



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Individual Cabinet Member Decision

Report of: Executive Director, Place

Date: 9 July 2014

Subject: Carterknowle Road zebra crossing:
Feedback on public consultation

Author of Report: Simon Nelson, 2736176

Summary:

This report describes the response from residents to the proposal to site a zebra crossing on Carterknowle Road at the gates to Carterknowle Junior School and the related relocation of nearby bus stops.

Reasons for Recommendations:

There have been three petitions requesting a crossing in this area, the most recent (2009) signed by 244 people. Local residents were consulted in 2011 on a scheme to be funded by South Community Assembly, only for it to be shelved due to a reduction in funding from central government. The proposed crossing enjoys the full support of the school and the councillors for Nether Edge ward.

The provision/retention of accessible bus stops is required if people are to consider using public transport as a viable alternative to the car. Having considered the objections to the repositioning of these bus stops the officer view is that the reasons set out in this report for building the crossing and therefore moving the bus stops outweigh the objections.

Recommendations:

- The Cabinet Member notes the responses to the consultation exercise.
- The scheme should be constructed as shown in Appendix B
- Parking Services be asked to take enforcement action against anybody parking illegally at the start of the September term.
- Inform the residents of the decision accordingly.

Background Papers:

Appendix A: Consultation letter and plan, February 2011

Appendix B: Information letter and plan, June 2014

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
Cleared by: Damian Watkinson
Legal Implications
Cleared by: Nadine Wynter
Equality of Opportunity Implications
Cleared by: Ian Oldershaw
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
Nether Edge
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Leigh Bramall
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Culture, Economy and Sustainability
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

CARTERKNOWLE ROAD ZEBRA CROSSING: FEEDBACK ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report describes the response from residents to the proposal to site a zebra crossing on Carterknowle Road at the gates to Carterknowle Junior School and the related relocation of nearby bus stops.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE?

2.1 A formal crossing would improve safety and accessibility and contribute to the creation of a safer residential environment and making the City a *Great Place to Live*.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 It is anticipated that once the crossing is in place it will improve public safety, make walking and travelling by bus a more attractive travel option, through improved accessibility and so reducing the reliance on car travel. The scheme would contribute to the delivery of:

- the '*sustainable and safe transport*' objective of the Corporate Plan;
- Policy W of the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy 2011-2026 (*To encourage safer road use and reduce casualties on our roads*); and
- the Council's Vision For Excellent Transport In Sheffield (*a better environment; a healthier population; a safer Sheffield*)

4.0 REPORT

Introduction

4.1 The request for a crossing outside Carterknowle School has been the subject of three petitions, in 2002, 2004 and 2009. Receipt of the third petition, containing 244 signatures, was reported to the City Centre South and East Planning and Highways Area Board on 4 February 2009. The petitioners were concerned about the safety of children crossing to and from Carterknowle Junior School.

4.2 On 16th December 2010 Members representing South Community Assembly requested that public consultation commence on a proposal to build a zebra crossing on Carterknowle Road. The work was to be funded from the Assembly's 2011/12 'large schemes' highways budget.

4.3 On 11th February 2011 a letter and plan was distributed door-to-door to approximately 25 fronting properties in the area around the proposed crossing, and comments invited (see Appendix A). In the summer of 2011 a reduction in the funding the Council receives from central government for transport related projects caused work on the scheme to be halted. Residents were informed of this decision in October 2011 but assured that it "*remains*

the Councils wish to provide a crossing outside Carterknowle School when funds allow”.

- 4.4 The advent of the Streets Ahead highway maintenance programme has presented an opportunity to revive the scheme. The scheme is now to be constructed during the summer in co-ordination with maintenance work in the surrounding area. A letter informing fronting property owners of this was delivered on 10 June 2014. The plan accompanying the letter had been revised to reduce the number of parking spaces lost outside houses.
- 4.5 Two people have contacted the Council to object to parts of the scheme. One of the objectors has only recently moved to the area and so was not aware of the previous consultation. In light of this, and given the length of time since the scheme was last brought before the public, it is felt it would be appropriate for the Cabinet Member to consider the two recent objections together with the comments received in 2011 and decide whether the scheme should proceed.

Consultation responses, 2011

- 4.6 The head teacher of Carterknowle School has welcomed the proposals on behalf of the school community. She has also raised a number of points on behalf of the school and its staff:
- The summer holidays would be the right time to carry out the work
 - It is good that the bus stops are to be moved [away from the school gates]
 - It would be a good idea to slow traffic down by adding good visual markings on the road either side of the crossing; could the speed limit around school be reduced to 20mph?
 - There should be railings on the pavement by the top gate to prevent the children going straight out of the gate and across the road
 - The availability of staff parking near school will be reduced

She has confirmed that the school gate closest to Bannerdale Road would be kept closed at the beginning and end of the school day (except in an emergency). This is important to the safe operation of the crossing; if it were left open it is unlikely that children walking to and from the Bannerdale Road area would use the crossing.

