

Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Report submitted by: Interim Executive Director for Environment
Date: 13 January 2014

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Burnley North East and
Burnley Rural

Proposed Zebra Crossing and Associated School Keep Clear Markings to front of St James Lanehead Primary School, Briercliffe Road, Burnley
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposal to provide a zebra crossing and 'School Keep Clear' (SKC) markings on Briercliffe Road, Burnley, to which objections have been received.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is asked to give approval for the introduction of a zebra crossing and SKC markings as advertised and set out on the drawings attached at Appendices 'A' and 'B'.

Background and Advice

Local Borough Councillors and County Councillors have requested that a zebra crossing be provided on Briercliffe Road, Burnley, close to local primary schools, in order to improve safety for vulnerable pedestrians crossing at this location.

Following investigations, a proposal has been developed to provide a zebra crossing, at the location of the current School Crossing Patrol which serves both St James Lanehead and Holly Grove Primary Schools. The aim of the proposal is to improve safety for vulnerable pedestrians at this location. It will be of benefit both for the safety of children from St James Lanehead Primary School and for children getting off the bus at the nearby stop.

Briercliffe Road is a busy main highway and it is at times considered to be difficult to cross the road safely. The provision of a zebra crossing will alleviate this problem

and provide a permanent crossing facility for pedestrians, not least for elderly people using the bus services and the nearby bus stop.

In order to prevent parking which obscures visibility, it is also proposed to include the provision of School Keep Clear (SKC) markings. The SKC markings would be positioned to the east and west of the crossing to cover the school pedestrian entrances.

To lessen the impact on kerbside parking, the exit zig zags (to the west) have been reduced so that the extent of the SKC markings in front of residential properties is minimised. In the interests of safety, the approaching zig zags would be kept to the standard length.

Consultations

The zebra crossing and SKC markings were advertised between 5 September and 7 October 2013.

County and borough councillors, local residents and frontagers, the Police and the County Council's School Crossing Control Manager were consulted on the scheme and no objections have been received.

Local ward councillors and the County Councillors for Burnley Rural and Burnley North East are in support for the proposed scheme.

Objections

Two local residents objected to the scheme as they are concerned about the loss of on street parking to themselves and visitors to their properties with the establishment of the zig zags from the zebra crossing and the SKC markings to the south side of the carriageway either side of the zebra. They are concerned that the crossing position will deter potential buyers to their properties.

Comment

There is no automatic right to park on the highway and the provision of such amenity has to be balanced against the needs of other highway users, including vulnerable pedestrians. There is no evidence that the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the highway has an effect on house prices and it is considered that this should not be a determinant in coming to a decision on the proposal.

It is therefore recommended that the zebra crossing and SKC markings are approved as advertised as shown on the scheme drawings attached at Appendices 'A' and 'B'.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

A zebra crossing will provide a safe place to cross at all times, not just at school opening and closing times. This zebra crossing is to be positioned at the location of the current School Crossing Patrol (Point F39) and the existing maximum length SKC markings will be replaced with minimum length SKC markings to the west and east of the crossing. These facilities will provide greater visibility while reducing the conflict between vehicles and vulnerable users.

Financial

The cost of the scheme will be met from the Environment Directorate's 2013/14 Capital Programme for Road Safety. The works are estimated to cost £26,150 against a budget allocation in the Programme of £16,725, a difference of £9,425. To accommodate the shortfall in funding, it is proposed to utilise some of the budget set aside for a road safety project on Blackburn Road, West of Thwaites Road, Oswaldtwistle, which is not now proposed to go ahead due to public concerns over restricted parking in the area.

Legal

Notice has been given in accordance with the provisions of section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to establish a Zebra Crossing on Briercliffe Road, Burnley.

Notice has been given in accordance with the provisions of sections 1, 2, 4 and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to amend the School Keep Clear markings.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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Nil.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.