



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

B380 WESTFIELD ROAD, WESTFIELD – PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING

31 OCTOBER 2007

KEY ISSUE

To consider a proposal to construct a Puffin crossing on the B380 Westfield Road, in Westfield

SUMMARY

A Puffin light-controlled pedestrian crossing is proposed for Westfield Road, in the vicinity of Westfield Common. Local residents have petitioned for such a crossing and the consultations recently carried out have shown that there is overwhelming support for this facility.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to agree that:

- (i) the proposed Puffin crossing shown on Drawing No. 12369A be approved for construction, and**
- (ii) that the necessary Notice be published in the local press.**

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The B380 Westfield Road links the A320 and the A247, and forms part of the route between South Woking and West Byfleet. Frontage development is predominantly residential, with some shops by Granville Road and the road also passes through Westfield Common. There are two bus stops and a public house ("The Cricketers") within the vicinity of Westfield Common, with Westfield Primary School being located nearby, on the west side of Westfield Road, in Hoebrook Close. (See Drawing No. 12369A attached at Annex A)
- 1.2 At its meeting on 28 February 2007 the Committee received a petition, containing 370 signatures, requesting a proper pedestrian crossing on Westfield Road in the vicinity of Westfield Common. Although there is a traffic island nearby, this is sub-standard and is not in an ideal location. The petition was presented by the Chairman of the Moor Lane Residents' Association, who explained that parents were concerned about their children's safety when crossing Westfield Road on their way to and from school.
- 1.3 Such a scheme had already been included in the Local Transport Plan five- year programme which was presented to Committee in June 2006. Following a review of all the schemes in the programme, the Westfield Road pedestrian crossing proposal was programmed for detailed design and construction in 2008/9, with feasibility being carried out in 2007/8. The feasibility study is now complete, and details of the proposal are given below.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Pedestrian and vehicle surveys have revealed that many adults and children cross Westfield Road in the vicinity of Westfield Common. They have also shown that vehicle speeds are too high for a Zebra crossing to be considered. Therefore a Puffin light-controlled crossing is proposed. (The essential differences between a Puffin and a Pelican crossing are that a Puffin crossing will automatically extend the crossing time for slow-moving pedestrians, and will also cancel the demand if pedestrians push the button and then walk away, or cross against a red man. This minimises any delays to motorists).
- 2.2 The proposal is shown on Drawing No. 12369A. The position of the crossing was agreed in principle with the Chairman of the Moor Lane Residents' Association before wider consultation took place. The crossing will make it easier and safer for Westfield residents to access Westfield Primary School in Hoebrook Close, the shops in Westfield Road by Granville Road, as well as Woking Park and the Leisure Centre. It will also improve access between the two bus stops near "The Cricketers".

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 Initially consideration was given to the provision of a Zebra crossing. However, surveys indicated 85th percentile speeds on Westfield Road of up to 38mph. Zebra crossings are not recommended where 85th percentile speeds equal or exceed 35mph and therefore a light controlled crossing is proposed.
- 3.2 A Puffin crossing rather than a pelican crossing is recommended for the reasons set out in para. 2.1 above.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 The following have been consulted: Local County and Borough Councillors, local schools, the “Cricketers Inn” public house, the Moor Lane Residents’ Association, Woking Access Group and the Police. A plan showing the proposals was also put on display at Woking Leisure Centre. All respondents were in favour of the proposal.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of the crossing is estimated to be £29,000, funded from the Committee’s Local Allocation.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The crossing will make crossing the road safer for blind or visually impaired pedestrians, and pedestrians pushing buggies or wheeling cycles.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 There is no formal pedestrian crossing on Westfield Road, which can be difficult to cross. Large numbers of pedestrians cross the road in the vicinity of Westfield Common. The nearby traffic island is sub-standard and not ideally positioned. Therefore the provision of a Puffin crossing, as described above, is recommended.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The proposed crossing will enable pedestrians to cross Westfield Road safely and easily.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10.1 If the Committee agrees that the crossing should be provided, then the scheme will be designed in detail and constructed on site during the 2008/9 financial year.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Petition presented to Committee on 28 February 2007

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