

Recommendations from Regulatory Committee - 1 June 2017

Proposed Toucan Crossing - East Road, Bridport

38 *(Councillor Mary Penfold confirmed that as she had previously been involved in discussion about the proposed crossing facilities in Bridport and had previously made a representation in connection with it as a West Dorset District Councillor, but had not been involved in coming to any decision about it. Given this, she played no part in the discussion of this item and left the Committee Room for the duration of consideration of the item)*

The Committee considered a report by the Service Director – Highways and Emergency Planning on a proposal for the implementation of a Toucan Crossing facility on East Road, Bridport as a key link in developing a Bridport Wide cycle network. Following the advertisement of the proposals, objections had been received on the basis that the crossing was being sited too close to the East Road/A35(T) roundabout and consequently this would cause tailbacks and congestion, with its associated pollution issues and the concern that such congestion would potentially block private road access to garages. Consequently, the Committee was now being asked to consider the objections received and whether the proposal should be recommended to Cabinet for implementation, as advertised.

The Committee were informed that the Toucan crossing was part of a wider improvement scheme around the East Road/A35(T) roundabout to improve safety for non-motorised users. With the aid of a visual presentation, officers described the need for the crossing; in that it was designed to improve road safety and access for vulnerable road users crossing East Road. It was considered to be an integral part of a route which would link West Bay to the south and Bradpole to the north, with the longer term aspiration of providing a trailway link northwards.

The route was designed to provide a safe, off-road route linking the beaches and facilities in West Bay to local businesses, shops, supermarkets, schools and residential areas. As well as providing a sustainable footway/cycleway route for residents, it would also enable visitors and holiday makers the option to walk or cycle rather than having to use their vehicles, thereby helping to reduce congestion.

Photographs and plans were shown to the Committee by way of illustration showing where the crossing was proposed to be situated, its relationship with the roundabout, the bridge over the River Asker residential properties - particularly No. 6 East Street, outside which it was proposed to be located - and other amenities in the area.

The project was being promoted by Highway England, who were funding the proposals, with the support of Bridport Town Council and Sustrans, with the County Council designing the scheme. The local County Council members for Bridport - Ros Kayes and Keith Day - were both wholly supportive of the proposals, considering them to be integral to improving road safety and the needs of vulnerable road users. Councillor Day moved that the proposal be recommended to Cabinet on that basis.

In response to the objections received, officers considered that there was the potential for some minimal flexibility in where the crossing could be sited, but that, principally, in order for it to successfully deliver what it was designed to do, the only option was to site it in the vicinity as proposed. From calculations made, officers were confident that the issues raised about congestion would not be realised as it was not considered that tail backs would be unduly exacerbated.

Recommendations from Regulatory Committee - 1 June 2017

Officers were confident that there was sufficient capacity within the design and location of the Toucan crossing to be able to allow traffic to move as freely as practicable and still deliver the needs for vulnerable road users.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions of the officer's presentation and took this opportunity to have their understanding of what the proposals entailed clarified. This included clarification of the assessments made about how the crossing was to operate and the effect this could have on potential tailbacks on to the roundabout, where and how equipment associated with the crossing could be located, the flexibility in the siting of the crossing and the impact on local residential properties.

Having considered the objections received, the Committee understood that the East Road Toucan crossing was an integral part of a wider scheme to improve road safety around the busy Trunk Road roundabout and was designed to be able to successfully deliver this. On this basis, and on being put to the vote, the Committee agreed that the proposals should be recommended to Cabinet for implementation, as advertised.

Recommended

That Cabinet be asked to approve the provision of a Toucan Crossing, for East Road Bridport, as advertised.

Reason for Recommendation

The proposals should allow the provision of controlled Toucan crossing facilities on East Road without adversely affecting traffic flows in the vicinity of the roundabout.