- 4.7 Two residents welcomed the crossing; one resident with three children thought it's "*a great idea*". The other is pleased that a crossing is being provided but stressed that some parents park irresponsibly and is concerned that a reduction in available parking opportunities would lead to parents parking around the junction of Carterknowle and Bannerdale Roads.
- 4.8 Two bus stops need to be moved in order to accommodate the crossing. A replacement shelter is proposed for the 'uphill' west-bound stop (the 'downhill' east-bound stop does not have a shelter). The relocation of these stops was not supported by the occupants of three houses directly affected:
- One was very unhappy that the uphill bus stop and shelter would be moved close to their house (No. 77 Carterknowle Road). Unlike the other properties in the area, it doesn't have a driveway and the bus stop position

would prevent parking in front of the house.

- The repositioned east-bound stop and associated bus stop clearway restriction would prohibit on-street parking in front of a number of properties. The owner of a property fronting the proposed bus stop position contacted the Council to say that she had recently been diagnosed with a severe disability causing mobility problems and that the loss of on-street parking may mean she would need to make alterations to her driveway in order to gain access to and from the house. She feels that having a bus stop placed in front of her house would be stressful which would exacerbate her condition.
- A third (the then-owner of 90 Carterknowle Road) was upset that both stops, uphill and downhill, would be outside her house and considered that:
 - youths would gather at the uphill shelter, shout and use bad language resulting in disturbance to sleep.
 - there is already a shortage of parking in the area and the proposals would make things worse.
 - two estate agents have independently stated that the proximity of the bus stops would reduce the value of the property.
 - bus passengers would be able to see into the house.
 - the bus shelter would obscure the view of the school field

4.9 South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive had no objection to the proposals; the ambulance service did not respond.

Comments received, June 2014

4.10 The same owner of a property fronting the proposed bus stop position who objected in 2011 has confirmed that she maintains her original objection and added that she struggles to get her car into the drive of the property and so parks her car on the road at the entrance of the drive. She still wants the bus stop to be placed either further up or down the road.

4.11 The current owner of 90 Carterknowle Road has telephoned, also objecting to the relocation of the bus stops and the resultant loss of on-street parking. He feels that the neither stop is particularly well used and could be removed altogether.

4.12 The three councillors for Nether Edge ward have confirmed their continued support for the crossing, Councillor Akhter stating that *"I want every child to have a safe journey to the school."*

Officer response

4.13 There is little doubt that the introduction of a zebra crossing will be welcomed by the school community. Even those who have objected to proposal do not oppose the crossing itself, rather the resultant repositioning of two bus stops.

4.14 Bus Stops

It had been hoped to keep both bus stops as close to the school, and the new crossing, as possible, but in light of the comments received in 2011 further discussions were held with South Yorkshire PTE in an attempt to address residents' concerns.

The uphill, west-bound stop:

The PTE agreed that the west-bound stop could be moved further up Carterknowle Road to a position with no fronting property (see Appendix B). The owner of No. 77 and the then owner of No. 90 both indicated that this would be far preferable to the original proposal but would rather the stop did not move at all.

The downhill, east-bound stop:

The PTE wish to retain a stop in this area and are happy with the proposed position. The north side of Carterknowle Road is fronted by semi-detached houses set back from the road, each with its own off-street parking. The stop would not prevent people from accessing their driveways, save for when a bus is at the stop. Wherever the stop is placed it is likely that residents would raise similar objections to those outlined above.

4.15 Parking

There are already problems caused by inconsiderate parking, particularly at the end of the school day. The school has repeatedly tried to encourage parents to park sensibly with only limited success. This scheme would provide one place where pupils can cross in safety, but there will doubtless continue to be problems with parking. Bollards would be placed where necessary to prevent people driving over dropped kerbs to park on the footway.

4.16 Pedestrian guard rails

The footway on the school side of Carterknowle Road would be wider than at present, giving pupils more room to wait to cross, as well as improving visibility up and down the road. Guard rails would not be installed.

4.17 20mph speed limit

The Council has a policy of reducing the speed limit to 20mph in all suitable residential areas. This lower limit is being introduced on a phased basis, with potential schemes prioritised by the accident record of an area and the potential to co-ordinate works with the Streets Ahead maintenance programme. Currently seven or eight new 20mph schemes are funded each financial year. So far the Carterknowle area has not ranked sufficiently highly to attract funding, but is on the Council's long-list for implementation in coming years.

