

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

10th APRIL 2002

**WESTBURY: EDEN VALE ROAD - OBJECTIONS
TO PUFFIN CROSSING**

Purpose of Report

1. To consider objections to a proposed Puffin Crossing at Eden Vale Road, Westbury.

Background

2. The need for a pedestrian crossing in Eden Vale Road, opposite the footway link to Oldfield Park, was identified during the Local Transport Plan consultations for Westbury. The location of the proposed crossing was agreed with Westbury Town Council as a result of discussions regarding transport priorities for the year 2001-2002.
3. A scheme was drawn up at **location 1** shown on the plan attached at **Appendix 1** and the proposal was advertised on site and in the local press. Objections were received from local residents. The Town Council consequently requested that an alternative location be investigated between the park entrance and the footpath leading to Oldfield Park (as shown in **Appendix 1**).
4. The subsequent investigation highlighted only one further feasible location, due to the presence of vehicle access and underground services. Following support from the Town Council for the revised location (**location 2** on **Appendix 1**), the proposal was re-advertised.
5. As a result thirteen letters of objection have been received, including a response from Dr. Murrison MP who has written in support of a local resident.
6. The Town Council was advised of the objections and was asked for a final decision on the proposed location. The Town Council requested that a location close to the Grassacres Park entrance be re-investigated.
7. Details of the points of objection are summarised in **Appendix 2**. Full copies of the letters are available in the **Members' Room** and from the Environmental Services Department prior to the meeting.

Detail

8. Of the thirteen objections, nine expressed the view that a crossing on that length of Eden Vale Road was unnecessary, and two commented that it was not the best location for the crossing.

Consideration

9. Pedestrian surveys of the location have been carried out which indicate a steady pedestrian flow between the park entrance and the footway link to Oldfield Park.
10. The Town Council's request regarding the possible relocation of the crossing immediately outside the entrance to Grassacres Park raises a number of technical difficulties. Primarily, the District Council requires vehicular access to the park for the mowing equipment and the maintenance vehicle for the play area. Access is currently provided by opening the locked gates immediately in front of the park entrance. Locating a pedestrian crossing in front of these gates would involve vehicles driving over the pedestrian standing area, which would have road safety implications. Locating the crossing to the side of the park entrance was also investigated but was found not to be possible due to the proximity of existing vehicular accesses.

Conclusion: Options Considered

11. The length of Eden Vale Road between the footway link to Oldfield Park and Grassacres Park entrance has been assessed in terms of suitability for the location of a pedestrian crossing. The only feasible options are locations 1 and 2 as shown on **Appendix 1** which have been advertised and have met with local objection.
12. The letters received objecting to location 2 give a clear indication that a formal crossing is not needed on that particular length of Eden Vale Road. Furthermore, Local Transport Plan funding for 2002-2003 includes an allocation for the provision of an alternative formal crossing further along Eden Vale Road near the junction with Springfield Road. This scheme will be progressed during the next year.

Recommendation

13. That the proposals to install a Puffin Crossing at Eden Vale Road, Westbury, should not proceed.

Reason for Recommendation

14. Due to the level of local objection and the consensus that a crossing is not required in this location, it is recommended that the crossing is not installed.

RICHARD J. LANDER

Director of Environmental Services

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

Letters of objection.

Environmental impact of the Recommendations contained in this Report:

None.

