

Report to Norwich highways agency committee

19 September 2013

Report of Head of city development services

Subject Push the Pedalways : North Park Avenue to UEA crossing

Item

7

Purpose

To inform members of the results on the consultation on the proposal to install a zebra crossing on Bluebell Road linking North Park Avenue to the UEA, and to ask members to agree to the scheme being implemented.

Recommendation

Members are recommended to;

1. Note the results of the consultation
2. Ask the head of city development to complete the necessary statutory processes associated with the traffic and speed regulation orders as shown on plan number 13 HD 034 05 and arrange for the scheme to be implemented.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority of a safe and clean city and the service plan priority to implement the Norwich Area Transportation Strategy.

Financial implications

A budget of £70,000 is available for the project; £60,000 local transport plan funding and £10,000 cycle city ambition grant.

Ward/s: Eaton and University

Cabinet member: Cllr Stonard, cabinet member for environment, development and transport.

Contact officers

Linda Abel – Senior transportation planner 01603 212190

Joanne Deverick – Transportation & network manager 01603 212461

Background documents

Consultation responses will be available at the meeting.

Report

1. The need for a crossing to benefit pedestrians and cyclists on Bluebell Road, north of North Park Avenue has been identified for some time and is currently 1st priority in the transportation small to medium scale pedestrian crossing priority list. The aim of the project is to deliver a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists crossing Bluebell Road at this point.
2. This was identified as a standalone project within this year's local transport programme, but following the successful cycle city ambition bid, which is subject to a separate report on the agenda, it has been subsumed into that overall project. It will be the first of the cycle city ambition projects to be delivered.
3. This crossing area is used by many UEA students and staff, the public visiting the open areas around the UEA for leisure, dog walkers and cyclists either joining the existing shared cycleway / footway on the west side of Bluebell Road or accessing the cycleway / footway to Yare Valley Riverside Walk.
4. The site was assessed using the Department for Transport guideline for determining the most suitable crossing for a location and a zebra crossing was deemed most appropriate. A zebra crossing gives the right of way to pedestrians and it is not illegal for cyclists to ride over as long as there is a suitable cyclepath either side of the crossing. The DfT are considering new guidance which would enable cyclists to use zebra crossings without dismounting and this scheme has been designed to take into account that possibility and would easily be converted to apply to their recommendations.
5. There is an existing 20mph zone in this area and is necessary for safety reasons to extend the zone to south of the North Park Avenue junction and position the zebra crossing on a raised table. Further provision of parking restrictions and grass verge parking restrictions would also be appropriate to improve visibility along with the removal of two existing trees on the grass verge. The proposals are shown on the plan attached as appendix 1
6. After receiving consent from the chair and vice chair of NHAC and local ward councillors, the proposal was advertised in the local press, onstreet notices were erected and local residents and stakeholders were consulted.

