

DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, STREETSCENE AND BROADBAND – COUNCILLOR JOHN THOMSON

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

OFFICER CONTACT: Roger Witt 01225 713447 email: roger.witt@wiltshire.gov.uk
Hannah Jones 01225 713315 email: hannah.jones@wiltshire.gov.uk

REFERENCE: HSB-38-14

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – A4 BRIDEWELL STREET, MARLBOROUGH

Purpose of Report

1. To consider eight objections and one of support raised in relation to a proposed PUFFIN crossing located on the A4, Bridewell Street, Marlborough (see **Appendix 1**).

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The proposal is aligned with the Business Plan's aim to improve road safety.

Background

3. In 2006 Wiltshire Council was approached by Marlborough College in regard to the possibility of installing pedestrian crossings on the A4 (Bridewell Street) Marlborough to facilitate the crossing of (predominately) students from one side of the campus to the other. Two crossings were proposed, one has been installed west of the College. The other is the subject of this report. Both were surveyed for pedestrian use and are both considered to be on the most appropriate desire line for the majority of users.
4. Planning application E/12/0923 was submitted to gain approval for necessary wall alterations to enable a PUFFIN crossing as supported by the Highway Authority to proceed.
5. Following a Conservation objection, E/12/0923 was granted on appeal.
6. In July 2014 a full Traffic Regulation Order consultation was undertaken in relation to the implementation of the PUFFIN crossing (see **Appendix 1**). This drew eight letters of objection and one of support.
7. This report aims to address the objections.

Main Considerations for the Council

8. The location of Marlborough College in relation to its Campus arrangements and Marlborough High Street has led the College to address the requirements and safety of its students when crossing the A4, Bridewell Street. Nine letters of objections (see **Appendix 2**) have been received and can be summarised into the following points:

Desire Line

9. Objections state that students walking to the College grounds from the High Street are more likely to cross at the far side of the roundabout on Pewsey Road rather than at the proposed location. Pedestrian surveys undertaken by Wiltshire Council confirm that the proposed location is on a desire line for the majority of students.

Location on the A4 – traffic disruption/queues.

10. Several objections have stated concerns over the location of the crossing between the Pewsey Road roundabout and the existing pedestrian crossing on Bridewell Street and the possible effect it will have on the traffic movement in this location. To address these issues the crossing will be timed to interact with the existing traffic flow and the timings of the current crossing. Full consideration has been given to the flow of traffic to and from the roundabout and the required stacking distances.

Effect on the Pewsey Road Roundabout

11. One particular objector has raised concerns over the capacity of the Pewsey Road roundabout. Advance existing signage will warn drivers of the possibility of having to stop at the crossing. Lights will be timed to work alongside the roundabout and the current crossings. The capacity of the roundabout is not something which can be addressed in relation to this proposal but it is not considered that the existing capacity issues will be significantly worsened.

Increase in vehicle/pedestrian accidents.

12. Objections state that an increase in the number of crossings is likely to lead to an increase in vehicle accidents due to vehicles having to stop quickly. This should not occur with the correct signage and crossing design.

Necessity

13. Objections state that there is no requirement for an additional crossing. Marlborough College has requested the crossing due to the large numbers of its students who cross at this location and the identified safety risk of these movements taking place without a formal crossing facility. It is impractical to dissuade students from crossing at this point given the desire line is clearly at this location

Safeguarding Considerations

14. There are no significant issues identified.

Public Health Implications

15. The introduction of a formal pedestrian crossing will encourage people to walk and cycle, encouraging exercise as a benefit to their overall health.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

16. The introduction of a PUFFIN crossing will require works in the highway, increased signage and the introduction of additional lights. The changes will have to be balanced against the safety of both vehicle and pedestrian users of Bridewell Street.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

17. The introduction of a crossing is likely to result in some delay to passing vehicular traffic. This can be reduced by the correct programming of the lights. A crossing has been shown to increase the safety of pedestrians crossing the road.

Risk Assessment

18. There is a risk that vehicles waiting at the crossing will be encouraged to stack/wait on the adjacent roundabout or may be tempted to run the red lights due to driver impatience. This can be overcome with correct timing of lights and the advance signage.

Financial Implications

19. All costs in relation to the advertisement and implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order are met in full by the developer.

Legal Implications

20. All advertisement and consultation has been correctly followed, including pre-consultation involving the Local Wiltshire Council Member, Town and Parish Council Members and other interested parties.

Options Considered

21. To:
- (i) Implement proposal as advertised.
 - (ii) Not implement proposal.
 - (iii) Implement proposal with amendments.

Reason for Proposal

22. Implementation of a PUFFIN crossing on the A4 Bridewell Street, Marlborough to improve safety for pedestrians crossing at this location.

Proposal

23. To implement proposal as advertised.

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

None