Relevant Implications

- 4.18 The full cost of the design and construction of the works described in this report is approximately £115k, funded from an allocation from the Local Accessibility block of the Local Transport Plan. A commuted sum for the ongoing maintenance of the scheme for 25 years has been estimated at a further £20K. This will also be funded from the Local Transport Plan. Construction work is scheduled to begin by the end of July and be substantially complete by the end of the summer holidays.
- 4.19 An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted and concludes that the proposals are positive for the young, elderly and disabled as the proposals improve access to public transport and the local school. The scheme would affect all local people and no negative equality impacts have been identified.
- 4.20 The Council has a statutory duty to promote road safety and to ensure that any measures it promotes and implements are reasonably safe for all users. In making decisions of this nature the Council must be satisfied that the measures are necessary to avoid danger to pedestrians and other road users or for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs. Providing that the Council is so satisfied then it is acting lawfully and within its powers.
- 4.21 The Council has the power to make a Traffic Regulation Order under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for reasons that include the avoidance of danger to persons or other traffic using the road; to facilitate the passage on the road of traffic (including pedestrians); and to preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road. As the scheme does not require any Traffic Regulation Orders there is no requirement for public consultation. However the Council should consider and respond to any public objections received.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 South Yorkshire PTE has again been asked to consider the need for the two bus stops. They have confirmed that the removal of the stops would be unacceptable due to the distance this would leave between the preceding and following stops (approximately 600m).
- 5.2 Officers have investigated whether the standard 27m bus clearway restriction could be reduced in front of the houses 88 to 92 to reduce the loss of on-street parking. Unfortunately, if the length of restriction were reduced a bus would not be able to turn into the bus stop around a parked vehicle and align neatly to the kerb at the stop without bumping over an existing speed cushion.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 There have been three petitions requesting a crossing in this area, the most recent (2009) signed by 244 people. Local residents were consulted in 2011 on a scheme to be funded by South Community Assembly, only for it to be shelved due to a reduction in funding from central government. The

proposed crossing enjoys the full support of the school and the councillors for Nether Edge ward.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Cabinet Member notes the responses to the consultation exercise.
- 7.2 The scheme should be constructed as shown in Appendix B.
- 7.3 Parking Services be asked to take enforcement action against anybody parking illegally at the start of the September term.
- 7.4 Inform the residents of the decision accordingly.

Simon Green
Executive Director, Place

30 June 2014

APPENDIX A

Development Services
Director: L Sturch, MRTPI
Traffic Section: 2-10 Carbrook Hall Road · Sheffield · S9 2DB
E-mail: simon.nelson@sheffield.gov.uk Fax: (0114) 273 6182
Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk

Officer: Mr S Nelson Tel: (0114) 2736176
Ref: TM/BN737/SN/04 Date: 9th February 2011

The Occupier

Dear Sir/Madam

South Community Assembly
Proposed Zebra Crossing, Carterknowle Road

As you may be aware, the Community Assembly want to put in a zebra crossing to make it easier and safer for people to cross Carterknowle Road to and from the School. The proposal is shown on the attached drawing (TM/BN737/C01A).

