

Cambridgeshire County Council Record of Executive Decision
Decision taken by Traffic Manager in consultation with the local Members

Title of decision	Consider Objections Received in Relation to Proposed Zebra Crossing and Associated Waiting Restrictions in Station Road, March
Date decision taken	11 th December 2020
Decision maker	Sonia Hansen (Traffic Manager) in conjunction with County Councillor Steve Count and County Councillor Jan French
Is this a key decision?	No
Is the decision subject to call in?	No
Details of decision taken	<p>Having reviewed details of the Proposed Zebra Crossing and Waiting Restriction changes, and taking into account the consultation process and written objections received, the Traffic Manager and County Councillors decided that the proposal should be implemented as published.</p> <p>The objectors will be informed of the outcome accordingly.</p>
Reasons for taking decision	<p>The report was presented to the meeting to allow officers to explain the proposals. The individual concerns raised by the objectors were discussed in detail and the following summarises the main points:-</p> <p>1. <u>Choice of Crossing Location</u></p> <p>An earlier study considered the potential for a pedestrian crossing of Station Road near County Road, but the numbers of people crossing there were insufficient to justify it. Hence, alternative sites further south were looked at.</p> <p>To the south, it was noted that there are a number of homes between March Service Station and North Street that have little or no off-street parking. The installation of a crossing, with zig-zag markings, along that length would have severe implications for residents who rely on being able to park on-street. It might also result in displacement of parking to the side roads, which may irritate residents of those streets.</p> <p>The study showed that the main crossing point in Station Road was in the vicinity of St John's Road and there appear to be several reasons for that. Firstly, pedestrians from the housing estate to the east of Station Road walk via St John's Road as there is no permeability north of St John's Road. The shops and nursery on the west side of Station Road are obvious attractors, as are the primary schools to the west. Finally, St John's Road is a walking route for pupils who live to the west of Station Road travelling to Neale Wade Academy. For those reasons, it was decided that a crossing location near St John's Road was the preferred option.</p> <p>It is felt that the chosen location remains the most suitable place to install a crossing.</p>

2. Suggested Alternative Location outside March Service Station

The potential for a pedestrian crossing further north on Station Road outside the service station as suggested by one of the objectors was considered at length.

It was accepted that for certain pedestrian movements, such as those heading north from the St John's Road area towards All Saints Academy and Pre-school, a crossing at this location would have a similar benefit to the proposed one. Also, the lack of any residential properties on both sides might mean that this location would be less contentious. However, several practical concerns were raised.

The location of the cemetery access on the east side would limit the space available to accommodate a crossing.

Hearses and other funeral-related vehicles often park outside the cemetery gates and the zig-zag markings would prohibit that.

On the west side, pedestrians would effectively find themselves on the "island" between the two garage accesses and would have to cross one of them, whether heading north or south on Station Road.

The previously mentioned pedestrian survey indicated that this is a less popular place for people to cross.

3. Historic Petition and Request for a Crossing

Councillor Jan French drew attention to a petition from some years ago signed by around 500 people calling for a safe crossing facility on Station Road. This did not request it be installed at a specific location, but referred to pupils needing to cross Station Road to reach the All Saints site.

Anecdotally, Councillors are aware of a number of requests for a pedestrian crossing on this length of Station Road.

Consequently, there would appear to be local support for a pedestrian crossing on this part of Station Road.

4. Belisha Beacons and Light Intrusion

It was acknowledged that the required beacon and lighting unit would be located immediately outside no.81 Station Road. To address this the belisha beacons would be fitted with cowls which allow extremely little light to spill sideways towards any adjacent property. It was noted that the recently installed zebra crossing on St Peter's Road has these fitted and appear to work well.

The street lighting near the proposed crossing needs to be upgraded for safety reasons. This can be achieved by using LED lanterns which will be aimed at the carriageway giving a more focused illumination which reduces ambient lighting.

The Council will do as much as practicably possible to reduce any light intrusion into adjacent homes.

	<p>5. <u>Other considerations</u></p> <p>Several other points raised by objectors were briefly discussed, such as vehicle speeds, collision history and environmental issues.</p> <p>Officers are satisfied that traffic speeds are within the range recommended for a zebra crossing.</p> <p>The road does not have a history of collisions involving pedestrians, but that is rarely a reason for providing pedestrian crossings. The justification is based on pedestrian crossing difficulty at peak times, severance and pedestrian anxiety.</p> <p>A crossing may well result in more vehicles having to stop and start, but the increased noise and fumes is expected to be minimal. The crossing is expected to be more heavily used during the morning and evening peak periods when there is likely to be more ambient traffic noise, so any stopping and starting noise should be less discernible.</p>
Options considered	Please see above – ‘Reasons for taking decision’.
Details of any conflict of interests declared	No conflicts of interest.
Details of any disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	No pecuniary interests or non-statutory disclosable interest declared.

Signature of decision maker (if appropriate)
