



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Individual Cabinet Member Decision

Report of: Executive Director, Place

Date: 17 November 2015

Subject: Zebra Crossing - Furniss Avenue, Dore

Author of Report: Gay Horsfield 273 5828

Summary:

This report describes the proposals for a Zebra crossing to be located on Furniss Avenue close to both Totley Brook Road and a footpath. It is a busy crossing location for children and parents / guardians with children wishing to cross to and from the local schools (King Egbert Secondary School & Dore Primary School). The scheme will improve pedestrian facilities and help to reduce the number of pedestrian related accidents on Furniss Avenue.

It also documents comments received following Public and Statutory Consultations and any responses given.

Reasons for Recommendations:

To improve pedestrian facilities and safety at the site of a very busy route to school

Recommendations:

Note the request for a signal controlled crossing but for the reasons stated in this report approve the installation of a Zebra crossing on the grounds this will be on the desire line and that the overall pedestrian vehicular flows do not warrant a signal controlled crossing at this location.

Inform the relevant consultee accordingly.

Background Papers:

Appendix A – Scheme Assessment Scoring (SES002)

Appendix B - Consultation letter, accompanying plan and Notice

Appendix C – Detailed submitted written comments and officer responses

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
Cleared by: Damien Watkinson
Legal Implications
Cleared by: Peter Sellars
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
Dore
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Terry Fox
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

ZEBRA CROSSING FURNISS AVENUE OBJECTION TO UNCONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report describes the proposals for a Zebra crossing at a busy crossing location for school children and parents taking children to school.

1.2 This report also sets out the response to comments made following Public and Statutory Consultations.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE?

2.1 The pedestrian crossing will improve accessibility and safety for a high number of pedestrians, many of whom are children that walk to and from school, 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 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 zebra crossing is one of the local accessibility improvements requested to the transport network across Sheffield. All requests are scored using an agreed assessment criteria. The request has scored 7, see Appendix A. The crossing will be constructed at the same time as the core works in Dore to provide value for money.

4.2 The Zebra crossing will be located on the pedestrian 'desire line'. A survey carried out on 11 September 2015 showed Furniss Avenue was crossed by 314 people between 8:00am and 9:00am, mostly school pupils heading to King Ecgbert School or children with parents/guardians crossing to Dore Primary School.

4.3 During the five year period 1/1/2010 to 31/12/2014 there have been 2 slight recorded injury collisions at the junction of Furniss Avenue and Topley Brook Road. One collision involved a child.

- 4.4 The proposed Zebra crossing is located as near as possible to the desire line, where a footpath from Dore Village meets Furniss Avenue directly opposite Totley Brook Road.
- 4.5 The footpath will be widened where it meets Furniss Avenue which together with new baffle barriers and pedestrian guardrail will direct pedestrians towards the Zebra crossing.
- 4.6 The land required for the proposed widening is under Council (Education) ownership and will remain in Education ownership but will be maintained by Highways.
- 4.7 An existing tree will have to be removed to facilitate the installation of the Zebra crossing and three new trees will be planted to compensate for this, one on Totley Brook Road the other two on Furniss Avenue.

Statutory and Public Consultation

- 4.8 Statutory consultees including the Emergency Services and Veolia were informed of the proposals and invited to comment from 7th September 2015.
- 4.9 The public consultation period ran from 4th September to 25th September 2015. Letters were hand delivered to houses on Furniss Avenue and public notices erected at two locations (Furniss Avenue and Totley Brook Road). Appendix B shows the consultation letter, accompanying plan and consultation notice that were used.
- 4.10 Written responses were received from six agencies, individuals or groups including South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, The Chair of Governors Dore Primary School and local residents. Their written comments and officer responses are detailed in Appendix C.
- 4.11 The issues raised included:
- The locations for replacement trees;
 - Impact on air quality due to standing vehicles;
 - Request for a signal controlled crossing

Main Points from the Consultation

- 4.12 Of responses:
- two specifically said they had no comment to make
 - two were in favour of the proposals; one with concerns regarding the locations for replacement trees and one requesting the crossing be signalised.

Other Consultations

- 4.13 Local Members, the ambulance and fire services and Veolia have been consulted about the scheme. No objections have been received from them.

