

**MELKSHAM WITHOUT: SHAW SCHOOL -
OBJECTION TO ZEBRA CROSSING**

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an objection to the proposed Zebra Crossing and to recommend the installation as advertised.

Background

2. Discussions have been ongoing with the school and Parish Council for a period of time concerning ways in which the situation can be improved for pedestrians on their way to and from the school.
3. Following consideration of a number of options and site meetings with representatives of the school and Parish Council, it was evident that a scheme that did not include a formal controlled crossing would not be accepted by those parties.
4. A scheme was prepared that provided a Zebra crossing outside the school entrance, a wider footway to enable pedestrians to access the crossing and additional waiting restrictions to maintain the capability of two-way flow over a longer length.
5. The scheme was agreed with the Parish Council and the School Governors. It was also circulated by the Local Member to residents in the area. The proposals have been formally advertised and an objection has been received.
6. The scheme is shown on the plan at **Appendices 1A and 1B**.
7. The letter of objection is appended at **Appendix 2**.

Main Considerations for the Council

8. Members need to consider the objections and decide whether the scheme should proceed.
9. It is accepted that pedestrians will be on the pavement adjacent to School Lane and could potentially obstruct the view of approaching traffic, but for short periods only.
10. The current parking in the narrow section prevents the free flow of two-way traffic, particularly during busy periods. It is considered that the removal of parking and the installation of the Zebra crossing will not have any significant effect on the overall queues. The traffic signal times are being monitored.

11. Widening the pavement will reduce the carriageway to 5.5m which is narrow but sufficient for two lorries to pass. It is only over a relatively short length and it is not anticipated to create problems given the relatively low flow of heavy goods vehicles.
12. Siting the crossing north of the school car parks was also considered. In this location, however, it would not cater for children from the Shaw Hill area, and pedestrians would conflict with traffic entering and leaving the car park.
13. The original proposal put to the school and the Parish Council included footway widening and highlighted uncontrolled crossing points. However, the School and Parish Council indicated that a scheme without a controlled crossing would be unacceptable.
14. It is considered, on balance, that the current proposals are appropriate.

Environmental Impact of the Recommendation

15. The prominence of the Zebra crossing beacons and coloured surfacing will have a visual impact on the area, but this assists motorists in observing the features. On balance, it is considered the environmental intrusion is necessary if the School and Parish Councils' requirements for a crossing are to be met.

Risk Assessment

16. The provision of a controlled crossing feature should not result in any risk to the Council.

Financial Implications

17. There is allocation within the budget this year for these measures. The Parish Council has indicated that they will contribute to the scheme.

Options Considered

18. The options are to:-
 - (i) Pursue the scheme as advertised.
 - (ii) Abandon the scheme.
 - (iii) Relocate the crossing north of the car park though this was considered and discounted at an earlier stage as not providing an appropriate facility.

Reasons for Recommendation

19. It is considered that the present scheme is acceptable and, in light of the School and Parish views, should be pursued.

Recommendation

20. That:-

- (i) The proposals be implemented as advertised.
- (ii) The objector be informed accordingly.

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

None