Consultation response

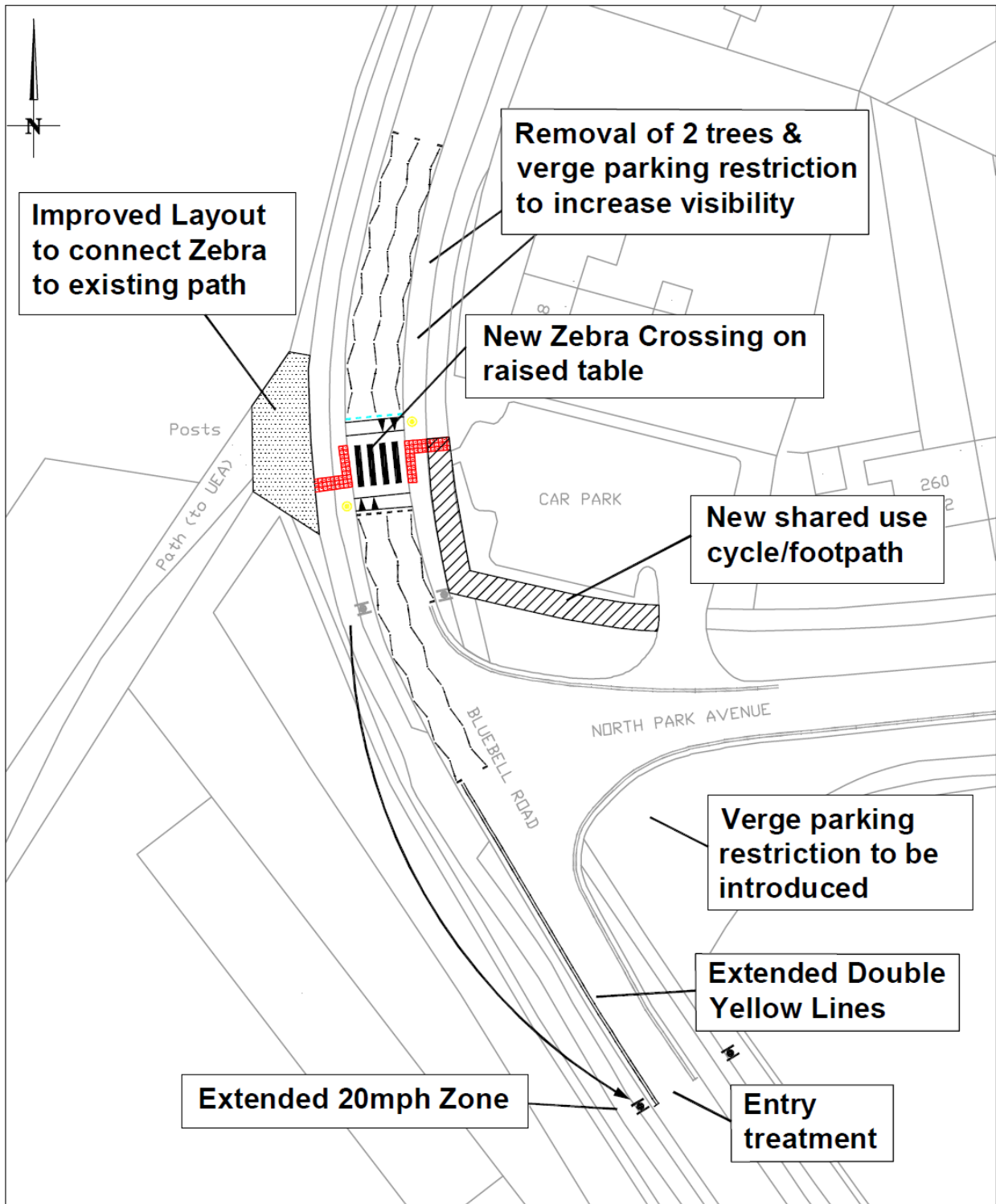
7. Three responses have been received from the consultation. Two in support and one as an objection.
8. One consultation response was from the chair of Norfolk Living Streets in which it was stated the association supports the proposal and design of the crossing, particularly the introduction of the raised table. One suggestion was made that further tables may be appropriate "at other sections of the Bluebell Road 20mph zone to ensure speed compliance".
9. The other response in agreement with the proposal was from the estates director of the UEA on behalf of their transport co-ordinator who gave the support of the university and stated "our Transport Coordinator sees the benefit to the University and to the wider area by encouraging alternative modes of transport".

10. The objection was received from the occupant of No. 84 Bluebell Road, the nearest property to the proposed crossing. The occupant was concerned the crossing will be an “eyesore”, will not improve safety, will “cripple traffic flow” and there is not “sufficient footfall to warrant a crossing”. He was also concerned with traffic noise because of the raised table, the loss of trees, light pollution from the beacon and use of the proposed shared footway / cycleway.

Summary

11. The agreement to our proposals from the UEA and Norfolk Living Streets is welcome. The concern for “widespread flouting of the 20mph speed restriction along this section of Bluebell Road” is noted and will be considered as part of the cycle city ambition project that is looking at 20mph speed limits and traffic calming measures on or close to the pink pedalways.

12. As explained previously, this proposed crossing has been assessed to DfT criteria which concluded that a crossing is justified and will benefit pedestrians and cyclists with limited disruption to traffic. The necessary engineering works have been designed in consideration of the “rural” feel of the area and the two trees that need to be removed for safety reasons will be replaced by four suitable trees in the surrounding area (one of the existing trees is young and the other an Ash tree that could be susceptible to Ash die back disease). The raised table will be 65mm high which is the suggested height on bus routes and has been successfully used in many parts of Norwich. It is proposed to install a standard zebra beacon with a “zebrite” halo. These are designed to DfT standards. With the position of the crossing it is highly unlikely this property will suffer from light pollution any more than from the existing street lights. The existing path on west side of Bluebell Road is a shared footway / cycleway which has been in place for many years, for consistency it is necessary to continue this provision on the east side of the crossing.



Jerry Massey
 Deputy Chief Executive
 City Hall, Norwich, NR2 1NH
 tel 0344 980 3333
highways@norwich.gov.uk

Title
Bluebell Rd / North Park Avenue
Proposed Zebra Crossing
Consultation Plan

Date	Sept. 13	Scale(s)	1:500 @ A4
Drawn By	KD	Designed By	KD
Checked By	LA	NEG. No.	
DWG. No.	13 HD 034 05A		

No.	Date	Notes	REVISIONS	Int.	Ckd.
1	Sept 13	Adjustment to Title Block		KD	TC

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