Relevant Implications

- 4.14 The Council, as the Highway Authority for Sheffield, has powers under Part V of the Highways Act 1980 to implement the improvements requested in this report.
- 4.15 Financial implications have been identified as the cost of implementing this crossing and the ongoing maintenance (commuted sum). The cost to implement the scheme is approximately £57,000 funded by money from the LTP and held in BU93053. The commuted sum of approximately £5000 covering future maintenance, is not included as part of the capital cost. It is also claimed from the LTP, and then held in the revenue contribution account BU22183 and paid to Amey at the end of the financial year to cover related maintenance expenditure over the next 25 years. However should any other implications arise, appropriate consultation and advice will be sought on the issues as required.
- 4.16 There are no significant differential equality implications identified with this scheme. Fundamentally it is positive for all people regardless of age, sex, race, faith, disability, sexuality etc. It is particularly positive for anyone with restricted mobility, wheelchair users, carers, the elderly, school children and people with pushchairs as the assessment process (see Appendix A) takes into account pedestrian accessibility and more vulnerable road users.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 At the time of assessment it was considered most appropriate to have a zebra crossing due to the relatively low traffic speed and the desire line. A light controlled crossing would need to be a minimum of 20m away from the junction with Topley Brook Road and would be difficult to site with the driveways to houses. Moving the crossing away from the desire line would mean it would be less likely to be used. The cost of a signalised crossing is much higher and would not provide materially improved benefits. Therefore it cannot be justified at this location.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 To improve pedestrian facilities and safety at the site of a very busy route to school

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Note the request for a signal controlled crossing but for the reasons stated in this report approve the installation of a Zebra crossing on the grounds this will be on the desire line and that the overall pedestrian vehicular flows do not warrant a signal controlled crossing at this location.
- 7.2 Inform the relevant consultee accordingly.

Simon Green
Executive Director, Place

12 November 2015

APPENDIX A:

Scheme Number

Title

Scheme Assessment Scoring

SES002 Furniss Ave at Totley Brook Road

Significant positive = 2

Crossing measures

Slightly positive = 1

Neutral = 0

Slightly negative = (-1)

Significant negative = (-2)

Date

01/05/2014

Criteria	Score	Notes
IMPACT ON NUMBER OF PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST ACCIDENTS	1	2 reported injury accidents between 1/1/2009 and 1/12/2013. 1 x 1 ped & 1 veh, 1 x 2 car
DEGREE OF FEAR AND INTIMIDATION	1	Very busy at school time with cars
TO WHAT DEGREE IS IT A MAJOR WALKING ROUTE	2	Secondary school on Totley Brook Road as well as primary
IMPACT ON CONDITIONS FOR WALKING	1	Crossing warden currently works at site nearer Dore Primary School Shirley Adams 30/04/2104
IMPACT ON ACCESS TO LOCAL AMENITIES (SHOPS, SCHOOLS, DRs etc)	1	Away from shops so score 1 for school access
IMPACT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT	0	
IMPACT ON INAPPROPRIATE DRIVER SPEEDS	0	
IMPACT ON CYCLING	0	
IMPACT ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	1	Scored as crossing measure but not puffin
TOTAL SCORE	7	

APPENDIX B:

Consultation Letter, Accompanying Plan and Notice



Paul Johnson
Amey
Consulting and Strategic Infrastructure
Distington House, 1st Floor
Atlas Way
Sheffield S4 7QQ
4th September 2015

The Owner / Occupier
Furniss Avenue
Sheffield
S17 3QP

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Proposed Zebra Crossing at Furniss Avenue

Sheffield City Council is proposing to construct a new zebra crossing on Furniss Avenue near to Totley Brook Road. This scheme has the support of local Councillors. The crossing will help people, especially school children, to cross the road more safely.

Unfortunately, the crossing would mean that a tree would have to be removed, however this will be replaced by two new trees close by.

The attached plan indicates the proposals.

I would welcome your comments on the proposals either by post, using the enclosed stamped addressed envelope, or by email. Please ensure that your comments are submitted by 25th September 2015.

