



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Planning and Regulation Committee
Date:	6 November 2023
Subject:	Great Gonerby, B1174 High Street - proposed Puffin Crossing facility

Summary:

This report considers objections to a proposed pedestrian crossing facility in the village of Great Gonerby, in the location shown at Appendix A.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee overrules the objections so that the crossing, as advertised, may be introduced.

Background

Following a request for the existing Zebra crossing facility to be replaced by a Puffin facility a pedestrian crossing survey was arranged and took place in April 2021. The criteria were met for a Puffin facility which demonstrates a high demand by pedestrians to cross the road in this area. However a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit identified highway safety issues with the current location of the Zebra and recommended that any new crossing be located further away from the junctions with Pond Street and Long Street. A revised location was investigated and is proposed to the north of Long Street as shown at Appendix A.

Earlier this year, Executive set aside £1.5 million to improve and provide a number of crossing facilities throughout the county via the Community Crossings Initiative. This site at Great Gonerby has been selected for funding and is now undergoing a feasibility study and design.

As highway authority the Council is required to publicly advertise formal crossing facilities and this took place in August. The Parish Council received a copy of the public advertisement, as did all residents and businesses nearby.

Objection and comments

Four objections have been received to this proposal. Given that the site of the proposed crossing is in close proximity to residences there are concerns that this will impact on residents negatively in terms of reduced privacy and increased noise and light pollution from the signal heads. The road markings required will prohibit stopping, loading and parking in the vicinity of several properties, where currently on street parking contributes to a reduction in traffic speeds. It is believed that all these factors are likely to reduce the value of affected properties. The potential impact on the local shop is also raised with fears that the removal of parking and an area to unload large vehicles might result in it being lost by the community. It is felt that the existing Zebra facility is adequate and should be retained at its current location, and that a Puffin facility would be out of keeping with the village scene. A request for traffic calming and speed limit reduction as an alternative to the crossing has also been received.

The comments raised are noted. The original intention was to install the Puffin facility at the existing Zebra site, but as stated previously this was not recommended following the Road Safety Audit assessment for this scheme. It is acknowledged that the zigzag markings required either side of the crossing will prohibit parking and other activity on the carriageway but this ensures that visibility is maintained on the approaches to the crossing. Parking on Main Street will remain unrestricted on both sides of the road to the north of the road markings.

To mitigate disturbance to residents the intensity of the audible signal on the installation can be adjusted during the day to reduce the sound levels and switched off at night. The intensity of the signal head lamps will also be reduced in low light levels and at night. The funding available for this scheme is specific to the installation of pedestrian crossing facilities and cannot be utilised to introduce traffic calming and speed limit reduction as requested.

Conclusion

The Community Crossing Initiative aims to improve the safety of pedestrians and encourage mobility through walking. The existing Zebra facility on High Street is well used and its upgrade to a Puffin facility at the safer location proposed will be of benefit to the community.

Consultation

The public advertisement for this proposal was advertised in the local press on 4th August 2023. Copies were sent to Great Gonerby Parish Council, South Kesteven District Council offices and Nos.4,4a,6,6a,7,7a,7b,9,11,13 and 15 High Street. The proposal was also posted on the County Council's website.

The Local Member is in support of the scheme.

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

None carried out

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Site location and proposed location of Puffin crossing

Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Public advertisement documentation and correspondence; Road Safety Audit; survey results.	Available on request

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