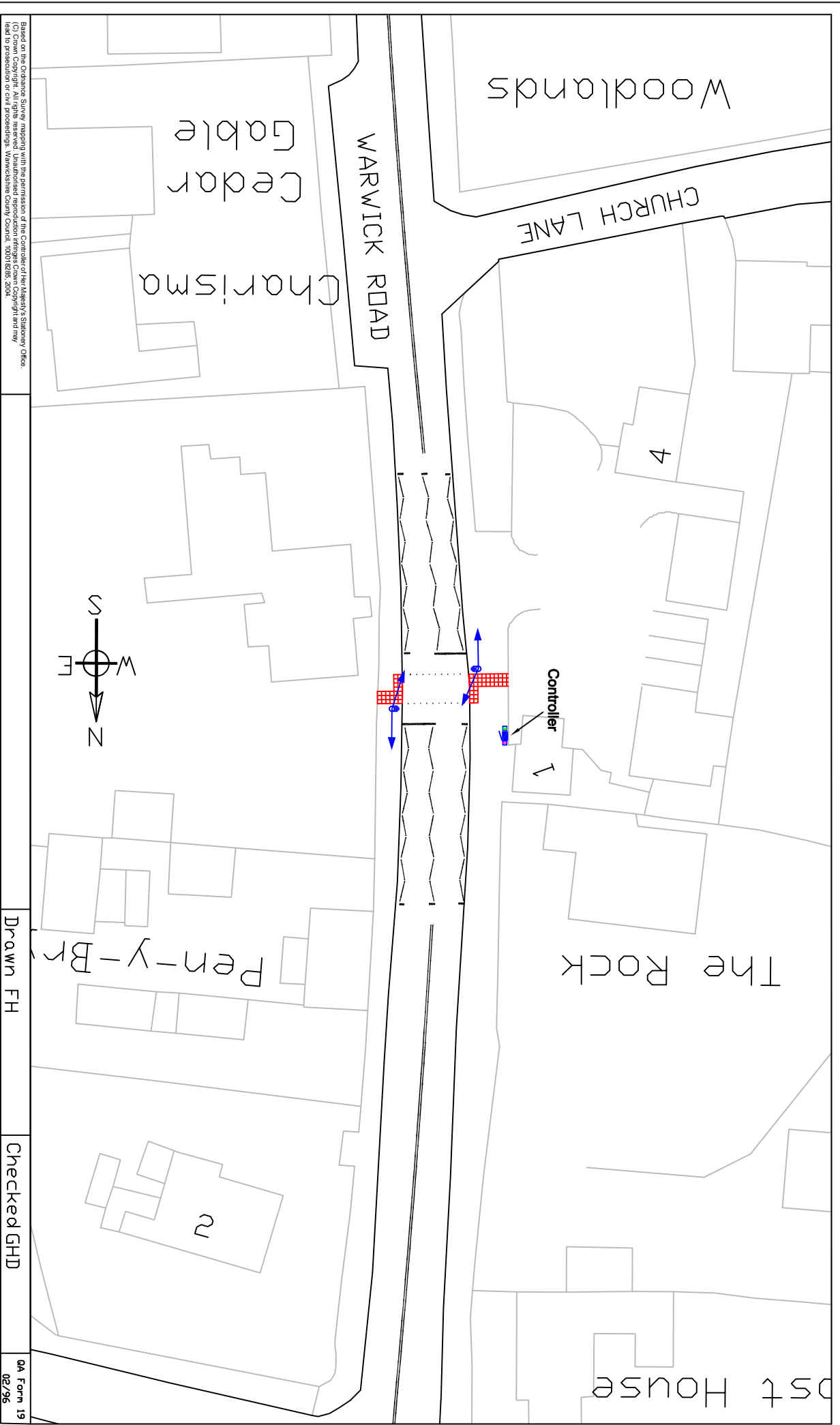
- 5.1 Having considered all of the comments in support of and objecting to each location, installation of the crossing at site A would be safer and would accord with the aims of the Safer Routes to Schools initiative.
- 5.2 The pedestrian refuge would remain at site B, thereby providing two crossing points on Warwick Road and contributing to a traffic calming effect at each end of the village.

6. Environmental Implications

- 6.1 The provision of a puffin crossing on Warwick Road will make it easier and safer for pupils and parents to cross, thereby encouraging pupils to walk to school rather than travel by car.
- 6.2 Although there is a system of street lighting in Warwick Road, additional lighting columns will be required in the vicinity of the pedestrian crossing and the Parish Council have been consulted on this issue.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director of Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