Email: paul.johnson@amey.co.uk

Tel: 0114 2613212

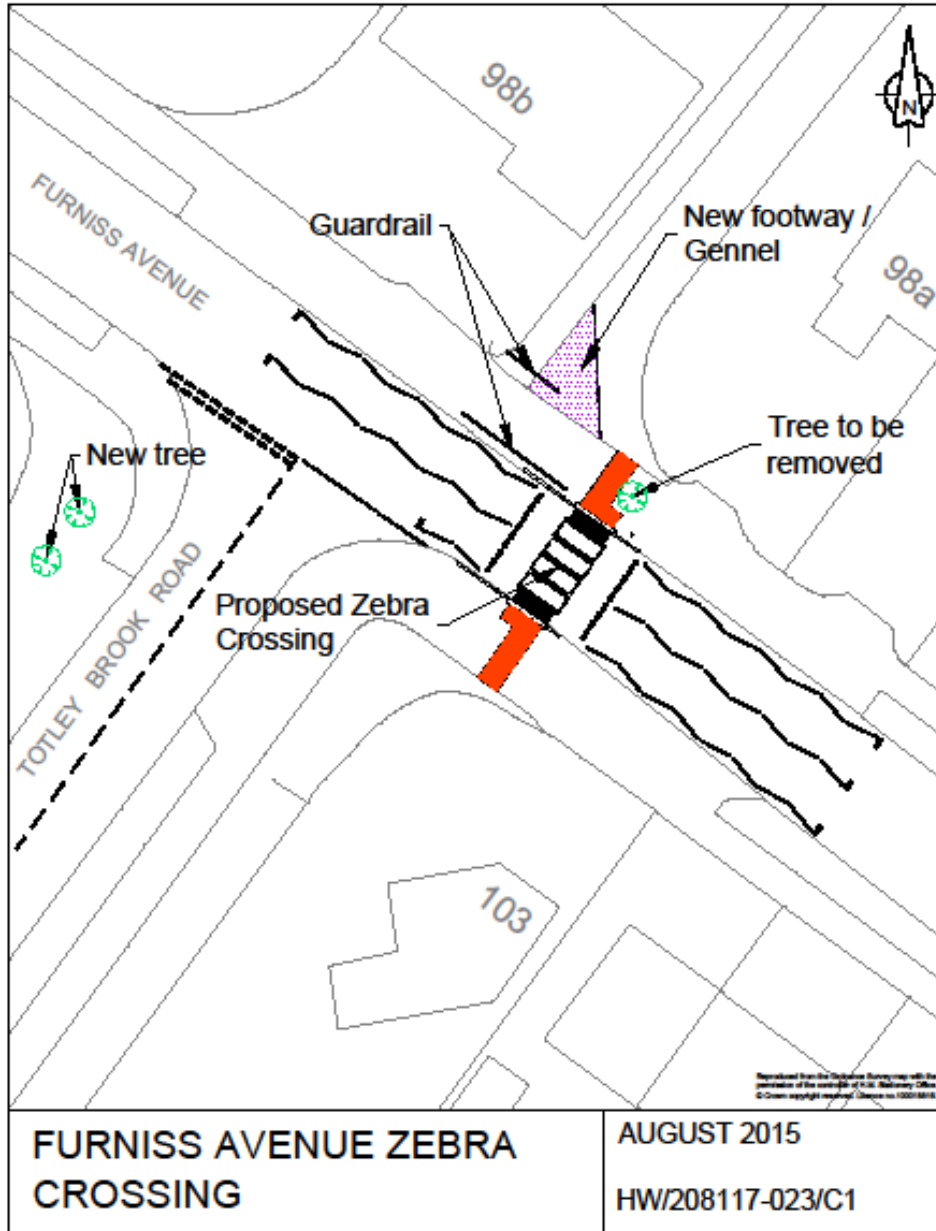
I look forward to welcoming your response.

Yours Faithfully

Paul Johnson

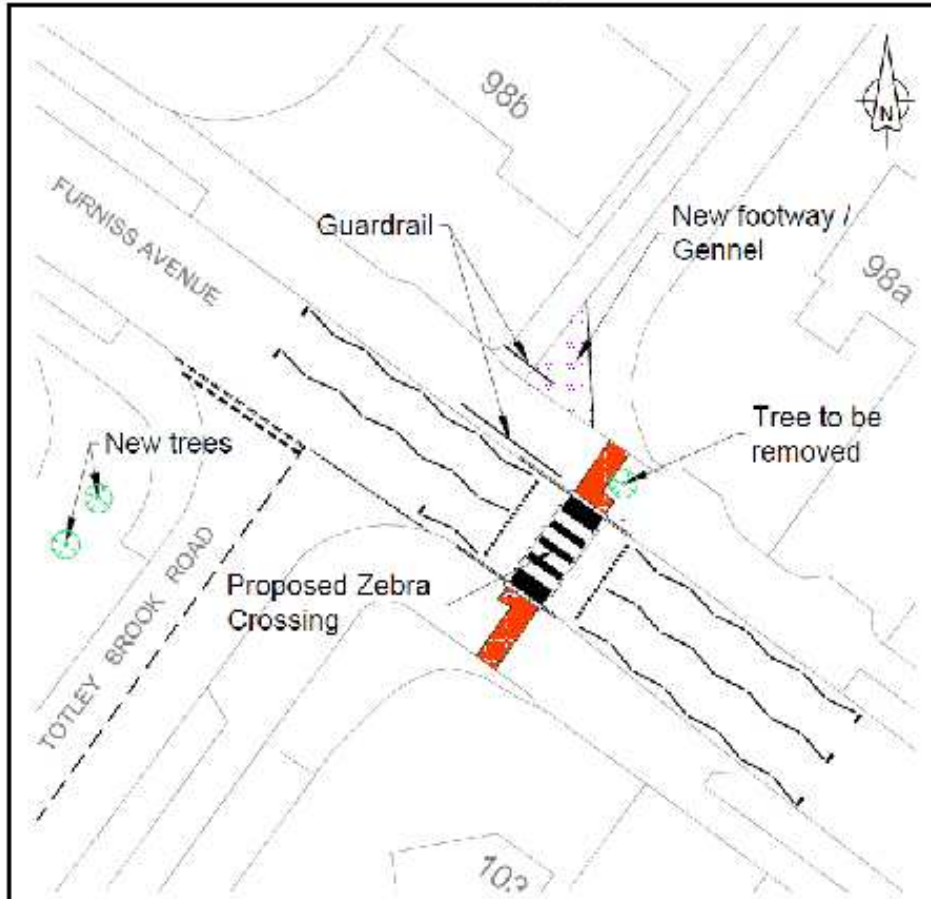
PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONSULTATION