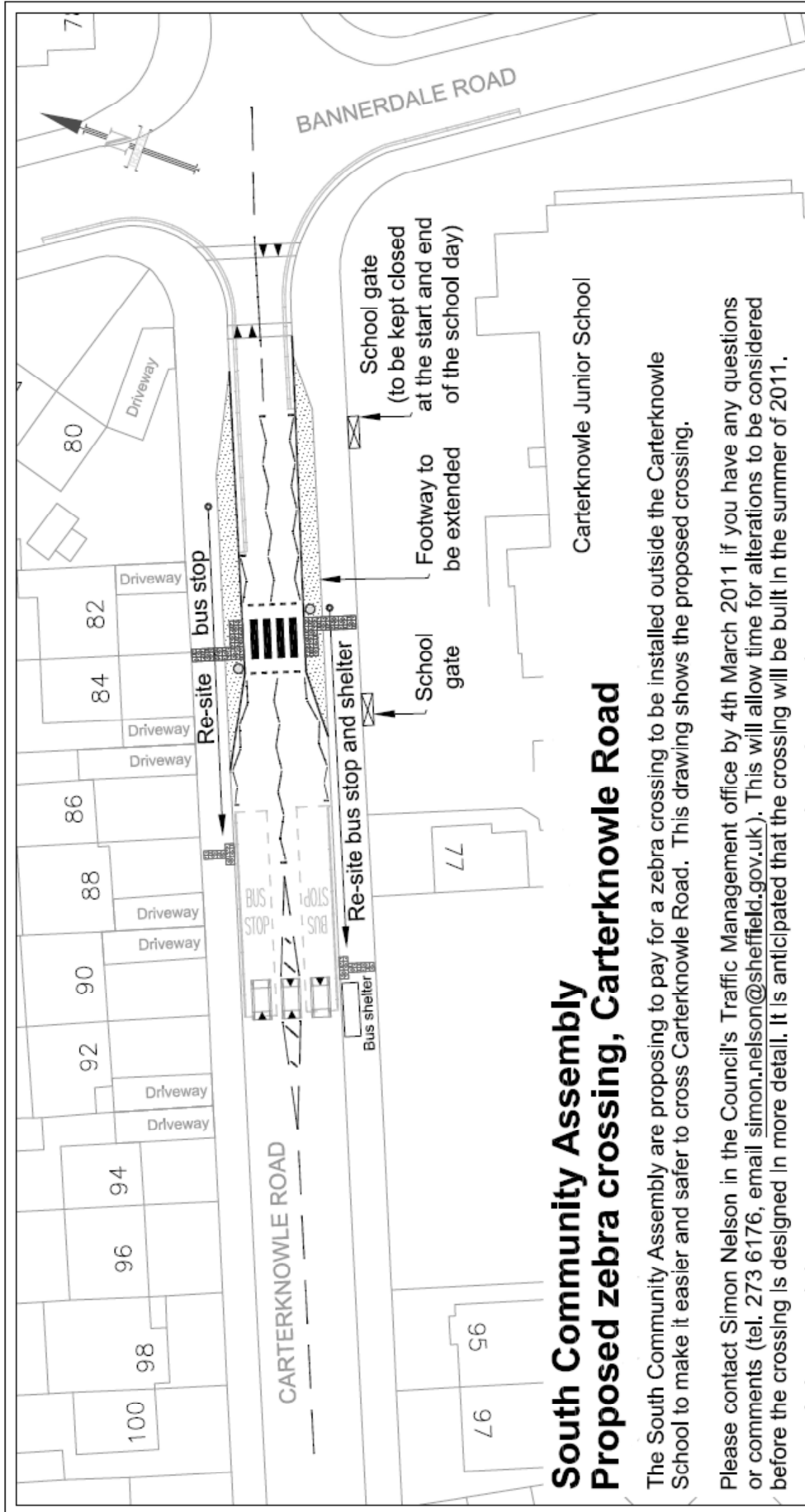
Please telephone, write or email me with any comments or queries on the proposals by 4th March (objections to the parking restrictions must be in writing). All comments will then be reported to the Assembly to help them decide whether to proceed with the scheme.

Should the proposals be approved, it is anticipated that the work would take place in the summer of 2011.

Yours faithfully



Simon Nelson
Engineer, Traffic Management
Transport & Highways Division



South Community Assembly Proposed zebra crossing, Carterknowle Road

The South Community Assembly are proposing to pay for a zebra crossing to be installed outside the Carterknowle School to make it easier and safer to cross Carterknowle Road. This drawing shows the proposed crossing.

Please contact Simon Nelson in the Council's Traffic Management office by 4th March 2011 if you have any questions or comments (tel. 273 6176, email simon.nelson@sheffield.gov.uk). This will allow time for alterations to be considered before the crossing is designed in more detail. It is anticipated that the crossing will be built in the summer of 2011.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS DIVISION TRAFFIC SECTION 2, OAKBROOK HILL ROAD SHEFFIELD, S9 2JH Tel: 0114 273 4175, Fax: 0114 273 4182 E-mail: Traffic.Management@Sheffield.gov.uk Director: L. Sturth, M.B., P.L. Development Services A Service Area of Place Sheffield City Council	Client: SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL	Drawing No. TM/BN737/C01A	
	Scheme: South Community Assembly	Scale: 1:500	Drawing No. A4
DRAWN: Simon Nelson January 2010	Drawing Title: Carterknowle Road zebra crossing Consultation Plan	Date: July 2010	
CAD FILE NAME: G:\DEVELOPMENT\TRAFFIC\TRAFFIC\Scheme Design\BN737\Carterknowle Zebra\AutoCAD\Working\TM-BN737-C01 Consultation Drawings.dwg			

Regeneration and Development Services

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Officer: Simon Nelson
Ref: SD/LT123/SN02

Tel: (0114) 2736176
Date: 10 June 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed zebra crossing, Carterknowle Road