22nd December 2005



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Warwick Road, Leek Wootton

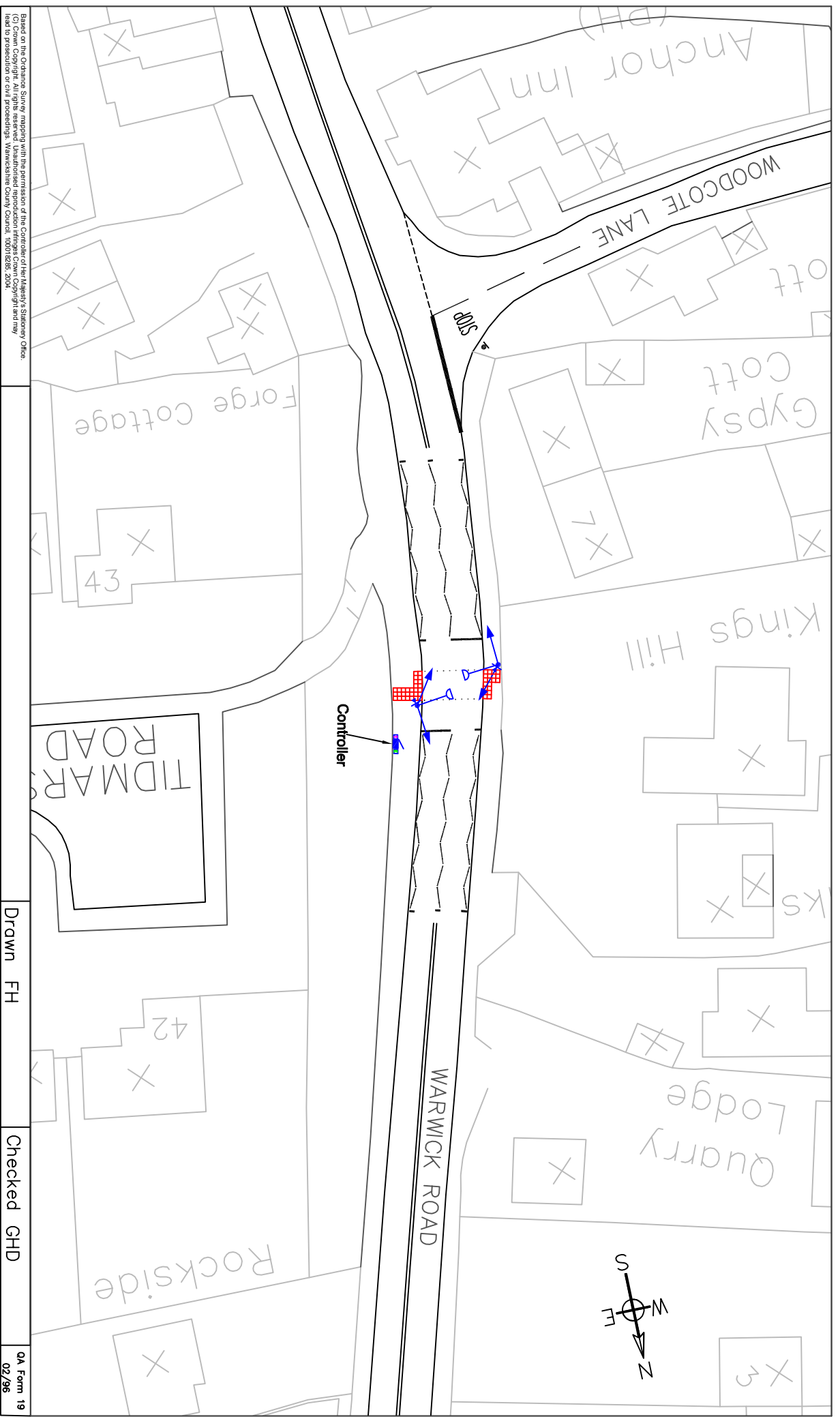
PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING (SITE A)

Drawn FH

Checked GHD

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02/96


 Warwickshire
 County Council
 John Deegan
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Warwick Road, Leek Wootton

PROPOSED PELICAN CROSSING (SITE B)



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Warwick Road, Leek Wootton

LOCATIONS OF SITE A AND SITE B (Plan amended 20/01/06)

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Warwick Road, Leek Wootton – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing

Site A

Comments received in favour:-

- The puffin would replace the crossing patrol at a convenient point.
- It would cause minimal disturbance to surrounding houses.
- The road is open and straight with good visibility.
- There is already a dropped kerb here.
- A crossing here would help to slow traffic through the village.
- The crossing would be used by others, not just school pupils.
- Siting the crossing here will assist traffic turning out of Woodcote Lane by slowing traffic speeds on Warwick Road.
- Most children from Waller Close/Quarry Fields take a short cut through Home Farm and cross Warwick Road at site A.

Objections :-

- Traffic signals would be directly in front of houses.
- Access to Stone House Mews might be blocked by waiting traffic.
- Noise and air pollution.
- Will only benefit part of the community.

Site B

Comments received in favour:-

- Most children walk across the recreation ground to cross at the refuge.
- Most pedestrians cross Warwick Road at the northern end of the village, particularly to get to the village hall.
- A crossing here would help people crossing to the bus stop.
- The existing refuge is narrow and unsafe.

Objections :-

- The footway at this point is narrow.
- Visibility is poor at this point.
- Close to Woodcote Lane junction.
- No surfaced path across playing field for pedestrians from Waller Close/Quarry Close/Quarry Fields.
- Pedestrians from Waller Close etc. will need to cross Woodcote Lane twice to get to the crossing.
- Siting the crossing here would mean the loss of the pedestrian refuge, resulting in only one safe place to cross.
- Children going to school won't divert to use the crossing.
- Access to adjacent properties may be adversely affected.