Proposed Zebra Crossing on:
Furniss Avenue near Totley Brook Road



PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONSULTATION

Proposed Zebra Crossing on: Furniss Avenue near Totley Brook Road



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Unfortunately, the crossing would mean that a tree would have to be removed, however this will be replaced by two new trees close by.

If you wish to comment on the proposals or require further information, please write to:-

Amey - FAO: Paul Johnson
Consulting and Strategic Infrastructure
Distington House, 1st Floor
Atlas Way
Sheffield, S4 7QQ

Alternatively, email paul.johnson@amey.co.uk or telephone 0114 2613212.

Any comments relating to this proposal must be received by 25th September 2015.

This notice is issued pursuant to Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984



APPENDIX C

Detailed submitted comments and officer response

General

Comment from South Yorkshire: "I can confirm on behalf of South Yorkshire Police that we have no issues or comments regarding this scheme at this time."

Comment from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport: "We have no issue with these plans. Please note that there is a bus stop located quite near to this new facility which we assume will remain as now and no need for changes."

Comment from local resident: "While in principal we welcome this proposal as a safety aspect, especially to the local schoolchildren, we do have some personal concerns to raise.

Firstly can you confirm how the crossing will operate. Will it be a crossing with flashing orange globe lights where traffic has to give way to pedestrians, or will it be operated by traffic lights controlled by pedestrians when they require to cross.

Our concern is that the second style of crossing will have the sound indicator of when to cross, which will be quite annoying.

Also, as a COPD sufferer I am concerned re the build-up of fumes from standing traffic. Our opinion is that the timed light operated crossing will facilitate a better flow of traffic".

Response: The operation of the crossing as you suggest is on the basis of drivers 'giving way' to pedestrians. One advantage this crossing has over the signal controlled crossing is once a person has left the crossing the driver is at liberty to drive on rather than wait for the signals to return to green. Please note the flashing beacons will be fitted with a 'hoods' to limit their visibility from the adjacent properties.

Additional comment from local resident: "I have just observed the 'traffic' of both children and vehicles as they exited both King Egbert and Dore Junior. There was a constant stream of children exiting King Egbert's from 3.20 until 3.40, most of whom had to wait to cross Furniss Avenue. We therefore feel that your suggestion will be unworkable.

Given that the Highway Code advises that drivers have to give way to pedestrians, we envisage that there will be a constant queue of traffic both directly outside our property and along Totle Brook Road as they try and exit onto Furniss Avenue. There is a high increase in vehicle traffic from 2.50 until 3.40 due to the end of the school day for both schools, Dore Junior finishing earlier at 3.10.

We are also concerned that our entrance and exit onto and from our drive will be impeded for this time period. Also, as suggested in my previous e mail there will be a high increase in traffic fumes which will adversely affect mine and others health. We feel that a crossing is badly needed and do not seek to block its construction. Can we therefore suggest a silent pedestrian controlled traffic lights 'puffin' would be the preferred option to enable the traffic to flow better. Pedestrians and vehicles

therefore being allowed to move on an alternate basis.

The Zebra Crossing's constant flashing lights will affect us at night, we do not feel that any kind of 'hood' will stop this.

The traffic light system we feel will not have the same flashing affect.”

Response: Thank you once again for your comments in relation to the proposed Zebra crossing on Furniss Avenue which I shall forward to Sheffield City Council for consideration.

Sheffield City Council Response:

Thank you for your comments regarding the zebra crossing on Furniss Avenue.

After consideration of your points it is not possible to change the crossing from a zebra to a light controlled crossing.

At the time of assessment it was considered most appropriate to have a zebra crossing due to the relatively low traffic speed and the desire line. A light controlled crossing would need to be a minimum of 20m away from the junction with Totley Brook Road and would be difficult to site with the driveways to houses. Moving the crossing away from the desire line would mean it would be less likely to be used. The cost of a signalised crossing is much higher and cannot be justified at this location.

The hoods on the belisha beacons will stop the light from these going towards the houses but will still be visible for drivers on the road.

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