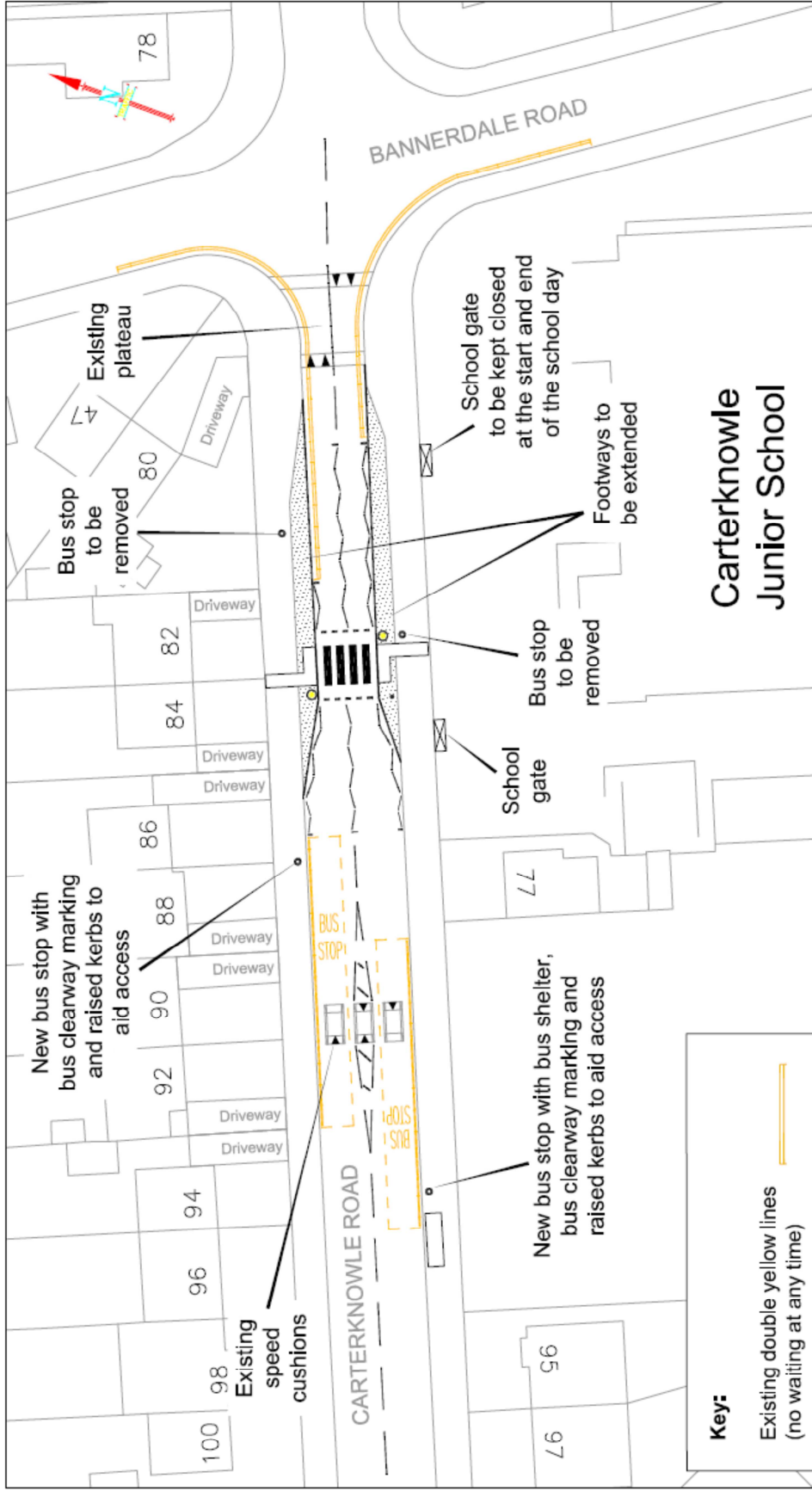
You may recall that I wrote to you in February 2011 to seek your views on a proposal to place a zebra crossing on Carterknowle Road near the entrance to Carterknowle Junior School.

Later that year the scheme was shelved due to a reduction in Government funding.

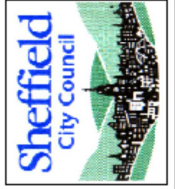
This letter is to inform you that the scheme has now been revived and will be constructed during the summer 2014 in co-ordination with Streets Ahead highway maintenance work in the surrounding area.

Yours faithfully

Simon Nelson
Transport, Traffic and Parking Services



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Simon Nelson, Scheme Design
 Transport, Traffic & Parking Services
 April 2014

File ref: SD/1521/LT123/C01

Carterknolle Road zebra crossing

Scale 1:500